

welcome
to the family

small animal parent

YOUR GUIDE TO COMPLETE CARE

BIG JOY COMES IN TINY PACKAGES

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Small pets amaze us every day, whether it's a chinchilla taking a dust bath or a hamster running laps on their exercise wheel. The most incredible part of bringing home a little friend, though, is enjoying the giant doses of love they have to give. Welcome to our family.

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YOUR GUIDE TO COMPLETE CARE

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We'll help you navigate the exciting journey into pet parenthood every step of the way. Get started with these helpful tips, shopping checklists, exclusive savings and more!

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congratulations

ON YOUR FURRY FAMILY MEMBER

FROM DAY ONE

Adding a pet to your family is a fun-filled occasion that can also raise a lot of questions. This book provides lots of quick, handy tips to help as you get to know each other.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

When adding a small animal to the family, it's helpful to understand the similarities and differences among the species. You may have had a hamster in the past, but that doesn't mean living with a rabbit will be a similar experience!

HAMSTERS

- Are easy to handle once socialized
- Have a life expectancy of 2 to 3 years
- Are nocturnal but have small bouts of activity during the day
- Prefer to live alone and should be kept in individual habitats

GUINEA PIGS

- Are highly social and need daily interaction
- Have a life expectancy of up to 8 years
- Are mostly active at dusk and dawn
- Love same-sex or spayed or neutered playmates but need proper introductions

CHINCHILLAS

- Are highly social and need gentle daily interaction (fragile rib cages mean no squeezing!)
- Have a life expectancy of 10 or more years
- Are mostly active at dusk and dawn
- Usually love same-sex playmates but need proper introductions and monitoring

RABBITS

- Are highly social and need daily interaction (always support body and hind legs when picking up!)
- Have a life expectancy of 10 or more years
- Are mostly active during daylight hours
- Love same-sex or spayed or neutered playmates but need proper introductions

FERRETS

- Are highly active and need daily interaction
- Have a life expectancy of up to 8 years
- Are most active during daylight but also sleep up to 18 hours per day
- Love playmates but need proper introductions and close monitoring



LITTLE PETS, BIG APPETITES

A big part of creating a happy, healthy environment for your small pet is selecting a nutritious diet

and wholesome treats. It's amazing how fast a new pet will begin to recognize mealtime as a fun and

PIG OUT, GUINEA PIG

- Provide a diet of high-quality, guinea pig-specific food daily
- Treat your pet with a limited amount of select fruits and vegetables
- Always have quality hay available for nibbling†
- Supplement with vitamin C daily
- Keep fresh water easily accessible at all times

- Provide high-quality, chinchilla-specific food daily
- Treat your pet with a limited amount of select fruits and vegetables
- Keep fresh water easily accessible at all times

A FEAST FIT FOR A HAMSTER

- Provide a diet of high-quality, hamster-specific food daily
- Treat your pet with a limited amount of quality hay† and select fruits and veggies. Because hamsters are hoarders, you'll need to remove uneaten food before it spoils
- Keep fresh water easily accessible at all times

BUNNY BANQUETS

- Provide enough quality hay to make up the bulk of your rabbit's meals†
- Supplement with high-quality rabbit pellets and limited amounts of select green leafy vegetables and fruit
- Keep fresh water easily accessible at all times

FERRET FINE DINING

- Feed these obligate carnivores a high-quality ferret food daily
- You may need to moisten the food if your ferret is younger than 16 weeks
- Keep fresh water easily accessible at all times
- Treat your pet ferrets with ferret-specific treats

CHOW DOWN, CHINCHILLAS

- Provide enough quality hay to make up the bulk of your chinchilla's meals†



†Less than 6 months old eat only alfalfa hay. More than 6 months old eat only timothy hay and other quality grass hays.

supplies to start off on the right paw

Below are the basics to get through your first few days smoothly. It's helpful to set up your new pet's habitat BEFORE you bring them home. Petco makes it easy to get what your pet needs.

NOTE: Small-animal starter kits are a great option for many new pet parents. Starter kits provide the basic elements to create a cozy, safe new home for your small animal. Most include a habitat, food bowl, water bottle and bedding. Talk to an in-store partner to determine whether a starter kit is the best choice for you.

GUINEA PIG

- Habitat (recommended minimum size 36"x30"x18")
- Indoor playpen (recommended)
- Guinea pig food and treats
- Hay and hay rack†
- Bedding‡
- Food bowl and water bottle
- Hideaway
- Toys (including wood chews, mineral chews and chew tubes)
- Vitamin C source
- Soft brush
- Nail clippers
- Styptic powder

RABBIT

- Habitat (a minimum of four times the size of your rabbit)
- Rabbit food and treats
- Bedding‡
- Hideaway
- Food bowl and water bottle
- Hay and hay rack†
- Litter box, small-animal litter and scoop
- Toys (including wood and mineral chews)
- Nail clippers
- Styptic powder
- Soft brush
- Indoor playpen
- Harness and leash (optional)

CHINCHILLA

- Multilevel habitat (as large as possible)
- Chinchilla food and treats
- Hay and hay rack†
- Bedding‡
- Food bowl and water bottle
- Exercise wheel or saucer
- Hideaway and lounging perch
- Toys (including wood chews, mineral chews and chew tubes)
- Dust bath and dust
- Indoor playpen (optional)

†Less than 6 months old eat only alfalfa hay. More than 6 months old eat only timothy hay and other quality grass hays.

‡1" to 2" high-quality paper is recommended.

HAMSTER/GERBILS

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Hamster or gerbil food and treats
- Bedding and nesting fluff†
- Food bowl
- Water bottle
- Exercise wheel and runabout ball
- Hideaway
- Toys (including wood chews, mineral chews and chew tubes)
- Critter potty and litter
- Dust bath and dust

FERRET

- Species-appropriate multilevel habitat (as large as possible)
- Ferret food and treats
- Ferret-specific vitamins
- Ferret bed and bedding†
- Food bowl
- Water bottle
- Hammock and hideaway
- Litter box, ferret litter and scoop
- Toys
- Nail clippers
- Styptic powder
- Soft brush and shampoo
- Indoor playpen
- Harness and leash (optional)



†1" to 2" high-quality paper is recommended.

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to the family

anytime you need us!

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Text the key phrases in **YELLOW** below to 79949 to receive customized tips and in-depth advice.*



Text **SMALL** to learn more about which small animal is the right fit for your family.

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Text **CARE** to learn more about the care and feeding of your small animal.

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