



## **Small animal housing requirements**

**Please note: pet stores will often recommend smaller sized cages than what Dakin requires; please follow Dakin's guidelines when purchasing a habitat for a small animal(s) you plan to adopt.**

### **Mice - \* with wire mesh cover**

1-2 mice: 10 gallon aquarium

3-6 mice: 20 gallon aquarium

It is always recommended to get the largest size you can afford.

### **Hamsters - \* with wire mesh cover**

Minimum size of 24" x 12" (20 gallon aquarium)

Or a hamster cage at least 20"L x 11.5"W x 11"H

### **Gerbils - \* with wire mesh cover**

2-3 gerbils: 15-gallon aquarium

4-5 gerbils: 20-gallon aquarium

6 gerbils: 30-gallon aquarium

### **\*If no wire mesh cover\***

2-4 gerbils 20 gallon aquarium

4-6 gerbils 30 gallon aquarium

## Rats

For rats we recommend solid bottom, powder coated wire cages.



2' x 2' x 2' is the minimum size for a pair of rats. Ferret cages also make an excellent home for 2-3 rats.

## Ferrets



For a single ferret or pair of ferrets, we recommend a wire cage that's at least 36 inches long, 25 inches wide and 63 inches high. Ferrets prefer bi-level cages that feature stairs or ramps that they can climb and shelves or hammocks where they can sleep. Cages should have solid floors as wire flooring is uncomfortable to a ferret's feet.

Ferrets are not cage animals. They need to be able to run around, explore, play, and interact with you every day. Owners must ferret-proof each room in which the ferrets are allowed, to keep their pets from escaping and to remove any hazards that could injure the ferret. Most owners find that caging ferrets when they are away or sleeping helps to keep their animals safe and out of trouble. A cage provides a safe and secure "bedroom" for the ferret.

## Rabbits



For rabbits we recommend large metal dog crates and/or x-pens. **Minimum requirements for enclosed spaces include 8 sq. ft. for 1-2 rabbits.** Rabbits should also have at least 24 sq. ft. of exercise space outside of their enclosure where they can run and play for at least 5 hours per day.

### *Things to keep in mind*

- Provide a stable house that rabbits can get on top to provide extra space.
- Rabbits need enough space to fit a litter box and still have room to fully stretch out in the rest of the cage.
- Rabbits should be able to fully extend their body upright and not be able to touch their nose to the top of the cage.

## Guinea Pigs

One guinea pig: 6.5 square feet cage (minimum), but more is better; generally 30" x 36" is a good size.

Two guinea pigs: 6.5 square feet (minimum), but 10.5 square feet is preferred; generally 30" x 50" is a good size.

Three guinea pigs: 8 square feet (minimum), but 13 square feet is preferred; generally 30" x 62" is a good size.

## Chinchillas



For a single animal, the cage should be at least 30" tall, 24" wide and 15" deep. A 6 x 6 x 3 foot cage would be ideal. Cages with 'multiple stories,' often referred to as 'condo cages,' allow your chinchilla to move in many directions and are recommended. Ramps lead from one 'floor' to the other. If your cage does not have multiple levels, a shelf high up in the cage, with a ramp leading to it, should be provided.