

# SIMON'S RODENTS

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## Steppe Lemming (Lagurus lagurus)



**Country of Origin:** Russia

**Diet:** Should consist of a Guinea Pig food containing Alfalfa and a small quantity of non-malassed Hamster/Gerbil mix. They must not be given any fruit or vegetables as the species appears to be sugar intolerant, particularly sugar rich fruits such as apples and citrus fruits. Occasionally a pinch of 'softbill' bird food can be added as a convenient source of protein.

**Social Groupings:** In the wild they are known to live in large, loose colonies therefore it is best to house them in pairs, trios and small family groups as they are prone to outbursts of aggression. When kept at this level it rare for animals to fight particularly if there is a low male to female ratio.

**Accommodation:** A large glass tank filled to a depth of not less than 5cm with wood shavings and overlaid with generous layer of hay is ideal. A nest box is not necessary due to the danger of over crowding, the hay is suitable for bedding and nesting. Cardboard, plastic or ceramic tubes and twigs/branches could also be supplied. Fresh water should be constantly supplied.

<b>Gestation Period</b>	20-22 days
<b>Litter Size</b>	4-12
<b>Weaning Age</b>	18-21 days
<b>Puberty</b>	4-6 weeks
<b>Adult Weight</b>	25-35g
<b>Oestrus (or season)</b>	7 days
<b>Life Expectancy</b>	20 months