

Traveling Gerbils

The following has been written to assist newer show participants in safely traveling with their gerbils

1. Gerbil tank mates should not be separated when traveling to a show.
2. If traveling over night or for several days gerbils should be transported in tanks rather than Kritter Keeper.
3. Each tank should have a secure small animal lid on it.
4. Clean and wash tanks completely before leaving home.
5. Several inches of fresh bedding should be used. (Approved beddings are: Aspen, Carefresh and CornCob. Pine will not be allowed in AGS shows.)
6. Give each tank a corner full of shredded tissue for a nice bed and privacy.
7. Bring a bag of clean bedding from home.
8. Be sure that there is fresh food in each tank (Bring some food from home, so the gerbils don't have to change variety or go without while traveling.)
9. Do not drive with the water bottle in the tank. (We have had a number of people arrive at shows with drenched bedding from leaky water bottles.)
10. Fresh celery, apples and carrots can be used during travel in place of water.
11. Carry a bottle of water from home. (It is not recommended using strange water sources)
12. At pit stops, and at night, place the water bottles in the tanks. (Remove before starting up again.)
13. Never leave gerbils or other animals in a car alone for long.
 - a. On warm sunny day a car can heat up quickly; endangering the animals inside.
 - b. Gerbils should be kept OUT of the sun both while traveling and stopping.
 - c. Park in shade with windows cracked to provide some airflow.
 - d. Gerbils should be provided with a box to hide out of the sun in and kept out of direct sunlight while traveling,
 - e. or cover part of their tanks with cardboard or a hand towel to provide an area of shade. Be careful not to restrict airflow.
 - f. When the temperature is 70 or above the vehicle should have air conditioning. Remember that tanks can heat up quickly!
14. Likewise they should not be left unattended for long in winter, as hypothermia is a concern.
15. Do not change/clean your tanks at the hotel. If you have to, for some unforeseen reason, be very careful to clean up completely after yourself. Place the soiled bedding in a garbage bag and tie it tightly. The AGS values its relationship with hosting hotels, and a few bad instances can cause long lasting problems.