

Buying a Small Mammal*

(*Includes rabbit, guinea pig, hamster, fancy mouse, gerbil & chinchilla)

Checklist

Pet ownership may be immensely rewarding but it comes with heavy responsibilities. Before getting a pet, it will be most helpful to go through this checklist with the entire family to ensure that everyone is agreeable and in this together. A pet is a lifetime commitment; not only for the season.

Responsible Pet Ownership

1. Pets need to be accepted by the entire household
2. Pets need to be taken care of for their entire lives
(Hamster, fancy mouse, gerbil: 2-3 years)
(Guinea pig: 6-8 years)
(Rabbit: 8-12 years)
(Chinchilla: 15 years)
3. Pets cost time and money (training, food, veterinary bills, etc.)
4. Pets should not be allowed to disturb others (kept strictly indoors)
5. Do your research before buying a pet

Premises

6. Pet shop is licensed by the National Parks Board/Animal & Veterinary Service ("NParks/AVS") to sell small mammals. Grade decal issued by NParks/AVS should be displayed prominently.
7. Pet shop premises is clean.

Pet Shop's Handling/Knowledge of animals

8. Shop owner or attendant is able to handle the animals confidently and correctly.
9. Shop owner or attendant is knowledgeable about the animals and their care.

Behaviour/Condition of the animal

10. The animal looks bright and alert.
11. The animal stands and moves naturally and comfortably.
12. The animal is in good physical condition.
13. The animal's eyes, nose and ears are clean and free from excessive discharge.
14. The animal's hair/coat appears clean and lustrous with no obvious hair loss.
15. The animal does not scratch or chew itself excessively.
16. The animal is free from external parasites, i.e. mites.



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Regulatory

17. The pet retailer and pet owner must complete the National Parks Board/Animal & Veterinary Service Pet Purchase Declaration (PPD) form for purchase of rabbit.

Note:
These guidelines are intended to help you choose an animal that is healthy and suitable for you. We would advise that if any of the boxes is not ticked, you should reconsider your purchase and/or consult a veterinarian. If you have any queries please contact us at 1800 476 1600 or animal_feedback@nparks.gov.sg.

