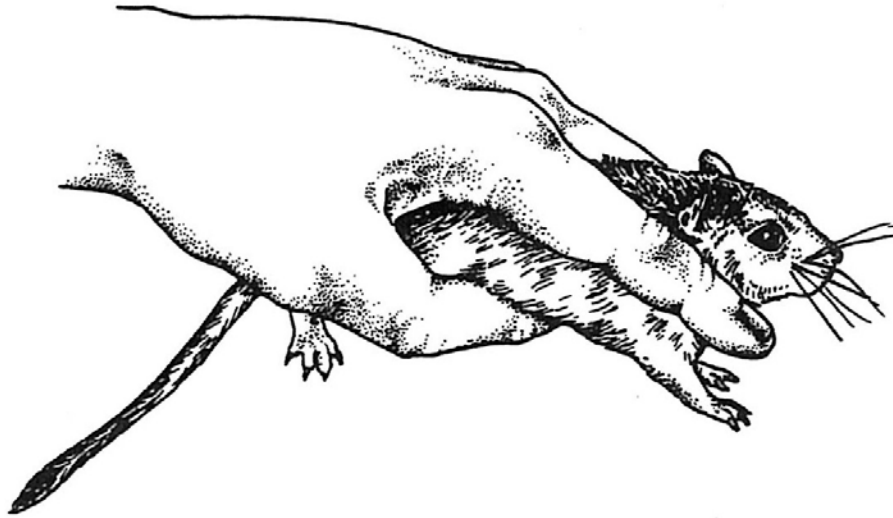


HOW TO PICK UP A GERBIL

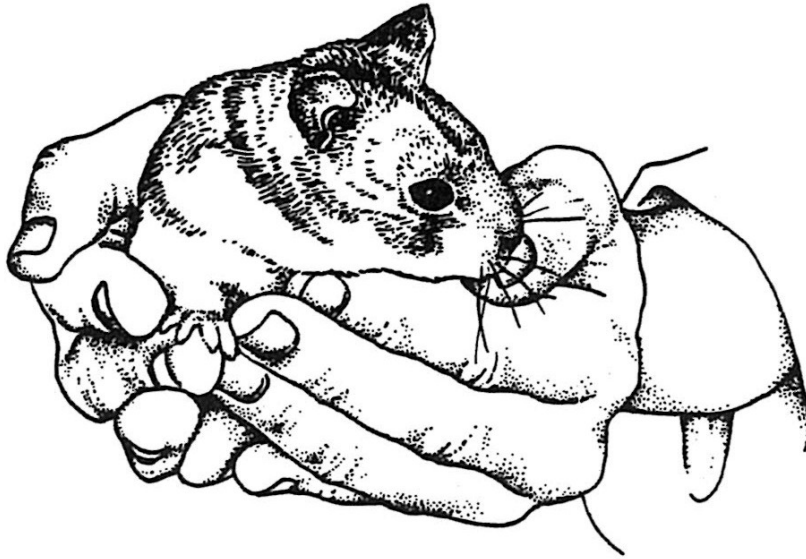


To grasp a gerbil, the over-the-back grip is recommended.

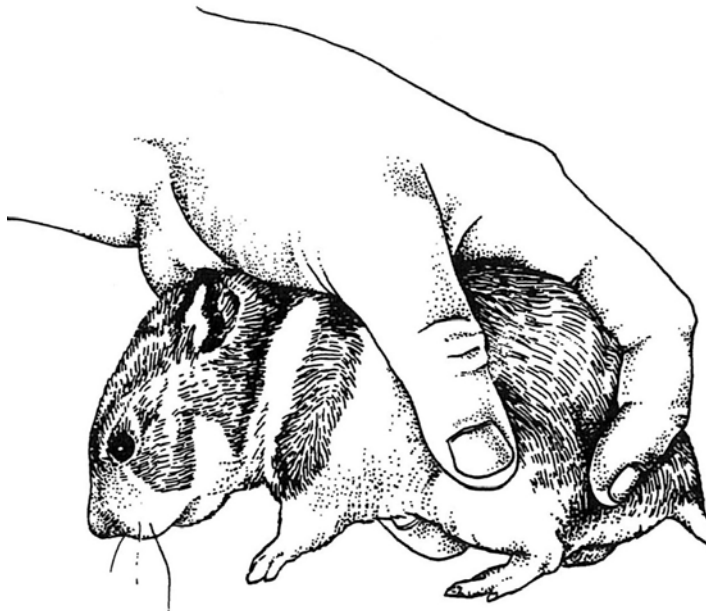


To pick up a gerbil, the base of the tail should be gripped. Never attempt to pick up a gerbil by the end of the tail because the tuft and tail skin may pull off.

HOW TO PICK UP A HAMSTER



The hamster should be fully away before attempting to pick it up. Grasp the hamster with both hands, as shown in the illustration, to lift it out of the cage. To prevent the hamster from escaping, a small animal box or new container should be close by to facilitate the transfer.



The one hand method of grasping a hamster, as shown in this illustration, should be used only with very tame hamsters. This type of grip prevents the hamster from falling.



The hamster has very loose skin in the neck area. This is another method of picking up a hamster. A good deal of fur and skin should be grasped to prevent the hamster from wiggling loose or turning around and biting.



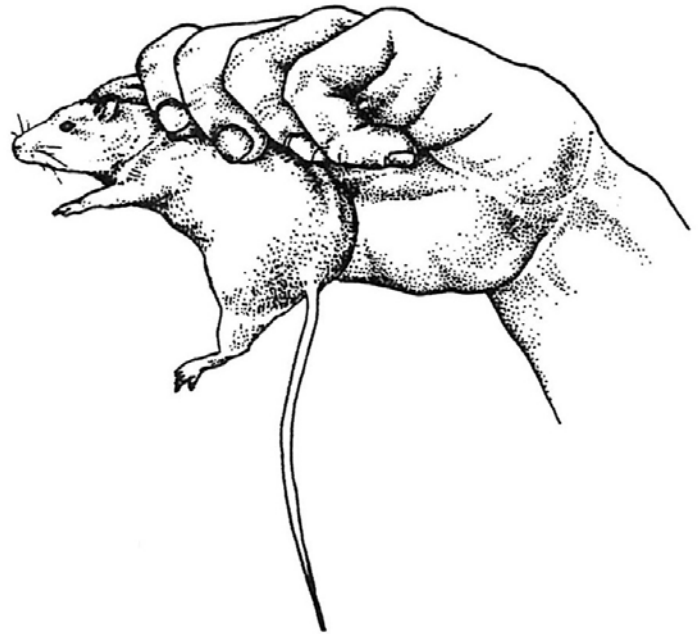
By using a receptacle, a hamster can be scooped up. A plastic stadium cup makes a good container. This facilitates transfer from the cage without fear of being bitten.

HOW TO PICK UP A MOUSE

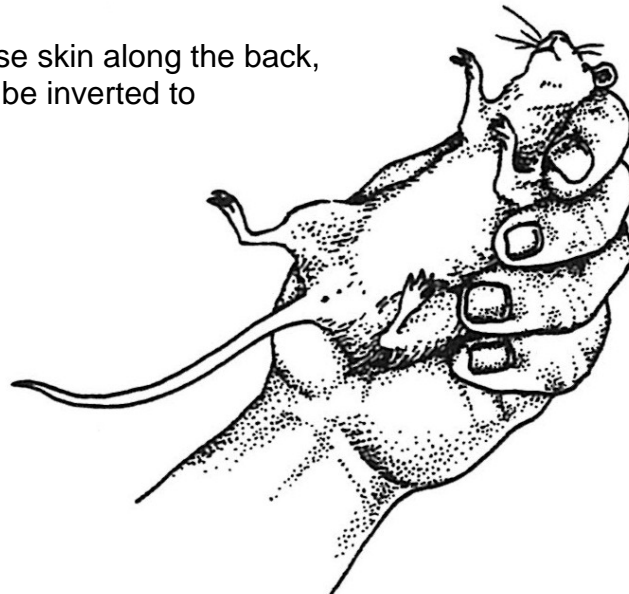
Mice, like gerbils, can be picked up at the base of the tail. Never pick up at the tip of the tail because skin may slough off.



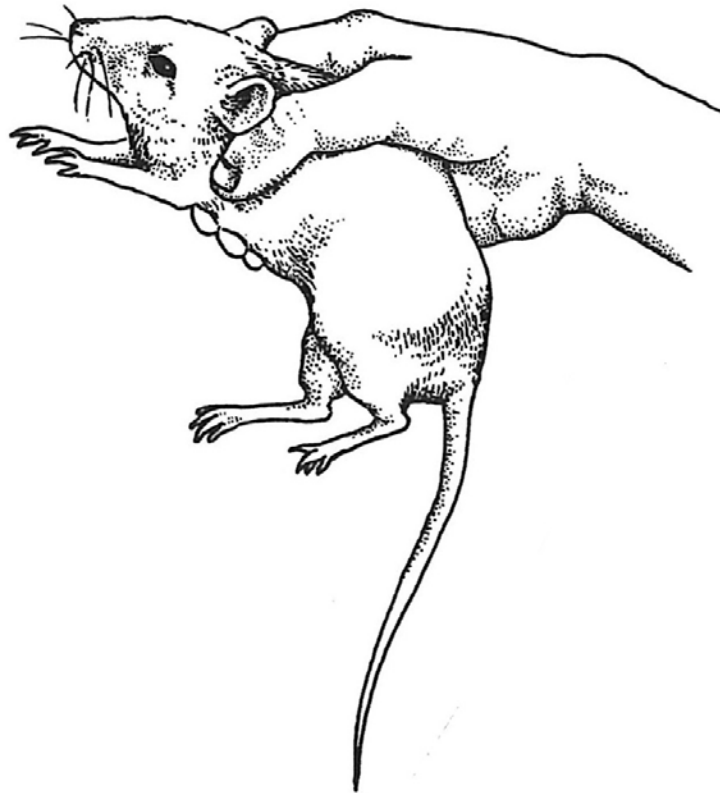
Grasp loose skin along back to restrain mouse.



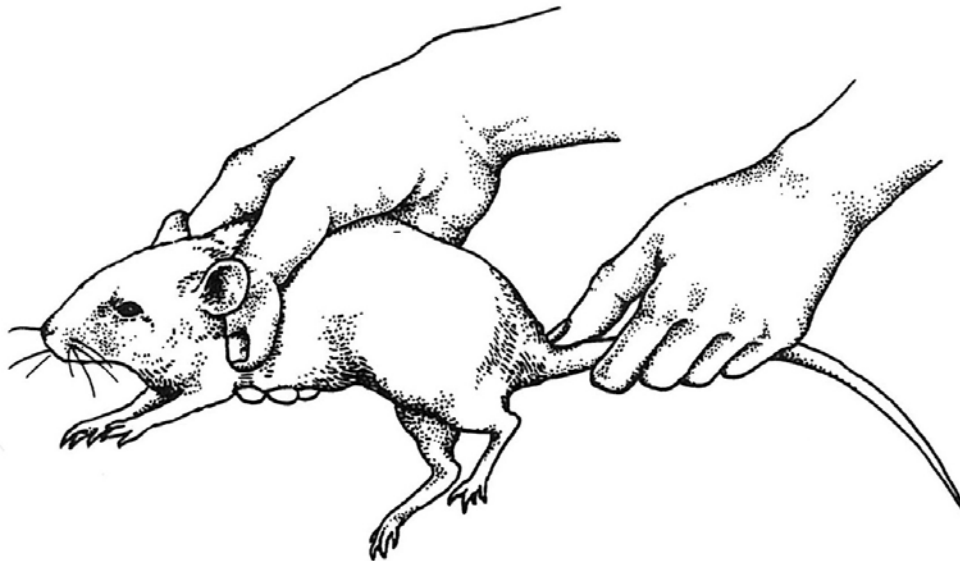
By grasping loose skin along the back, the mouse may be inverted to determine sex.



HOW TO PICK UP A RAT



Pick up the rat by grasping it over the back and rib cage. By using this method, the pet can be placed in a small container or be examined to determine sex. Rats will struggle if turned belly up.



If the rat is in a wire mesh bottom cage, grasp as above and by the base of the tail, as shown in the illustration, to aid in freeing the claws from their grip on the mesh.