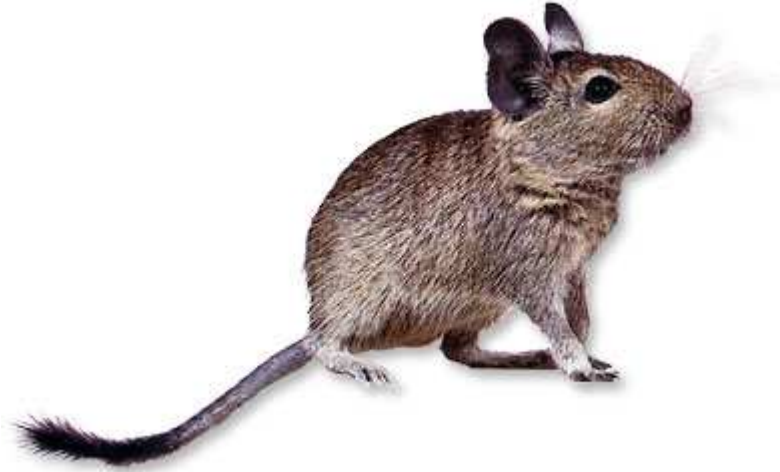


# Animal Care Sheet – Degu

## **Basic Needs**

- Metal Cage or Tank
- Bedding
- Water Bottle
- Food Dish
- Food
- Wood Chews
- Vitamins
- Salt/Mineral Block
- Dust Bath
- Covered Home



**Life Expectancy:** Approximately 5-12 years

**Housing:** Degus are powerful chewers and can chew out of most plastic cages. A glass aquarium is the safest place to house your degu. Make sure it is at least 12” x 24” x 9” (31 x 61 x 23 cm). Ensure it has an appropriate metal lid. Degus are a social animal and will do better in a pair. They enjoy climbing in and around toys, tunnels and a wheel. Make sure you offer a chew block to help trim their teeth.

**Cleaning:** Completely clean out the cage weekly. Wash the cage, dishes and toys with a 10% bleach solution. Make sure to rinse and dry everything thoroughly.

**Special Instructions:** Degus must have a dust bath at least once a week to keep their fur clean.

**Feeding Instructions:** A nutritional diet consists of guinea pig pellets, hamster extrusion (Nutri-Bloc) and alfalfa or Timothy hay.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are also welcome but in small amounts (approximately ½ tsp. and not more than 10% of regular diet) and should be introduced slowly. Degus are prone to obesity and diabetes so they must receive a balanced diet with

little or no sugar or salt. Some of their favorite treats are apples, raisins, pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds.

**Appropriate fruits & vegetables:** apples

raisins  
carrots  
collard greens  
kale  
romaine lettuce  
tomatoes  
peaches  
apricot  
pear

**DO NOT FEED:** cooked or processed foods  
sweets of any kind, including chocolate and sweetened cereals