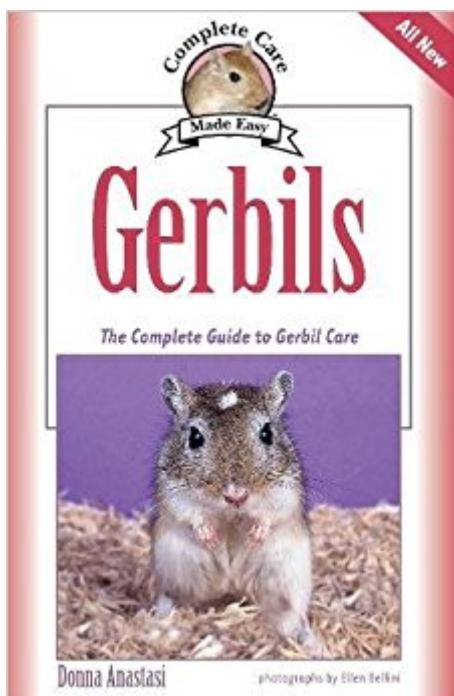


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Gerbils: The Complete Guide To Gerbil Care (Complete Care Made Easy)



Synopsis

Who doesn't wish to share his or her home with a cage full of "Furry Mongolian Friends" aka gerbils! Author Donna Anastasi certainly does! She describes these irresistible critters as "quiet, clean, friendly, curious, active, and easy-to-please." In deciding whether the gerbil is for you, Anastasi offers this advice: "If you are looking for a seemingly limitless cache of cuteness--from their long, fanning whiskers and large almond-shaped eyes to their bunnylike hind legs and tufted tail tips--then gerbils are for you!" Clearly bitten by the gerbil bug, the author begins by providing some basic natural history about gerbils, their origins on the Mongolian range, and an overview of their behaviors. Anastasi defends her favorite pocket pet and asserts that the gentle gerbil does not deserve its Latin name (*Meriones unguiculatus*), which translates as "clawed warrior." Filled with terrific color photographs, *Gerbils* summarizes the basic needs of these adorable rodents, specifically addressing their housing requirements, the cost and commitment involved, and their interactions with children and other pets. The following are devoted to purchasing a healthy gerbil from a pet shop, hobby breeder, or shelter; introducing the gerbil to the home; housing and feeding; taming and handling the pet gerbil; health considerations and potential household hazards; breeding and raising the young; and exhibiting gerbils at shows. The discussion on housing covers the selection of the ideal enclosure, basic housing setup, accessories, safety, and a guide to cleaning the tank. The chapter "Taming and Handling Your Gerbils" offers a step-by-step socialization process to acclimate the gerbil to its new handler and surroundings plus instructions for handling the gerbil and discouraging nipping. All keepers will be interested in the chapter on keeping gerbils healthy through smart preventative care; topics covered include allergies; broken limbs and head injury; teeth, tail, and ear problems; dehydration; diarrhea; heat stroke; hypothermia; mites, and more. Gerbil enthusiasts who are looking to become gerbil midwives will find complete instructions for breeding and raising pups (baby gerbils) in the chapter about reproduction. It covers planning a litter, setting up a breeding tank, mating, caring for the pregnant mom, birthing, fostering, growth cycles, weaning, handling pups, and more. The chapter "Fun with Gerbils" offers ideas for games, art projects, photographing, and training gerbils to do seven fun tricks. Resources include lists of publications, clubs, organizations, and websites. Glossary of terms and index included.

Book Information

Series: Complete Care Made Easy

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Lumina Media (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1931993564

ISBN-13: 978-1931993562

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #465,899 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Mice, Hamsters & Guinea Pigs #98 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Rabbits

Customer Reviews

This book has great content but the way its made is terrible. It was a gift to my grandson and the first time he and his dad sat down to read it..the pages came loose with each turn of the page. Im so disappointed.

Great, informative book. Rented it from the library for my daughter who is wanting a gerbil. She thought she knew everything but admitted that there was a lot that her 11 year old brain did not know about gerbils and actually thanked me for making her read it. She felt that buying the book for reference would be a smart idea before the actual purchase of a gerbil. Best book we came across thus far concerning gerbils as pets.

This has been quite helpful to me in navigating the world of gerbil care. I just adopted a pair of young timid gerbils, and this book had a section for me on how to get them used to me and feeling safer. Now my gerbils are adjusting nicely and much more friendly/happy in their environment!! haven't read many of the other gerbil care books available, but this one is good for giving tips to the beginner like me.

Easily the best of the gerbil books we looked at in stores or got from the library. Very useful information, and while I doubt my 9 year old son read all of it, I know he enjoyed reading a good part of it.

Great book for beginners! I like that it gives you exact instructions for splitting a cage and the proper proportions of protein and fat for a gerbil. I quickly learned that most foods are not fit for gerbils,

even if they say they are!

A++++

The other reviewers are right--Donna Anastasi knows gerbils! This delightful book is so much fun to read (again and again) that it would potentially convince anyone that gerbils are the pets for them. Best of all, it's 176 pages, so it's packed full of information--from tips to games. As a result of reading this book I became a fan not only of gerbils, but also of Ms. Anastasi (you will, too!), whose love for these furry little rodents is evident throughout the work. Imagine my delight when I adopted a pair and found out they're great-granddaughters of her gerbils! If you only get one gerbil care book--make this one it.

I'm a gerbil lover. I currently have three; a pregnant mommy, her mate, and another boy who lives in a different cage. My first gerbil passed away last month :(But this book helped me understand what he passed away from and helped me to everything I could to make Chester comfortable. The book could be a little more detailed, but it tells you the basics of everything you could need to know for your little gerbil friend! :) I'm very satisfied with my purchase.

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