

Condition	Description	Clinical signs	Diagnosis	Treatment/prognosis
Ectoparasites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> many species that can cause disease – <i>Demodex</i> is the most common immunosuppression can predispose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> alopecia, hyperkeratinisation, erythema, pruritus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deep skin scrape microscopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> treat underlying immunosuppression and prevent stress ivermectin at 0.2mg/kg SC or topically every seven days for three doses extended until skin scrapes are negative amitraz can be used, but care with ingestion treat in contact animals
Dermatomycosis (Figure 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> common <i>Microsporum</i> spp. & <i>Trichophyton mentagrophytes</i> potentially zoonotic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pruritic circular lesions, but can also be irregular or diffuse alopecia, scaling, crusting of head, ears, back and limbs hairs may appear broken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dermatophyte cultures of hair plucks microscopy of hair plucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topical antifungals, such as miconazole if there are single lesions (rare) therefore, systemic antifungals such as itraconazole should be used at 2.5–10 mg/kg p.o. q24 for two weeks post resolution of clinical signs in-contact animals should be treated causes of immunosuppression investigated thoroughly clean environment
Proliferative ileitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AKA. 'wet tail' overcrowding predisposes multifactorial with many bacterial and environmental causes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> diarrhoea (+/- blood), weakness, anorexia, dehydration, coma, death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clinical signs, faecal cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fluid therapy, antibiotics, support feeding, probiotics, keep away from other hamsters
Pasteurellosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very common and contagious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acute pneumonia, dyspnoea, sneezing, ocular discharge, anorexia, weakness abscessation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clinical signs culture and sensitivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lance & flush abscesses surgical debridement antibiotics based on culture and sensitivity results

Table 2. Common non-infectious conditions seen in gerbils



Figure 2. A squamous cell carcinoma of the ventral scent gland of a gerbil.



Figure 3. Upper incisor fractures as a result of chronic bar chewing.