



EASY TO SEX: Yes

LIFE SPAN: 5 – 10 Years

AVERAGE SIZE: 15cm

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 250 - 300g



DEGU

Habitat

The best home for your Degu would be easy to clean and kept at room temperature. A glass or plastic tank or wire cage with a plastic tray are preferable, large enough to allow for natural digging and tunnelling. Degus are very social animals and should never be housed on their own, living in pairs or groups will help with their grooming and social requirements.

Maintenance

Your Degu will need a dry, draught free clean place to live where they can be left undisturbed. Create a bed and nesting area using dust free wood shavings or any other absorbent bedding to soak up the urine and make it easier clean. Do not use fluffy bedding such as cotton wool or anything that can separate into thin strands as that can cause serious health issues. Clean out your Degus cage at least once a week. Degus enjoy a dust bath so allow access to the bath two or three times a week for about 20 minutes at a time, this helps them to keep their fur and skin in a good healthy condition. Prolonged or over-use of dust baths can lead to health problems, therefore, dust baths should be removed after each use to help prevent illness, as well as the risk of them becoming contaminated with urine and faeces.

Feeding and Water

Feed your Degu a specific concentrate Muesli based diet and provide fresh water at all times. Small amounts of fresh vegetables such as carrots and swede can be given as treats and will help to keep their teeth clean. Chew sticks and chew toys can be given to help wear their teeth down and keep them busy. Fresh hay should be provided at all times. Degus eat their own droppings; this is a normal behaviour for degus as it helps them obtain the essential nutrients they need and keeps their digestive system healthy

Handling

If you handle them, do so close to the ground, away from shelves and furniture as they may try jumping off and could get injured and never pick a Degu up by its tail. Degus can find human contact stressful until a positive relationship has been formed so give them treats to help them grow a friendship with you.

Health

It is important to ensure your Degu is kept happy and healthy, you should review any changes in their behaviour and condition and seek veterinary treatment where required. The below table shows common health problems with Degu.

Health Issue	Symptoms & Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhoea	Loose stool caused by bad diet, unclean housing, stress or parasites	Consult Vet to determine cause and treatment
Malocclusion	Overgrown Teeth	Consult Vet to possibly have teeth trimmed
Mites	External parasites that cause Gerbils to lose patches of fur	Consult Vet for treatment
Ringworm	Skin infection caused by fungus	Consult Vet for treatment
Tumours & growths	Abnormal lumps that may cause discomfort to your pet.	Consult Vet for treatment, left untreated these can be fatal.