

# **Small Mammals Emergency Checklist**



## **Food and Water**

**Pellet food, seeds, or hay (amount varies by species)**  
**Fresh vegetables if applicable (store in a cooler bag)**  
**Small water bottle with attachment for cage or bottle cap**  
**water dish**

## **Shelter Needs**

**Portable cage with bedding (choose lightweight options)**  
**Ventilated carrier for hamsters and other small rodents**  
**Nesting materials (shredded paper, straw, etc.) for comfort**

## **Care Instructions**

**Food and water needs specific to species**  
**Vet contact details and any medical instructions**  
**Schedule for cleaning and waste disposal**

## **Transportation Tips**

**Compact, secure carrier with handles for easy movement**  
**Cooling pad or insulating blanket for temperature control**  
**Secure cage or carrier in a car with minimal vibration**

## **Specific Requirements**

**Fresh bedding supply (for replacing soiled bedding)**  
**Chew toys to keep rodents occupied and manage stress**  
**Hiding spots (small boxes) for security**

# Small Mammal First Aid Cheat Sheet



## Wound Care and Bleeding

Gently rinse small wounds with saline solution to clean them. Use a sterile gauze pad to apply gentle pressure on bleeding wounds until it stops.

Avoid tight bandages, as rodents often chew on bandages. Instead, place the rodent in a secure, clean, and quiet enclosure to prevent further injury.

## Overgrown Teeth

Overgrown teeth are common in rodents and can lead to issues with eating.

Provide hard, untreated wood sticks or safe chew toys to help naturally file down teeth.

In a critical situation, use a sterile nail clipper to trim only the very tips of the teeth, being extremely cautious to avoid cutting too far, as this can cause bleeding and pain.

## Digestive Stasis (Especially in Rabbits)

Symptoms of digestive stasis include reduced appetite, fewer droppings, and lethargy.

Encourage movement to stimulate digestion if the rodent is willing to move.

Offer fresh, leafy greens or hay (for herbivores like rabbits and guinea pigs) to stimulate the digestive system.

Avoid force-feeding. Monitor closely for improvement; if no change, continue to offer hay and water and keep the animal warm.



## **Heatstroke**

Rodents are highly sensitive to temperature changes. Move the rodent to a cooler, shaded area immediately if signs of overheating occur (rapid breathing, lethargy). Place a cold, damp cloth near (but not directly on) the rodent's enclosure to help lower the temperature gradually. Ensure adequate ventilation, but avoid drafts.

## **Broken Bones**

Immobilize the rodent in a small, secure enclosure to limit movement.

Avoid handling the injured limb directly, as rodents have delicate bones that may break further.

Make sure the enclosure has soft bedding to reduce stress on the injury, and focus on creating a comfortable resting environment.

## **Respiratory Issues (Common in Small Rodents)**

Signs include wheezing, nasal discharge, or labored breathing. Keep the rodent in a warm, dry, and dust-free environment to ease breathing.

Avoid any stressors, as rodents with respiratory issues can quickly worsen with stress.

Offer fresh water to keep them hydrated and maintain a calm environment.

# **Small Mammals (Hamsters, Rabbits, etc.) Enrichment Activities Cheat Sheet for Stress Relief**



## **DIY Toys and Games**

**Cardboard Tunnels:** Create tunnels and mazes out of cardboard tubes or boxes for them to explore.

**Foraging Box:** Fill a shallow box with shredded paper and sprinkle treats for them to dig and find.

**Chewable Toys:** Use untreated wood sticks or cardboard rolls for them to gnaw on, promoting healthy teeth.

## **Exercises and Activities**

**Exercise Wheel or Ball:** For hamsters or similar pets, provide a wheel or secure exercise ball for physical activity.

**Playpen Exploration:** Set up a safe playpen area with toys and hiding spots to let them explore freely.

**Digging Box:** Use a shallow container filled with pet-safe substrate for digging, especially beneficial for rabbits.

## **Stress-Relief Techniques**

**Hideaway Spot:** Place small hideaways or shelters in their cage where they can retreat to feel safe.

**Familiar Bedding:** Use familiar bedding material to make them feel more secure.

**Gentle Handling:** Handle them gently, limiting interaction if they seem anxious or skittish.

# Small Mammals (Hamsters, Rabbits, etc.) Evacuation Route Planner Cheat Sheet



## 1. Evacuation Route Planning

Primary Route: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Route: \_\_\_\_\_

Quiet Rest Stops: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes for Rodent-Friendly Areas (e.g., shaded, quiet locations):

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Pet-Friendly Accommodations

Pet-Friendly Hotels or Facilities:

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ | Location:

\_\_\_\_\_ | Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby Boarding Options for Rodents:

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ | Location:

\_\_\_\_\_ | Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet-Friendly Shelters:

Shelter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ | Location:

\_\_\_\_\_ | Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Veterinarian and Emergency Contacts

Primary Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ | Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Vet in Evacuation Area:

Clinic Name: \_\_\_\_\_ | Location:

\_\_\_\_\_ | Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

24-Hour Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ | Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Additional Notes and Special Needs

Special Care Needs (diet, bedding): \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Rodent Supplies Locations (pet stores en route):

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contacts for Rodent Care (friend/family):

\_\_\_\_\_

# Small Mammals Emergency Go-Bag Checklist



**Bag Recommendation: Lightweight backpack or small pet carrier with a built-in compartment.**

## **Food and Water**

**3–7 days of rodent pellets, hay (for rabbits and guinea pigs), and treats stored in airtight bags**

**Small water bottle or shallow dish that can attach to a carrier**

**Fresh vegetables stored in a cooler bag, if necessary**

## **First Aid Supplies**

**Small gauze pads and tweezers for minor injuries**

**Small scissors for trimming overgrown claws or fur**

**Any medications labeled and stored safely**

## **Comfort Items**

**Familiar bedding or nesting material**

**Small hideaway (like a cardboard box) to reduce stress**

**Safe chew toys to maintain dental health and reduce anxiety**

## **Waste Management**

**Disposable cage liners or extra bedding**

**Small waste bags for disposal**

**Compact cleaning wipes to sanitize enclosures**

## **Identification and Documents**

**Small ID tag attached to the carrier with your contact information**

**Recent photo of the pet in case of separation**

**Medical history and care instructions for specific needs (like special dietary requirements)**

# **Small Mammals (Hamsters, Rabbits, etc.) Long-Term Shelter and Care Setup Checklist**



## **Shelter Essentials**

**Safe Enclosure:** Place in a well-ventilated, secure cage with enough space to move and hide.

**Temperature Control:** Ensure moderate temperatures; keep the enclosure in a shaded, cool area if hot, or insulate with bedding if cold.

**Ventilation:** Ensure the enclosure has good airflow but is free from drafts.

## **Food Storage**

**Pellets and Hay:** Store pellets in airtight containers and hay in cool, dry storage to prevent mold.

**Water Supply:** Have a water bottle attached to the enclosure and keep a backup supply of fresh water.

**Fresh Foods:** Store a small amount of fresh vegetables in a cooler or secure container if possible.

## **Waste Management**

**Bedding:** Stockpile clean bedding materials and change bedding frequently to maintain hygiene.

**Waste Disposal:** Designate a small waste bin near the shelter area and dispose of waste regularly.

**Disinfectants:** Use pet-safe wipes or mild disinfectant to keep the cage clean.

## **Enrichment and Mental Stimulation**

**Chew Toys:** Provide chew-safe toys to help rodents wear down their teeth.

**Exercise Wheel:** Include an exercise wheel or tunnels for movement.

**Hiding Places:** Use cardboard boxes or small huts to give them places to explore and hide.