

Signs A Gerbil Is Sick

These signs will help indicate if your gerbil needs medical attention.

By Jessica Cordia

Posted: March 31, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT

Maintaining your gerbil's health is crucial. When gerbil illness strikes, you need to take immediate action by calling your veterinarian. Gerald Barker, DVM, Copeland Veterinary Hospital, Cookeville, Tenn., lists signs that indicate illness in your pet gerbil.

Signs indicating gerbil illness:

- Not eating, drinking, or playing
- Diarrhea or wetness around bottom
- Fur loss around nose and eyes
- Skin problems, especially around belly
- Difficulty breathing
- Discharge from nose
- Ungroomed appearance
- Lameness
- Lethargy

Signs indicating a healthy gerbil:

- Gregarious attitude
- Good appetite
- Alert
- Playful
- Likes being held
- Aware of environment

If you notice any signs indicating gerbil illness, or if your pet gerbil is not exhibiting healthy behaviors, call your veterinarian immediately.