

Interesting Facts about Pocket Pets

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Some interesting facts about small mammals:

- "Thumping" is an interesting gerbil behavior. The gerbil will pound both hind legs on the ground when he is excited, stressed, or to attract a mate.
- When a gerbil rubs his abdomen on cage accessories, he is marking his territory.
- The common pet gerbil originated in Mongolia.
- Golden hamsters are also called "Syrian" hamsters, since they originated in Syria.
- Fancy mice and rats have been exhibited for over 100 years. The National Mouse Club of Britain was formed in 1895.
- Mice are nocturnal animals and are more active at night than during the day.
- Rats are extremely clean pets and are among the most intelligent.
- Rabbits are not rodents. They belong to a family called "lagomorphs."
- Many rabbits learn litter box habits easily.
- Rabbits require daily exercise outside of their cage.
- Another name for a guinea pig is a "cavy." Wild cavies live in social groups called "herds."
- A male guinea pig is a boar and a female is a sow. Baby guinea pigs are pups.
- Guinea pigs are unable to manufacture Vitamin C within their bodies therefore this vitamin must be supplemented.
- Chinchillas need a dry habitat and need dust baths several times weekly; in fact, a dust bath is necessary to keep a chinchilla's fur soft.
- The African Hedgehog, in its natural environment, will eat a variety of insects, worms, and fruit.
- The sugar glider is a marsupial, like a kangaroo or wombat.
- Sugar gliders are able to glide over 150 feet.

