CRATE REQUIREMENTS FOR HAMSTERS, GUINEA PIGS, RATS & RABBITS





- Metal wire should be used to line containers in order to prevent animals gnawing through construction materials
- Transparent sheet plastic (including Mylar) can be used to protect a sing surface containing a viewing window without free edges or ridges accessible to the animals to prevent them from detaching it or gnawing through it.
- Wire mesh may be used for some small rodent species.

The entire interior of the container with which the animals have direct contact must be lined with at least one and preferably two layers of wire to assure that there is no potential for the animals to gnaw through the container.

The animal must:

- > Be able to move about freely within the container
- > Be able to turnaround, assume normal postures
- > Be able to access food and water in the container and
- > Have adequate air space over their highest part of the body to allow air movement and to prevent injury from contact with the top of the container.

The size of the container will vary with the species. The container must be constructed in such a way as to provide a mechanism for viewing the contents of the container without opening it or allowing the possibility of escape of the animal(s)

FLOOR

• The floor of the container must be solid and leak proof

VENTILATION

- Depending upon the container, ventilation may vary considerably. Ventilation apertures placed on at least three of the walls will provide appropriate cross ventilation.
- The total ventilation space should represent at least 14% of the total combined surface aarea of the side walls.
- The mesh must be small enough to ensure that the snout or feet of the animals cannot protrude to the outside.

HANDLING SPACER BARS / HANDLES

• Attached along the middle of both side of the container to allow adequate air circulation across all of the ventilation openings.

FOOD

• Food must be provided to animals in sufficient quantities for transit. Any food can be placed directly into the container without the use of a separate food dish.

WATER

 Water must be provided in a liquid form, through the use of agar or colloid stabilized water ("gelled water")

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

PetLounge

• They should have resided in an area which has not been under veterinary restrictions during the last six months for outbreaks of Rabies, Tularemia and Viral Haemorhagic Disease of Rabbits prior to export.

- Originate from premises where no cases of Rabies occurred during the 6 months prior to export to South Africa.
- Rabies vaccinations are not mandatory.

They're in good hands