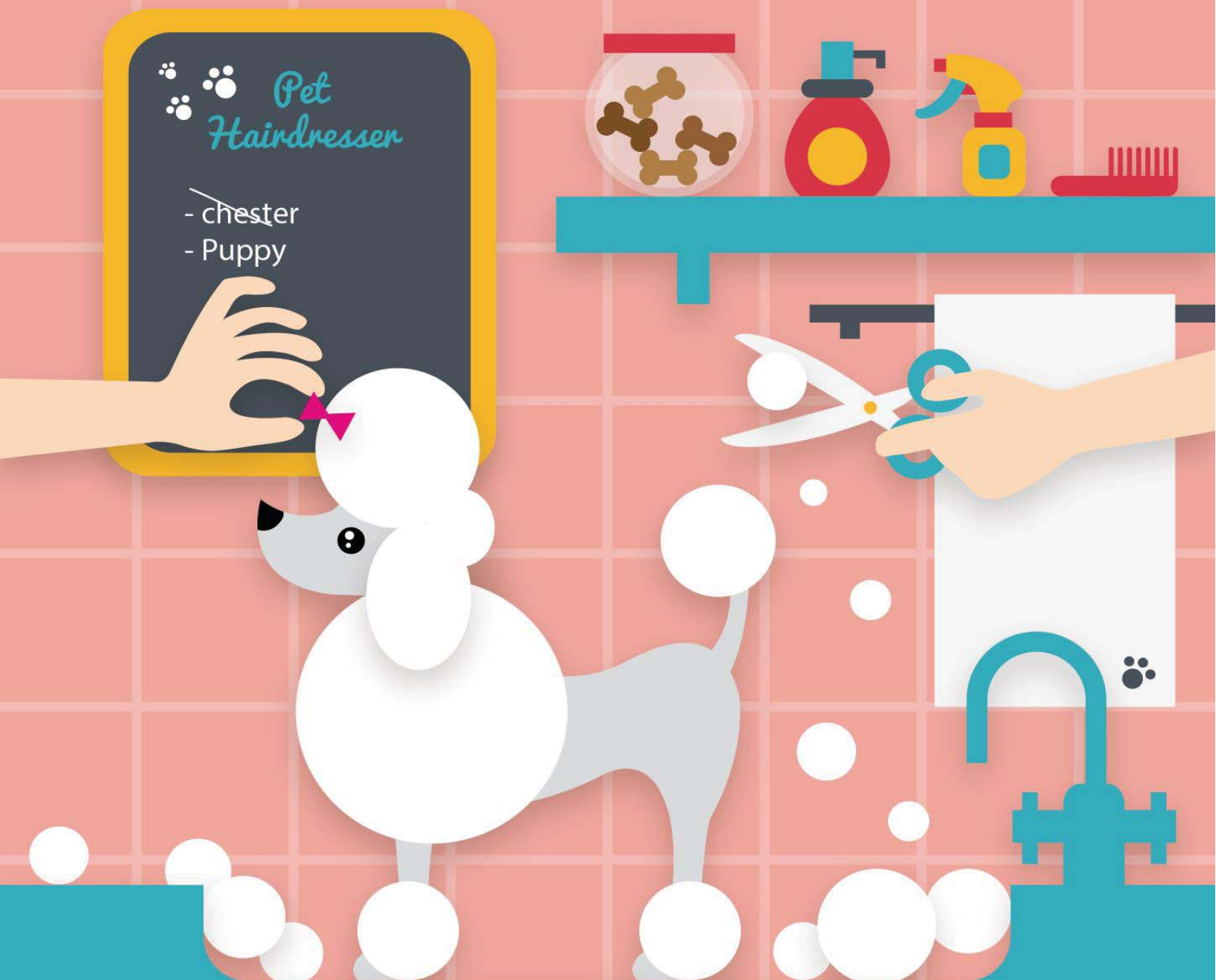


# TAKING CARE OF SMALL MAMMALS



# Foreword

Have you been thinking of bringing a new pet into your family? If you have, do you realize that it does not have to be something big like a dog? You can also have the option of going with a smaller mammal. A few examples would be a gerbil or a hamster or maybe even a rabbit or a rat.

One common reason people choose smaller mammals as a pet is if they are restricted with the amount of space they have for a pet. A prime example would be something living in a small apartment in the inner city. Chances are that there would not be enough room in the apartment for a dog to be comfortable and have room to play. On top of that, it can be a real hassle walking a dog up and down stairs to take them outside and some dogs will require training to be able to walk in the city without problems. Training can be costly and the entire experience of having a dog in a small apartment can be full of hassles so in this situation it is probably better to go with a smaller pet.

If your children have been begging you for a pet you might want to start out with a smaller animal. Fish can be boring and children can lose their interest and forget about them in no time. At the same time, a dog can be way too much responsibility for a child, especially if they are young and it is their first pet. The perfect option for a child as their first pet would be an animal such as a hamster or gerbil.

# Chapter 1:

## *Small Mammal Care Basics*

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### Synopsis

While smaller mammals are still mammals, they require different care than animals that you may be used to caring for such as a dog or a cat. The care is actually significantly easier and is not required nearly as much but there are still things that need to be done on a regular basis. You need to understand that as a pet owner it is your responsibility to make sure that your pet is getting all of the care it needs to be healthy and happy. After all, the pet did not choose you, you chose it.

There are some basic guidelines for caring for small mammals that are almost universal for hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats, and rabbits. One of the basic essentials of course would be a cage because unlike a dog, smaller mammals may end up lost in your house somewhere if they are not secured. I'm sure you have or at least know someone who has lost their cat in the house before. Okay, now think about trying to find a hamster in the same house.

The following chapter will go over the basics of caring for small mammals and will provide you with some essential information that will ensure that your little critter stays happy and healthy.

The following chapter of this book will go over the basics of caring for your small mammal and the importance of doing so.