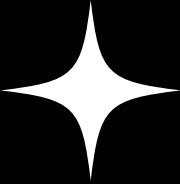




African Pygmy Caresheet

Presented by SAHBA



Introduction

African Pygmy hedgehogs are one of 19 species world wide.

They are exotic pet hedgehogs and is considered domesticated as they are not wild caught. They are not able to survive outdoors or in the wild, as they lost that ability a long time ago.

For those reasons they requires specialized caretaking.

Cages :

- The prescribed minimum floor surface of a hedgehog`s cage must be 900 mm x 450 mm, and in height 500 mm - bigger is always better.
- Must be escape free with a solid roof and sides
- Sufficient ventilation is a must
- Fish tanks are not recommended
- Avoid using second hand reptile cages
- Maintain stable cage temps- 23-25 degrees

What should be inside the cage?

- Warm dark cosy sleeping hide
- Heat source - plastic heatpad or heat emitter lamp.
- Food & water bowls
- Wheel - 28-30 cm in diameter with a solid floor. Hamster & Chinchilla wheels are not suitable
- Floor covering - Recommended: Fleece, eco litter
- Enrichment- toys, tunnels
- In the case of ramps- ensure that suitable barriers are put up. No unsafe objects with sharp edges or splints.
- Avoid woodshavings and natural grass, for the risks of mites and eye infections/ injuries.
- Do not install lights that gives off light. Your hedgehog needs a day & night cycle
- Thermometer

Food:

- Dry catfood as a staple diet-
Recommended in SA: Montego Kitten
Chicken & Nutribyte for adults

Treats:

- Wet food pouches- meaty flavours only
- Cooked unsalted meat- chicken, chicken livers, mince meat
- Unsalted scramble eggs / cooked eggs
- Tin foods: Royal Canine Mother & Baby Mousse, Royal Canine Recovery Mousse, Bon Appetit meat flavours.
- Fruits- finely chopped fruits such as apple, banana, strawberries, blueberries, melons, watermelon, paw-paw, mango
- Vegetables- Must be cooked and mashed up: pumpkin, sweet potatoe, peas, carrots. Cucumber and bell peppers can be given raw, but must be grated
- Pinkies

Toxic / Dangerous/ Not recommended food:

The following items varies from toxic to items that can cause severe gastric illnesses, and digestive matters.

Onions, garlic, tomato, citrus fruits, dairy products, spices, salt, human foods such as canned meat, fish, chocolates , avocado, dried fruits, nuts and seeds, mushrooms,raw potatoes, raw meat and raw eggs.

At SAHBA we do not promote feeding feeder insects for the risk of metabolic disorders. We also do not promote BARF diet inside the borders of South Africa due for the risk of cross contamination and lack of educated members of public on the safe storage and handling of BARF .

We have found that our hedgehogs reach higher ages without these feeding methods.

Bathing:

- Traditional bath: Johnsons baby shampoo unscented (yellow bottle) / Aveeno Oatmeal Wash mixed with added linseed oil to the water- remember to rinse afterwards with clean water to prevent clogged pores
- Oatmeal bath: Dry uncooked oats, using the sock method- soothing for hedgehogs quilling. natural bathing method
- Rooibos tea bath: Natural cheap bathing method with antinflammatory properties.
- Betadine Bath: Using half a teaspoon of dissolved antiseptic ointment for small minor injuries, cuts and wounds. Also provides relief from itching with a mites investation and mild eczema

Do not overbath your hedgehog. Twice a month is more than enough. Use the opportunity to trim nails while bathing

General Health matters

- Vitamins- we give our hedgehogs every second week multivitamin syrups in the drinking water (Virbac Vitabest/ Mirracote/ Brunel
- Protexin - Probiotic alternatively every second week for digestive health
- Mites & Dewormer drops- NexGard Combo for Kittens / Revolution for Kittens every 6 months.
- F10 shampoo for dermatological matters
- F10 for cage disinfecting
- Antiseptic barrier creams for minor injuries
- Heptonic- Sick / recovering / underweight / overweight hedgehogs as well as for senior hedgehogs.
- Weigh your hedgehog weekly to monitor progress or decline
- Pay attention to their poop for any abnormalities
- Pay attention to eating and drinking habits

In the case of any abnormal behaviour ,
do not hesitate to contact your breeder
for advice or consult with a vet.

Feel free to reach out for more information
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