

GERBIL

Meriones unguilatus

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Gerbil is a rodent, which is known also with the names desert mouse, desert rat and jump rat. It belongs to the sub-tribe of jump voles. It is 10-12 cm long and the length of the tail is 6-11 cm. Average age is 3-4 years. Gerbil communicates by drumming ground with its hind legs.

NOURISHMENT:

In the nature gerbil eats somewhat worms and the maggots of the insects. Especially for females with young or nursing and growing cubs the access to animal albumin is important. In the home conditions suitable sources of the animal albumin are beef, cheese, egg and insects. Gerbils eat very little, about two teaspoonful per day.

BREEDING:

Gerbils come family mature in 9-12 weeks of age. Female comes to the rut every 4-6 days. Cubs are born after 25 days. Female breeds 4-6 cubs at a go to a underground nest. Gerbil is rather sensitive to eat its litter. The reason for this can be youth of the mother, the shortage of the protein or the frayed nerves of the mother.

AS A PET:

This little rodent is on the mischievous on its essence and on its sociability taken over many families. It is not night animal, but moves actively in daytime. As a desert animal it doesn't urinate even much and it indeed almost is odourless compared to many other small rodents. Gerbils are gregarious animals, so they should be always got at least in pairs. Males do together as well as females, as long as they are accustomed to each other early enough. Gerbil must not ever raise from tail, as its tail skin will come out and the tail will be amputated by itself, because skin doesn't grow again.

