

Gerbil Facts

- Pet gerbils are descended from wild Mongolian gerbils.
- A gerbil's teeth never stop growing. It is important to have plenty of things for them to chew on to prevent overgrowth.
- If a gerbil senses danger, they will thump their rear feet on the ground to warn other gerbils.
- Gerbils were originally known as 'desert rats'. Their whole body, including their tail, is covered in fur, this is to keep them from getting sun burnt in the hot deserts.
- On average gerbils live to be 2 years old. They can have a lifespan of 3-5 years.
- Gerbils do not bathe in water. They roll around in the sand to get debris off their coat and keep it shiny and smooth.
- Gerbils are omnivores. They eat both plants and insects.
- A baby gerbil is called a pup. A group of gerbils is called a horde.
- Gerbils are social creatures and are best kept in pairs unlike hamsters who are solitary creatures.
- Gerbils are neither nocturnal or diurnal. They are crepuscular which means they are more active during the dawn and dusk hours.

