Caring for your Gerbil

**Life Span**: 2-4 years

**Diet**
- High quality pelleted food
- Clean water daily

**Housing**
- Glass or wire cage with a wire mesh lid (like a 10 gallon aquarium)
- 1-2 inches of absorbent bedding for comfort and burrowing
- Be sure to clean the cage at least 1 time per week
- Small box for hiding

**Treats & Toys**
- Treats: Fruits and vegetables for treats (less than 5% of total diet)
- Toys: Exercise wheel without openings so their tails do not get caught
- Cardboard tubes (from toilet paper or paper towels) or plastic tubes
- Wooden chews to keep their teeth from overgrowing

**Restraint**
- To pick up your gerbil cup them in your hands
- If restraint is needed you can scruff them
- NEVER pick up your gerbil by its tail because it will cause injury

**Healthcare**
- Signs your gerbil needs to see the vet:
  - Sneezing
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Diarrhea
  - Lethargy (not as active)