Chew Toy Buyer's Guide: Rodents & Rabbits

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

help for your small pet's dental health

Providing your rabbit or small rodent with appropriate chew toys mayl help prevent costly dental problems in the future.

The incisors, front four teeth (top and bottom), of both rabbits and rodents continually grow throughout life. If the top and bottom incisors do not meet correctly, one or more of the teeth may overgrow. This may lead to problems with eating and cause pain. If this occurs, the affected incisor must be trimmed, which needs to be done by your veterinarian and may require anesthesia. In rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs, the molars (large teeth in the back of the mouth) can overgrow, especially if the animal is not offered sufficient high fiber foods like hay.

In nature, rodents and rabbits are continually chewing on something. The constant gnawing that should normally occur continually wears the teeth down. In your home, your small pet will need you to supply him with appropriate items to chew.

RODENTS

You can help your rat, mouse, guinea pig, or other small rodent's dental health with the correct chew toys. We suggest the following:

- Critter Ka-Bobs are metal skewers that hang from the cage with interchangeable wooden treats. They're also a great way to serve your pet fresh fruits and vegetables and keep them out of the soiled litter/bedding.
- Regal Kritty Treats are wooden toys filled with seeds that keep your clever pet interested.
- Chew Toys do double duty as a fruit-flavored treat and a chew toy.

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RABBITS

Although rabbits are not rodents, they still instinctually chew. Chewing is not only necessary for dental health, it also helps pique their interest and keep their active minds sharp. Our suggestions for rabbits:

- Bunny Flip & Toss Toys give rabbits a chance to chew and throw - a necessity for any rabbit, mellow or energetic.
- Alfalfa Cubes combine specialized nutrition with chewing action for younger, developing rabbits.
- Timothy Hay should be the mainstay of a rabbit's diet and will help keep older rabbits' teeth worn down.
- Crispy Chews provide an ideal gnaw surface.

Remember that even within the same species, small rodents and rabbits have different personalities and different likes and dislikes. Your best bet is to offer your small pet different chewing items (not all at the same time) and see which one he prefers.

We Recommend

Super Pet Tropical Fiddle Sticks

Kaytee Small Animal Nibblers

Regal Kritty Treats

Timothy Hay

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