

Characteristics of Animals Kit Guidelines for Returning Critters

NOTE: A student in your class or yourself can opt to adopt the gerbil(s) or any of the other animals– to give them a home outside of the Science Center. The adopting person would have to provide an appropriate habitat and accessories (we suggest a solid side cage or aquarium type container for the gerbils). Be sure to acquire permission from the parents of any adopting students.

INVASIVES WARNING: DO NOT release living organisms into the local environment. Even though some of the organisms that are part of this kit unit may naturally occur in our local environment, they are probably native to a more southern zone and may contain invasive micro-organisms. Do not release them into the local environment – return them to the Science Center.

Living Organism	Packaging	Specifics
Fish	large plastic bag and large bucket	Place the plastic bag provided in the kit into the large bucket. Using water from the aquarium, scoop water into the plastic bag until it is at least ½ full. Add the fish, snails and Elodea to the water. Leave the bag open until it is time to move the critters for pick up. At that time, using a rubber band, loosely tie the bag closed. Transport the critters in the bag in the bucket to the office for pick-up.
Snails		
Elodea		
Gerbils	in Gerbil habitat (aquarium)	Remove items that may have been added to the gerbil habitat during its time in the classroom. Transport the gerbil in the habitat to the office for pick-up.
Worms	in container with lid	Place the worms into the container in which they arrived. Transport to the office for pick-up.

School Office = Living organism pick-up location for all Schools.