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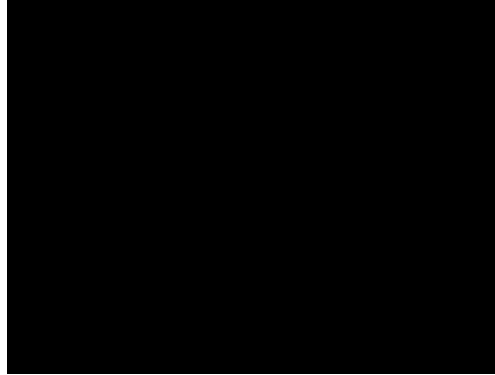
Orders: 01767 651872 Enquiries: 01767 651832

Mobile: 07834 420076 Fax: 01767 652919

e-mail: sales@simonsrodents.co.uk Website: www.simonsrodents.co.uk

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Thirteen lined ground squirrel (Spermophilus tridecenlineatus)



Country of Origin: Grassland / Scrub of North America and Canada.

Diet: Their natural diet of grain seed and grass is supplemented by small amounts of meat in the form of insects and small rodents if available. In captivity specialist squirrel feed is available, with gnawing sticks and occasional live food to provide enrichment. Be careful of feeding high protein or energy food as they can easily become obese.

Social Groupings: Living together in burrows establishing set groups over time. Ground squirrels are diurnal (active at dawn and dusk).

Accommodation: In their natural habitat these rodents are burrowers so in captivity the base of the cage must be secure, preferably with an earth base to allow the burrowing instinct, but under wired to prevent escape. They can also be kept in a large chipmunk type cage with low-level nest boxes and some simple climbing equipment. Ground squirrels are able to live outside most of the year but in winter will benefit from heated accommodation.

Gestation Period	27 days
Litter Size	5 - 13
Weaning Age	29 days
Puberty	1 year
Adult Length	8 - 12 inches
Oestrus (or season)	Late spring (after hibernation)
Life Expectancy	Approx 5 years