

Squirrel Climbing Cage

This cage is designed to be used for squirrels about 6-8 weeks old, when they are being weaned and just starting to explore their world. It is lightweight and narrow to allow for easy acclimatization (bringing in and outside). It is easy to make and the dimensions can be adjusted for your situation. Ideally this cage will fit inside your outdoor release cage for easy transfer and also safety from predators while squirrels are acclimatizing. The cage is not predator proof by itself and should not be left outside unattended. The cage can also be used for other animals as well.

The cage is made by folding three foot wide hardware cloth three times at 17", 23", 17" and 23" to create a cube and then sewing the edge together with wire. I recommend buying the plastic pan first and fitting the cage to the pan as it is made. C-rings can also be used to tack the hardware cloth but I find the sewing with wire creates a sturdier cage. Two 23" x 17" pieces are then sewed to the top and bottom and a door frame cut out of one of the 23" sides. Under the door frame I cut a smaller hole for a food & water access door. I then cut a piece of hardware cloth for each door and attach one side of the door to the door frame with c-rings. The doors should overlap the frames by at least an inch all around. Wire door latches are used to secure the doors and latch springs to secure the floor. Newspaper is placed on the pan but not inside the cage for easy cleaning.



Martin's cages sells a 24' x 24' cage based on this design for \$80. They also sell all the accessories I use for finishing the cage. My material costs were as follows:

24.50	14' of 3 foot wide hardware cloth (this comes cheaper if you buy larger rolls)
4.00	4 pieces of 5' long plastic door liner
3.60	6 wire door latches
1.20	2 handles
12.75	18" x 24" plastic tray
1.20	<u>2 latch springs (to fasten tray to cage)</u>
47.25	total