

# SIMON'S RODENTS

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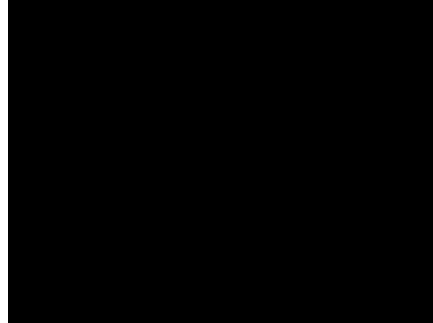
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## Shaws Jird

(Meriones Shawi Shawi)



**Country of Origin:** North Africa and the Middle East

**Diet:** Like Mongolian Gerbils, the basic diet of the Shaw's Jird is a mixture of seeds and grains. However they are more omnivorous and relish variety. Unlike Mongolians they enjoy all types of fruit and vegetables, they also need a small amount of meat. Tinned cat food or mealworms at regular intervals are perfect.

**Social Groupings:** Female Shaw's Jirds are best living singly, unless introduced as juveniles, as they are extremely territorial.

**Accommodation:** A large aquarium with shavings as litter is the best accommodation for Jirds as it provides a draught free environment, also as these rodents love to dig a solid sided enclosure will stop shavings and bedding from spilling out. Wire mesh floors must not be used as they cause irritation to the Jirds feet. Ensure the aquarium is at least 76cm (30") for a pair and have a height of 38cm (15") plus as they are very good jumpers! (A wire mesh lid will prevent escape.) These rodents love to chew so thick cardboard tubes will provide something to get their teeth into.

<b>Gestation Period</b>	24 -26 days
<b>Litter Size</b>	2 - 8
<b>Weaning Age</b>	35 Days
<b>Puberty</b>	Females 10 weeks, Males 12 wks
<b>Adult Weight</b>	100g
<b>Life Expectancy</b>	5 - 7 years