



Pocket pets may be small but they are as deserving of our love as their larger counterparts, choosing to have a pocket pet may be perfect for those in a smaller dwelling or without a large yard.



TIP

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AN INTRODUCTION TO POCKET PETS

Pocket pet care is not a one size fits all equation. Each type of pet has its own requirements for optimal health, safety, and comfort.

Before you bring home one of these sweet little animals, make sure that you can provide the type of environment that will support his or her overall wellness and longevity.

The following provides some helpful advice for getting started.

HOUSING AND SAFETY

Providing the proper housing for your pocket pet is one of the most important components of their care. Not only does the right environment keep your pet functioning at his or her peak, it protects them from the dangers of the outside world.

Your pet's enclosure should be:

- Clean, dry, and warm
- Adequately ventilated
- Safe, non toxic bedding

Depending on the species of pocket pet, lighting and humidity levels can play an important role. Health problems such as respiratory distress or digestive issues can result from inadequate housing and/or care.

NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

By providing the proper food recommended for your species of pocket pet you will help to ensure his or her continued good health, optimal weight and minimise allergic reactions. Ask your vet which type of food is best for your pocket pet.

TEETH AND NAILS

In the wild rodents and lizards keep their teeth and nails trimmed and tidy with their daily diets and activities. Chew toys and climbing materials can help but some pocket pets benefit from regular nail trims and teeth cleaning.

Letting teeth or nails get too long or dirty can inhibit normal eating and walking patterns, and cause much discomfort for your little buddy.

POCKET PET CARE

Most pocket pets hide signs of illness and injury, so it's always a good idea to bring them in for a yearly wellness exam.

Besides detecting and treating common problems, a complete nose-to-tail exam can reveal issues such as internal and external parasites, tumours, or skin problems.

Please your veterinarian if your pocket pet stops eating, loses weight, has any discharge from the eyes or nose, seems quieter than usual or has any new lumps or bumps.

KEEP YOUR POCKET PET STIMULATED

Just because they're small doesn't mean pocket pets don't need a daily dose of fun and excitement! Environmental enrichment is key to a pocket pet's wellness so make sure he or she has access to plenty of toys and material for burrowing, digging, climbing, or hiding. Daily interaction with you is an important form of mental stimulation for your small pet. If you choose to let him or her roam outside of the enclosure make sure the surrounding area is safe:

- Close windows and exit doors
- Remove cleaning chemicals, food, and anything that may be toxic
- Secure any loose cords and wires as they are a risk for pocket pets that like to chew

Just like any pet, pocket pets require love, attention and care to ensure they are living their best life. When determining your choice of pocket pet, take into consideration, their life-span, cost of keeping them and your availability to provide them the care they require.

For further information on the management of your senior cats health, please contact your vet or the team at Frank Samways Vet on (03) 8379 4498 or vetclinic@dogshome.com



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We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.