

Small Mammal Nutrition

Rabbit <i>(Oryctolagus cuniculus)</i>	Guinea Pigs <i>(Cavia porcellus)</i>	Chinchillas <i>(Chinchilla lanigera)</i>	Mice, Hamsters, Gerbils, Rats	Ferrets <i>(Mustela putorius furo)</i>
<p>Grass hays 80-85% of diet Timothy, orchard, Bermuda, oat, botanical meadow</p> <p>Important to have high fiber, low calcium, and protein *Except in young, growing, lactating, or geriatric animals then alfalfa is a good choice (not actually a hay, it's a legume)</p> <p>High calcium is associated with urolithiasis</p> <p>Dark leafy greens 10-15% of the diet (Collard greens, mustard greens, endive, dandelion greens and flowers (free of pesticides), carrots and carrot tops, parsley, cilantro, snow peas, romaine lettuce, red and green leaf lettuce, watercress, bok choy, clover, celery, and broccoli (leaves and stems), basil, brussel sprouts, celery, escarole, green peppers, radicchio and radish tops)</p> <p><5% pellets</p> <p>All rabbits do not need to be fed pellets, they can change the balance of the microbiota</p> <p>If using pellets, choose timothy or alfalfa-based No seed/pellet mixes ever Recommended feeding: ¼ cup per 5lbs of rabbit</p> <p>Avoid carbohydrates, fats, treats such as seeds, dried fruit, yogurt drops, oats, cereal, and extruded kibble treats</p>	<p>Grass hays Timothy, orchard, Bermuda, oat, botanical meadow</p> <p>Dark leafy greens</p> <p>Pellets General recommendation – 2 tablespoons per guinea pig</p> <p>High calcium diets have NOT been associated with urolithiasis</p> <p>Source of vitamin C Make sure to check the expiration date Drops of Vit. C to water do not meet this need because it is inactivated after ~30 min</p> <p>Lack enzyme L-gluconolactone oxidase which is necessary for the synthesis of Vit. C Need 10-30 mg/kg/day and likely more during times of illness</p> <p>Avoid treats such as seeds, dried fruits, yogurt drops and foods high in carbohydrates and sugars. Oats, cereal, and extruded kibble treats should also be avoided</p>	<p>Nocturnal feeding behavior (>70% of feed intake occurs overnight)</p> <p>Grass hay Timothy, orchard, Bermuda, oat, botanical meadow</p> <p>Dark leafy greens</p> <p>Pellets Longer rodent pellets are easier for them to hold in their paws</p> <p>Do not seem to develop diet-associated urolithiasis</p> <p>Avoid treats such as seeds, dried fruits, yogurt drops and foods high in carbohydrates and sugars. Oats, cereal, and extruded kibble treats should also be avoided</p>	<p>Omnivores</p> <p>Natural diet consists of seeds, grains, and other plant material Also consume invertebrates, small vertebrates and carrion</p> <p>Formulated pelleted diets</p> <p>Small amounts of greens, vegetables, fruits and hay</p>	<p>Obligate carnivores Wild-whole prey</p> <p>Captive Whole prey-rodents and birds Ferret pelleted diets High protein and fat, low carbohydrate and fiber</p> <p>Do NOT recommend cat/kitten food</p> <p>Grain-free diet associated with cystine urolithiasis?</p>

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