

Minimum Enclosure Size Chart

Smallest enclosure by source, one adult unless the row says. Where sources differ, go bigger.

PET	SOURCE	MINIMUM
Leopard gecko	RVC	36 x 18 x 18 in
Leopard gecko	RSPCA	60 x 30 x 40 cm
Leopard gecko	VCA	10 gal, 6 in high
Bearded dragon	RVC	48 x 24 x 24 in
Bearded dragon	RSPCA	120 x 60 x 60 cm
Bearded dragon	RSPCA Australia	1.2–1.8 x 0.6 x 0.6–0.9 m
Bearded dragon	VCA	60–100 gal+, 16 in wide
Bearded dragon	NSW code	0.75 x 0.5 m floor
Crested gecko	RSPCA	45 x 45 x 60 cm
Crested gecko	RVC	45 x 45 x 60 cm
Ball python	RSPCA	Snake's length x 1/3 x 1/3
Ball python	RVC	48 x 24 x 24 in
Corn snake	RSPCA	Snake's length x 1/3 x 1/3
Corn snake	RVC	48 x 24 x 24 in
Western hognose	RVC	36 x 18 x 18 in
Horsfield's tortoise	RVC	Open-top table, as big as possible
Horsfield's tortoise	BCG	10 m ² outdoor pen
Red-eared slider	RSPCA	Good size: 80 L per 5 cm shell
Red-eared slider	VCA	10 gal water per inch of shell
Axolotl	Unusual Pet Vets	78 L (20 gal) adult
Pacman frog	Yarmouth Vet Center	10–20 gal adult
African dwarf frog	Habitat-OS care sheet	24 x 12 x 12 in adult
Tarantula	RVC	Height up to its body length
Land hermit crab	Unusual Pet Vets	38 L per crab (Australian)
Land hermit crab	Aliso Beach Animal Clinic	20 gal+ for two
Land hermit crab	Zubair Khalid, DVM (personal site)	40 L for two, +20 L each



PET	BASKING (°C)	COOL END (°C)
Leopard gecko	28–30 RSPCA; 32 RVC	24–26 RSPCA; 25 RVC
Bearded dragon	38–42 RSPCA; 35–40 RVC	22–26 RSPCA; 25 RVC
Crested gecko	26–28 RSPCA; 28 RVC	20–24 RSPCA; 25 RVC
Ball python	30–32 RSPCA; 32 RVC	24–26 RSPCA; 24 RVC
Corn snake	28–30 RSPCA; 30 RVC	20–24 RSPCA
Western hognose	30–32 RVC	Not given
Horsfield's tortoise	35 RVC	20–25 RVC
Red-eared slider	30–35 RSPCA; 32 RVC	Water 22–25 RSPCA; 24–26 RVC
Axolotl	Not given	Water 16–18 RVC; 17–18 UPV
Pacman frog	Day 24–28	Not given
African dwarf frog	Not given	Water 22–26 (72–78 °F)
White's tree frog	30 RVC	25 RVC
Tarantula	23–30, room heat	Not given
Regal jumping spider	Room 21–26 (70–78 °F)	Not given
Land hermit crab	Warm area 27 (80 °F); 26–32 Aus.	A cooler area

PET	NIGHT (°C)	UVB
Leopard gecko	20+ RVC	2–5% RSPCA; 6% RVC
Bearded dragon	20–22 RSPCA; 20 RVC	10–12%, UVI 3–5
Crested gecko	18–20 RSPCA; 20 RVC	5–7% RSPCA; 6% RVC
Ball python	24+ RVC	2–7%, UVI 1.0
Corn snake	16–20 RSPCA; 24 RVC	2–7%, UVI 1.0
Western hognose	20–25 RVC	6% RVC
Horsfield's tortoise	18–20 RVC	10–12% RVC
Red-eared slider	Water 20+ RVC	7–12%, UVI 3–5
Axolotl	Never over 24 RVC	None RVC
Pacman frog	21–22	Not required
African dwarf frog	Water 20–22 (68–72 °F)	Not required
White's tree frog	21+ RVC	Low output RVC
Tarantula	Not given	Not needed RVC



PET	NIGHT (°C)	UVB
Regal jumping spider	Not given	Light cycle
Land hermit crab	Not given	Not given



PET	SOURCE	MINIMUM TANK
Betta, one male	OATA	20 L
Betta, one male	RSPCA Australia	20 L ideal, 10 L least
Betta, one male	Univ. of Illinois vet	5 gal
Goldfish	OATA	100 L + 50 L per extra adult
Goldfish	RSPCA	60 L each
Goldfish	RSPCA Australia	50 L tank
Guppies	OATA	45 L small group
Angelfish	OATA	120 L a pair, +40 L per adult past it
Angelfish	OATA	300 L larger species
Cherry shrimp	OATA	10 L per group

PET	WATER	HEATER
Betta, one male	24-26 RSPCA Aus.; 20-28 OATA; 24-27 Illinois	Needed
Goldfish	4-25 OATA; 10-21 RSPCA; 20-24 RSPCA Aus.	Not normally
Guppies	20-28 OATA; 22-28 RSPCA	Needed
Angelfish	22-27 OATA (cichlids)	Needed
Cherry shrimp	17-27 OATA (shrimp)	Some species



PET	SOURCE	MINIMUM CAGE
Syrian hamster	Woodgreen	100 x 50 x 50 cm
Syrian hamster	PDSA	100 x 50 cm floor
Syrian hamster	VCA	10 gal tank
Dwarf hamster	Woodgreen	100 x 50 x 40 cm
Dwarf hamster	PDSA	100 x 50 cm floor
Dwarf hamster	VCA	10 gal tank
Guinea pigs	Woodgreen	2 females: 153 x 61 cm
Guinea pigs	Woodgreen	2 males: 182 x 61 cm
Guinea pigs	Woodgreen	3: 182 x 61 cm
Guinea pigs	RSPCA Australia	2: 1 m ² , 30 cm high
Guinea pigs	MSD manual	7 sq ft + 2-4 each
Guinea pigs	Woodgreen	Run 182 x 122 cm
Rabbits (pair)	RSPCA	3 x 2 x 1 m
Rabbits (pair)	RWAF	3 x 2 x 1 m
Rabbits (pair)	Scottish SPCA	3 x 2 x 1 m
Rabbits (pair)	Woodgreen	3 x 2 x 1 m run
Rabbits (pair)	MSD manual	18 x 24 to 30 x 36 in
Gerbils	Woodgreen	2: 100 x 50 x 50 cm
Gerbils	Woodgreen	3: 120 x 50 x 50 cm
Gerbils	RSPCA	About 50 cm high
Gerbils	MSD manual	5 gal each
Gerbils	VCA	10 gal tank
Chinchilla	RVC	2 x 2 x 1 m
Chinchilla	VCA	1: 3 x 2 x 3 ft
Chinchilla	VCA	1: 4 x 4 x 3 ft
Chinchilla	VCA	2: 3 x 2 x 5 ft
Ferret	RVC	2: 1.5 x 1 x 1 m
Ferret	MSD manual	1: 3 x 3 x 2 ft
Ferret	VCA	1: 24 x 24 x 18 in



PET	SOURCE	MINIMUM CAGE
African pygmy hedgehog	MSD manual	2 x 3 ft floor
Sugar gliders	RVC	2 x 2 x 2 m
Sugar gliders	MSD manual	24 x 36 x 36 in

PET	TEMPERATURE (°C)	COMPANY
Syrian hamster	18-21 PDSA; 18-26 RVC	Alone
Dwarf hamster	18-21 PDSA; 18-26 RVC	Alone safest; pairs split
Guinea pigs	17-20 RSPCA; 20-22 RVC	2 or more
Rabbits (pair)	10-20 RSPCA	A rabbit companion
Gerbils	20-24 RSPCA; 16-21 RVC	2 or more; VCA: adults alone
Chinchilla	10-18 RSPCA; 10-20 RVC	2 or more; VCA: 1 or 2
Ferret	15-24 SSPCA; 18-23 MSD	2 or more
African pygmy hedgehog	24-30 RVC; 24-29 MSD	Alone
Sugar gliders	24-27 RVC; 27-31 MSD	2 or more



BIRD	SOURCE	MINIMUM CAGE, ONE BIRD
Budgie	MSD manual	20 x 20 x 30 in
Budgie	VCA	1 x 1 x 2 ft
Budgie	RVC	Wings stretched, at least
Cockatiel	VCA	2 x 2 x 3 ft each
Cockatiel	MSD manual	20 x 20 x 30 in
Cockatiel	RVC	Wings stretched, at least
Lovebirds	VCA	2 x 2 x 3 ft
Lovebirds	MSD manual	20 x 20 x 30 in
Lovebirds	MSD manual	1.5 x wingspan each way
Finches	VCA	18 x 18 x 30 in
Finches	VCA	1 x 1 x 2 ft
Canary	VCA	1 x 1 x 2 ft
Canary	RVC	Wings stretched, at least
Canary	RSPCA	2 x wingspan each way

BIRD	BARS	COMPANY
Budgie	0.5 in (MSD manual)	A pair, ideally
Cockatiel	0.5 in (MSD manual)	A pair, ideally
Lovebirds	0.5 in (MSD manual)	Pairs or groups
Finches	Head can't fit through	Other finches
Canary	Head can't fit through	Can share

For royal pythons and corn snakes, RSPCA asks for a vivarium at least as long as the snake, with a third of its length for width and height. 1 in = 2.54 cm; 1 US gallon = 3.785 L.

Sources: RSPCA, RSPCA Australia, Royal Veterinary College, VCA Animal Hospitals, NSW code of practice, British Chelonia Group, OATA, University of Illinois, The Unusual Pet Vets, Yarmouth Veterinary Center, PDSA, Woodgreen, Rabbit Welfare Association, Scottish SPCA, MSD (Merck) Veterinary Manual. October 2026. Not veterinary advice.

