

# Mongolian Jird - *Meriones unguiculatus*

## Housing



### Cage

- fish tank with or without cage above
- fish tank -> should be wider than it is tall
- terrarium or DIY cage that allows a (partial) bedding depth of 30cm



### Furniture

- houses made of wood, clay, cork, bark ceramic etc. -> holes of min. 6cm
- roots, thick branches, cork, coconuts etc.
- Exercise: wheels min. 30cm Ø



### Bedding

- dust-free wooden bedding
- bedding depth 20-30cm
- sand bath with sepiolith or a similar sand (no quartz)
- no cat litter or pellets



### Location

- access to (indirect) daylight
- sheltered with no draughts
- min. temperature 18°C
- if possible, no birds or predators in the same room

## Nutrition



### Seeds

- very few grain
- all types of millet
- grass seeds
- weed seeds
- fatty seeds



### Dried goods

- herbs
- flowers
- dried vegetables
- no dried fruit



### Fresh food

- vegetables daily
- fruit max. 1x a week
- flowers, herbs and plants
- grasses



### Protein

- live insects (e.g. meal worms, crickets, cockroaches)
- dried insects
- cooked eggs or meat
- if there's nothing else: dry cat or dog food

## Health & Behaviour



### Reproduction

- gestation is approx. 24-27 days
- litter size: 1-8
- weaned approx. 25 days
- sexual maturity at 8 weeks
- can breed continuously



### Diseases

- problems with ventral scent gland
- parasites (mites, lice, worms, (rarely) protozoa)
- Diabetes



### Social behaviour

- must be housed in groups of 2 only
- 2 females, 2 males or female + neutered males
- Do not house alone!



### Handling

- scoop up with both hands
- use a small box or empty paper roll
- Do not hold them up or grab them by the tail!
- usually will not bite, but be gentle