



## **Information sheet**

### **A FEW DO'S AND DON'TS OF SMALL FURRIES !**

Small furries are what vets sometimes call all the small animals which are often first pets, so this includes :- rabbits, hamsters, gerbils , guinea pigs , mice , rats etc.

#### **HEALTH :-**

- DO check the teeth in all these species as they can grow overlong and need attention.
- DO make sure your guinea pig has a diet with enough Vitamin C in as they can become deficient. (Normal guinea pig diets have Vitamin C added but if food is kept for a long time this may disappear).
- DO get your Rabbit vaccinated against Myxomatosis and VHD(Viral Hamorrhagic Disease) both are usually fatal.
- DO take your pet to the vet if it is sick.

#### **GENERAL CARE:-**

- DON'T put males and females of these species together unless you want lots more.
- DO feed your pet and change its water every day.
- DO groom long haired small furries or else their hair can become matted.
- DON'T buy a chinchilla unless you want a pet for a long time - they live up to 18 years.
- DO check your pet's claws as they may need cutting.
- DON'T forget to change your pet's bedding regularly.
- DO check your pet's skin - guinea pigs can get skin mites and rabbits get ear mites.
- DO make sure the fur around your rabbit's bottom stays clean as otherwise they may get fly blown.

#### **HANDLING:-**

- DON'T hold a gerbil by it's tail as the end may come off.
- DO be careful when you pick up or hold rabbits as they can easily break their backs.
- DO handle and make friends with your pet, especially when it is young.