



OLIVER'S BURROW

Product Description

2023



About Oliver's Burrow

Oliver's Burrow is a rodent-diet oriented small business with the aim to improve the lives of rodents in South Africa by offering a natural, safe and healthy food alternative with quality ingredients and adequate variety mixed into an appropriate balance. The recipes were created by Kaelin Lees, a veterinary nursing student with a passion for rodents, small mammals and wildlife.

Kaelin - "I started out researching, designing and testing different recipes with Oliver until we found the perfect combination. Since there are very few safe and healthy options on the market I decided to start this little business so that other critters have access to all of Oliver's baked goods and mixes too! This business has been named and started in honour of my little dwarf hamster, Oliver. We hope to change the lives of many rodents and small mammals.

Oliver is a hybrid dwarf hamster with the sweetest personality you could ever find in a hammy! He is so gentle and loving with a very brave and curious side, he has been my companion since January 2020 and has traveled everywhere with me. I am so thankful to have been able to adopt little Oliver."

24/10/2019 - 14/08/2022



Kaelin Lees



Oliver

Hamster Mix

DRY MIXES, WHY?

Oliver's Burrow Hamster Mix has been formulated with high-quality hamster-safe ingredients, providing both Syrian Hamsters and Dwarf Hamsters with adequate variety.

Dry mixes are beneficial to hamsters as it allows them to express their natural foraging behaviours, scatter-feeding some of their mix around their enclosure is highly recommended! Hamsters tend to avoid pellets and often won't eat pelleted diets, though these diets do prevent selective feeding habits they don't offer any variety or enrichment.

SELECTIVE FEEDING

Hamsters will naturally pick out their favourite foods first, however they will come back for the rest and it is recommended that their bowl is not topped up with new food until they have eaten the majority of the food that was initially given. Owners may find that their hamster is leaving behind certain ingredients consistently, this is normal! Owners can take left over ingredients and mix it into the hamster's fresh food or sprout leftover seeds/grains/legumes to add to their fresh food, the ingredients can also be ground in a food processor and added to the fresh food as a powder. (Ensure shells and husks are removed prior.) This will ensure that they are not lacking any aspects of their diet.

FRESH FOOD

Hamsters require fresh food alongside their dry mix and this should make up approximately 20% of their total diet, fresh food includes vegetables, fruits (limited amounts for Dwarf species), cooked grains/legumes/seeds and proteins such as scrambled egg or shredded chicken.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER COMMERCIAL DRY MIXES?

There are several commercial brands on the market aimed at hamsters, some of which are safe to feed but the majority of which are not. These mixes are made up of colourful pellets, sunflower seeds, corn and peanuts.

These ingredients are generally low quality and not suitable to be fed as a main diet. Hamsters, especially

Dwarf species, should be fed these ingredients in moderation if at all. Sunflower seeds, corn and peanuts

are high fat foods that lead to obesity in hamsters, many hamsters are fed these diets as a main diet (if not their only diet) and this leads to obesity, diabetes and malnutrition. There are imported mixes available with better variety and lower quantity of these ingredients, however, they tend to contain fillers, pellets, unsafe ingredients (such as raisins) and aren't adequately

balanced to meet the hamsters nutritional requirements. Generally it was recommended to mix two or more of these different brands together and pick out the unsafe ingredients. This shortage of safe and suitable dry mixes is what led to the formulation of Oliver's Burrow Hamster Mix, with a goal to educate hamster owners on the proper needs of their pets and to provide them with a safe and healthy alternative.

INGREDIENTS

Oliver's Burrow Hamster Mix has a large variety of different hamster-safe ingredients (56), this is to ensure that the hamster is not only receiving variety but enrichment and access to the different nutrients available in each ingredient. We don't use any fillers in our mixes and majority of our ingredients used are human-grade. Each ingredient was extensively researched and specially chosen to ensure optimal health.



Rat Mix

DRY MIXES, WHY?

Oliver's Burrow Rat Mix has been formulated with high-quality rat-safe ingredients, providing domestic rats with adequate variety.

Dry mixes are beneficial to rats as it allows them to express their natural foraging behaviours, scatter-feeding some of their mix around their cage is highly recommended! Rats tend to avoid pellets in their diet, though these diets do prevent selective feeding habits they don't offer any variety or enrichment.

SELECTIVE FEEDING

Rats will naturally pick out their favourite foods first, however they will come back for the rest and it is recommended that their bowl is not topped up with new food until they have eaten the majority of the food that was initially given. Owners may find that their rats are leaving behind certain ingredients consistently, this is normal! Owners can take left over ingredients and mix it into the rats' fresh food or sprout leftover seeds/grains/legumes to add to their fresh food, the ingredients can also be ground in a food processor and added to the fresh food as a powder. (Ensure shells and husks are removed prior.)

This will ensure that they are not lacking any aspects of their diet.

FRESH FOOD

Rats require fresh food alongside their dry mix and this should make up approximately 20% of their total diet, fresh food includes vegetables, fruits, cooked grains/legumes/seeds and proteins such as scrambled egg or shredded chicken.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER COMMERCIAL DRY MIXES?

There are several commercial brands on the market aimed at rats, some of which are safe to feed but the majority of which are not. These mixes are made up of colourful pellets, sunflower seeds, corn, raisins and peanuts. These ingredients are generally low quality and not suitable to be fed as a main diet. Rats should be fed these ingredients in moderation if at all.

Sunflower seeds, corn and peanuts are high fat foods that lead to obesity, many rats are fed these diets as a main diet (if not their only diet) and this leads to obesity and malnutrition. There are imported mixes available with better variety and lower quantity of these ingredients, however, they tend to contain fillers, pellets, fatty ingredients and aren't adequately balanced to meet the rats' nutritional requirements. This shortage of safe and suitable dry mixes is what led to the formulation of Oliver's Burrow Rat Mix, with a goal to educate rat owners on the proper needs of their pets and to provide them with a safe and healthy alternative.

INGREDIENTS

Oliver's Burrow Rat Mix has a large variety of different rat-safe ingredients (63), this is to ensure that the rats are not only receiving variety but enrichment and access to the different nutrients available in each ingredient. We don't use any fillers in our mixes and majority of our ingredients used are human-grade. Each ingredient was extensively researched and specially chosen to ensure optimal health.



Our Dry Mixes

How does it work?



Unfortified & Unprocessed

Our Dry Food Mixes are unfortified and unprocessed, this means that we do not add any additional micronutrients and each ingredient contains only its natural nutrients. The added vitamins and minerals in fortified foods are synthetic and may contribute to bad health conditions; many vitamins and minerals cancel each other out when taken together and can cause further deficiency. This is why we recommend that your pet's diet has a large variety including a dry mix as a base, fresh food such as soaked, cooked and sprouted grains, legumes, cereals and seeds (this increases the bioavailability of the nutrients and allows for better absorption, as well as reduces the phosphorus content of these foods.), different varieties of fruits and vegetables, herbs (safe varieties) and natural supplements such as fish oils to increase Omegas 3 and 6. We do not believe that it is possible to create a single diet that meets all of the pet's needs as there are too many varying factors, our mixes have been formulated to be fed with the above recommended feeding plan to ensure an overall healthy diet that resembles a way of feeding in which your pet's body is designed for.

How can I increase natural absorption?

Providing your pet with a large variety of foods helps expose them to the different vitamins and minerals that they need, each food contains different amounts of micronutrients, for example: mushrooms are naturally high in Vitamin D and Spinach is naturally high in Iron. Increasing your pet's fat intake with foods high in Vitamins A, D, E, and K can increase absorption of these micronutrients as they are fat-soluble. However, fat should be increased with healthy fats only, such as: Avocado (Yellow parts of the flesh only for hamsters and rats.), Nuts, Oily fish, Linseeds, Chia seeds, Olive oil and Full-fat yoghurt. These should still be given in moderation but provided throughout the diet.

Many grains, legumes, cereals and seeds become more nutrient-dense and bioavailable when cooked or sprouted so including this as a fresh food can largely boost absorption.





SHOP OUR DRY MIXES :

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