

**Putting the pets in your pet shop**  
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(*Suricata suricatta*)



Southern Africa

In captivity meerkats will eat a diet mostly of dry cat biscuits, day old chicks, defrosted rodents and soft bill food. Quail eggs can be given as a treat, they must be quail as these have a softer shell which can be broken easier. Meerkats like to dig and forage for their food as they would do in the wild.

Wild meerkats live in groups of up to thirty but in captivity they are as happy kept in pairs or trios as they are in larger groups. Once a group is established it can be difficult to add new animals.

A heat lamp can be provided and this will be used regularly. They like to live in tunnel systems and will hide if they feel threatened. A lookout post is patrolled daily where they will check for signs of danger. There is no set size of accommodation but the more animals the bigger area required.

	11 weeks
	Around 5
	50 - 60 days
	1 year
	700g
	10 - 15 years