

## **A Christmas tale of the Gerbil in the Lab**



Two gerbils curled up together, one trembling black body tucked into a spun gold ball of warm fur. So content they were, sleepy eyes caught in the warmth of a flickering candle. Then, all fell silent. The gerbils stopped their endless weariness and stretched their fragile bodies as far as they could. Wide eyed, curious they watched from outside. Two friends, smiles beaming on their faces, exchanged a small parcel. A Christmas gift. And as the snow fell heavily, each one had the same thought.

Christmas Eve fell into a starry night. Butterscotch would never be tired until she had done this something special. She gnawed her sharp delicate teeth until exhaustion could hold no more. A delicate ruby thread, sparkled beside her in the moonlight...

Hazy white sparkled in curtains of flakes, nestling on Butterscotch's nose. She stared across at Liquorice, curled up a few meters away. Butterscotch scurried closer, to find it wasn't Liquorish after all. There, in front of her eyes, was a sparkling black and white Santa's hat. A friendly nip startled her. There, was Liquorice, holding it out; a gift. Butterscotch had one too. Resting her head on Liquorish's fur, holding out a ruby Santa's hat. Two Santa's, two friends, each enjoying Christmas together.....