

Nutrition of Small Mammals

Student's Notes

Content

This unit will help you to understand what types of foodstuff are suitable for small mammals.

To get the most out of this session you could read the 'questions to answer' section, that goes with the film clip you are about to watch. Then use the film clip to help you get the answers. Before moving on to the next clip complete the 'Tasks to do'.

The Aim of this session is . . .

To demonstrate the requirements of small mammal nutrition.

Objectives – By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify suitable foodstuffs for small mammals.
- Establish which food groups each foodstuff provides.
- Establish which foodstuffs are palatable.
- Recognise the importance of quantity.
- Discuss methods of presentation.



Nutrition		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Palatable foodstuff	What foodstuff can be fed? What individual ingredients does rodent mix contain? What food groups are being provided? What food groups must be fed with caution and Why?	What food contains carbohydrate? What is it used for in the animal's body? What food contains protein? What is it used for in the animal's body? What food contains Lipid (fat)? What is it used for in the animal's body? Why is water important?

<p>Watch film clip: Quantities</p>	<p>What quantity of food is required? What factors govern the quantity given? How is the feed quantified and measured? What sort of quantity is usually required?</p>	<p>Carry out independent research in order to identify suitable quantities of food for various animals.</p> <p>Why is it so important not to over feed?</p> <p>How does age, sex, reproductive status and productivity affect quantity of feed required?</p>
<p>Watch film clip: Presentation</p>	<p>What are the options for presenting food? What are the options for presenting water?</p>	<p>Identify ways of using presentation of food to create enrichment.</p> <p>Discuss the advantages, disadvantages and suitability of various feeding and watering vessels.</p> <p>Design and produce an enrichment activity using food – if possible use this enrichment, and record the effect on behaviour.</p>
<p>An interactive task is provided as part of this package –</p> <p>You can match food groups to an appropriate food item; and identify what each food group is used for. Complete the interactive task via the link provided.</p>		

