

Signs of Pain in Your Exotic Pet

AMC
SINCE 1910

Animal Medical Center
Usdan Institute for
Animal Health Education

Information provided by AMC's
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Rabbits

- Hunched
- Not responsive
- Vision defects
- Molar grinding
- Indifferent when handled



Chinchillas

- No barking
- Hiding
- Avoidance
- Hunched
- Tooth grinding
- Biting at flanks



Guinea Pigs

- Infrequent lying down
- Hind leg lifting, writhing, or flinching
- Increased breathing
- Decreased body weight



Ferrets

- Closed eyes
- Retracted snout
- Lethargic



Rats

- Vision defects
- Hunched
- Mazing around edge of cage
- Increased breathing
- Decreased appetite



Hamsters, Gerbils, & Mice

- Decreased appetite
- Decreased mobility
- Hunched
- Closed eyes



Sugar Gliders & Hedgehogs

- Closed eyes
- Mutilation
- Decreased appetite
- Decreased interactions with owner
- Hedgehogs may hide or act cryptically



Birds

- Decreased social behaviors
- Guarding
- Increased aggression
- Biting at painful areas



Reptiles

- Social avoidance
- Decreased interactions with habitat
- Decreased appetite and mobility
- Increased withdrawals and aggression



Amphibians

- Closed eyes
- Decreased movement
- Decreased appetite
- Writhing and/or scratching