**MANAGEMENT OF OTITIS MEDIA AND INTERNA**

**Nursing Care**

* When cleaning ear of debris, or to soak up any drainage, a wick may be fashioned of cotton balls or absorbent towels. Care should be taken if using Q-tips (cotton swabs) in order to prevent abrasions to the tissue in the ear, and the packing of wax or debris against the ear drum.
* Give medications for the length of time prescribed. When administering topical agents: instill medicine, gently hold ear closed, and massage ear canal 30 to 60 seconds to ensure dispersion of medication.
* Maintain clean cage environment.
* Maintain safe environment particularly if head tilt is severe.
* Keep food and water within easy access to rat.
* Provide high calorie foods (e.g., avocado), or food supplements such as Nutri-Cal Paste, canned Ensure, soy or soy formula, along with a multi-vitamin and mineral supplement (can be found in pet store) if weight loss or food intake is poor.
* Contact veterinarian if infection worsens or does not resolve, or if there is decreased appetite and weight loss.