

Care Guide

Siberian Chipmunk

(Eutamias sibiricus)

Facts:

Average adult size: **5 - 6 inches in length**

Average life span: **up to 10 years with proper care**

Diet: **Omnivore**



Chipmunks are a member of the rodent family and are diurnal.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Food

- High-quality Rodent block
- Fruits and vegetables (limited amounts)
- Do not feed chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar, food and treats high in carbohydrates and high fat treats.

Supplements

- Vitamin C

Water

- Fresh water should be provided daily in water bottles to prevent contamination.
- Bottles need to be kept clean inside by soaking in a 10% bleach solution for ten minutes every two to three weeks and then scrubbed out with soap and a bottle brush. Bottles should be completely replaced with new ones every six months.

Frequency of Food

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Limited amounts of vegetables and fruits as a treat.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hours should be discarded.
- Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

Housing:

Cage

- Chipmunks acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area.
- Large, multi-tiered wire-sided habitat with good ventilation, a secure door, and a solid floor.
- Openings between the wires should be small enough so the habitat is escape-proof.
- It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- **Different types of small animals should not be housed together.**

Bedding

- 1-2 inches of bedding should be placed in the habitat
- Proper bedding includes high quality paper bedding, crumbled paper bedding, or aspen shavings.

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

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- Avoid Cedar-based products.

Habitat Maintenance

- Clean the habitat and its contents at least once a week with mild soap and water, rinse and dry completely before placing back into the habitat.
- Remove wet areas daily; change bedding at least once a week, or more often as necessary.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Chipmunks stay clean and rarely need baths, but can be spot cleaned with a damp washcloth if needed.
- Chipmunks enjoy a dust bath once a month; remove dust after 15-30 minutes.
- Consult with a veterinarian if a Chipmunk's teeth seem too long.

Health

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks regularly
- Healthy fur and clear eyes
- Breathing is clear and walks normally

Normal Behavior

- Chews on objects to maintain all their teeth, which grow continuously; ensure they have plenty of wood chew sticks or blocks.
- Chipmunks are very shy and have long memories. If you frighten them, they will remember and reject you until you regain their trust.

Bonding

- Begin your bonding experience by feeding them treats through the cage bars and then later feeding treats from the palm of your hand inside the cage.
- Let the chipmunk come to you and slowly begin holding it. Do not squeeze it.
- Try to repeat these methods daily.
- Bonding pouches are also a great way to bond with your chipmunk. You can also place pieces of an old T-shirt in the cage, bonding pouch or sleeping area so that it will get used to your scent.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Hide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise wheel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-quality Rodent Block | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food bowl/Water bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Chew Blox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath House | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Chews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust Bath Powder | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Playpen |

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