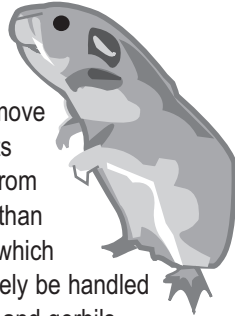


## Rodents

Small rodents can be very friendly if handled regularly. They should be kept in tanks no smaller than ten gallons. Excess waste should be removed regularly.

**Rats:** Rat cages should be cleaned twice a week. Smaller rodents should only need a cleaning once a week. Clean more frequently when keeping more than one pet in a tank. When attempting to remove a rodent from its cage, scoop it from underneath rather than grabbing it from above which may frighten it. A rat can safely be handled by the base of its tail. Rats and gerbils should be fed daily. Hamsters store food and can be fed two or three times per week. Special food for each rodent type may be purchased at any pet store.



## Small Caged Birds

The largest cage that can be accommodated in the home is recommended for birds that are expected to be confined most of the time. The cage must be strong enough to resist bending or dismantling by the bird, made of non-toxic material, and designed for safety and ease of cleaning. The cage should be wider than it is long to accommodate stretched wings. A daily cleaning of the cage floor and bowls prevents problems with food spoilage and alerts the owner to potential signs of illness. The food should be changed daily as broken seed shells will cover uneaten food, and the bird will not sift through shells to find food. A weekly, thorough cleaning of the cage is suggested.



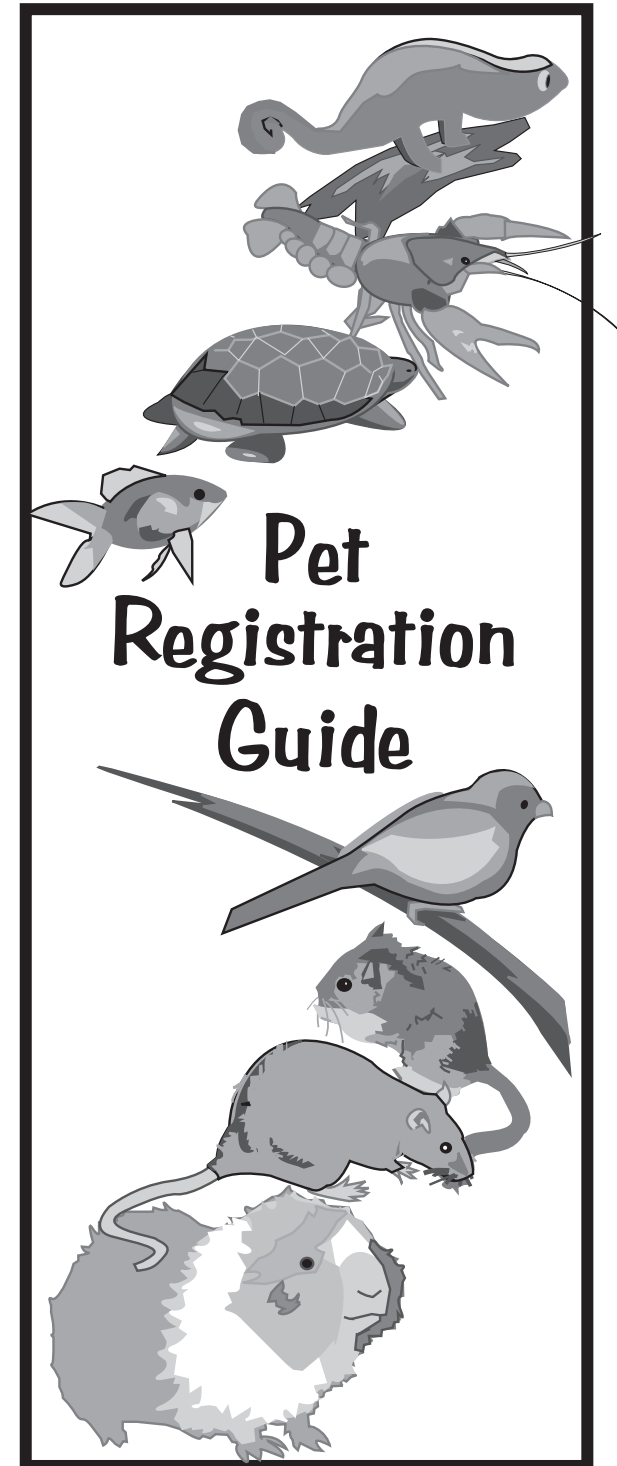
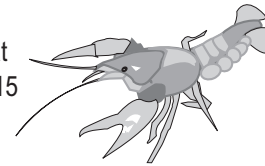
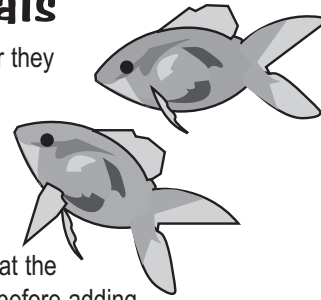
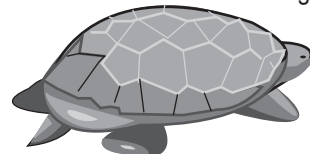
## Aquatic Animals

For aquatic animals, the water they live in is their environment. It is important that the environment be healthy and stable at all times.

**Fish:** When setting up an aquarium, it is recommended that the aquarium be run for 2-4 weeks before adding fish to allow the growth of "healthy" bacteria, which help to break down waste. Once the tank is running, change 10-20% of the water every two weeks to help maintain a clean environment. The carrying capacity of a fish tank is the number of fish it can hold. A rule of thumb is that freshwater aquariums can hold 1 inch of fish per gallon. Saltwater aquariums can hold 1/2 inch of fish per gallon. When adding new fish to an aquarium, it is best to gradually introduce them to the aquarium. Float the new fish bag in the water for 10-15 minutes to allow the water temperatures to equilibrate. Feed the fish no more than can be eaten in fifteen minutes.

**Lobsters:** Pet lobsters, which are really crayfish, can be fed sinking pellets, available in a wide variety. Remove any excess food after two days. Crayfish like to burrow and hide in caves. A tipped over castle works fine. They like to climb in plants, artificial or real. They can live with other aquatic animals as long as you do not have bottom dwellers or expensive fish in your aquarium. Be aware that these creatures are scavengers as well as hunters. They clean up the bottom of your tank, but will also grab at a passing fish too. They too can be eaten by larger fish.

**Turtles:** For turtles, it is recommended that the tank be cleaned every time the tank's water is replaced; every 35-45 days, when the water starts changing color or smelling foul, if any of the turtles gets diseased, or if you observe too much algae growth in the habitat. For cleaning the habitat effectively, remove all animals, remove and clean all decorations and equipment, and empty out the water completely.



# PET POLICY

The Department of Residence Life and Housing has arranged for residents to keep a limited selection of pets in their residence under specific conditions as described in this Pet Policy Brochure. Please be mindful that the Brochure is inclusive and there are no exceptions.

**Permission is conditioned upon the following:**

**REGISTRATION:** New students may register pets beginning September 15th for the fall semester and February 10th for the spring semester.

Returning students who have chosen their room (suite) mates may register pets beginning after spring room selection.

**QUALIFYING PETS:** Hamsters, gerbils, domestically bred rats, parakeet sized birds, fish in aquariums up to 20 gallons, small lobsters 6 inches and smaller, turtles 9 inches and smaller, chameleons and geckos of a maximum 7 inches in length (including its tail) or smaller, hermit crabs and soap dish crabs in aquariums up to 20 gallons and guinea pigs.

The number of pets in any one area can affect the quality of life for all, therefore, residents may register a maximum of two same gender of one type of pet. For example, if you have a hamster(s) you may not have any other type of pet such as gerbils or fish; and, you may have a maximum of 2 hamsters and they both must be either male or female but not one of each gender. There is no gender or number restriction on fish.

**CARE OF PETS:** A condition of registration and approval is the requirement that residents follow the guidelines in this brochure for care of pet(s). We expect that halls will implement periodic inspections of pet locations to determine compliance with this expectation.

**IMPACT UPON THE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT:** A pet in the residence hall is approved upon the condition that the pet be maintained by the owner in a manner that it

does not impact upon other residents. A current list of residents approved and registered for pets is prominently posted on the bulletin board in each applicable living area.

**Violation of these guidelines and requirements can result in the rescinding of permission, immediate removal of the pet from campus, prohibition of future approval and disciplinary charges. Residents harboring pets are liable to compensate the college for damages caused by the actions of the pets.**

Please be advised that any owner allowing their pet outside the confines of its cage when it is not in the owner's room is not acting in accordance with the established pet policy, and may be asked to remove their pet from the building. Also, owners should be aware that cleaning pets and their housing in bathrooms is strictly prohibited. Waste should be disposed of in the recycling room. Housing can be cleaned in sinks found in the custodian closets located on each floor. In addition, the College reserves the right to limit the number of pets allowed in any room.

**I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined in the pet policy, and I agree to maintain and care for my pet in the manner stated in this brochure.**

Name of Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Roommate \_\_\_\_\_  
*please print*

*please sign: signature of roommate indicates his/her agreement to having a pet in their residence*

Room # & Residence Hall \_\_\_\_\_

Type and number of pets \_\_\_\_\_

**No pets can be left during extended breaks (Thanksgiving break, semester recess, Spring Break...)**

Approved       NOT Approved

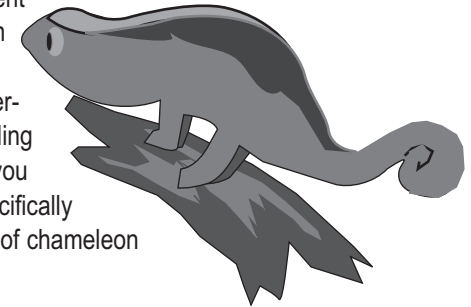
Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Chameleons

There are many different types of chameleons. The most common type of pet chameleon is the green anole, known for its ability to change colors from brown to green, and its ability to shed its tail if being restrained by it. This type of chameleon should be fed a dozen crickets weekly. Its cage should be misted daily and cleaned weekly. It is also recommended that it be provided with some source of heat such as a heat rock. Each species of chameleon will have different requirements in terms of housing, temperature, and feeding and therefore you must learn specifically about the type of chameleon you own.



## Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs can be housed within enclosures made of wire, stainless steel, durable plastic, or glass. The cage should have a solid bottom as cages with wire bottoms can cause foot deformities. It is recommended that the cage be at least 24" x 18". Waste should be removed from the cage every other day. Guinea pigs should be given fresh food and water every day. It is also recommended that they be given extra vitamin C, found in vegetables such as carrots, three times per week.

