

Habitat Needs

Housing

- A cage or habitat that is at least 16" x 10"
- Aspen wood shavings, Soft Sorbent or Total Comfort are recommended as bedding material.

Habitat Placement

- Place your hamster's home away from drafts, an ideal temperature range is 65°F - 75°F. No special lighting is required, room lighting is sufficient with a 12-hour photo period.
- Hamsters are nocturnal and do most exercising at night; habitat placement in a bedroom might keep a light sleeper awake!

Enrichment

- Hamsters must have an exercise wheel.
- Hamster balls are a great way to provide exercise and enrichment. Be sure to supervise your hammie!
- They need wood pieces to chew on, to keep their teeth trimmed.
- Your hamster needs to burrow, supply nesting material or a burrow-able bedding.
- A sand bath for your hamster to roll in. NOT a dust bath.
- Toilet paper rolls for him to chew on, crawl through and hide in.

Nutrition

Staple Diet

- The current recommendations for feeding in captivity are specially formulated Hamster/Gerbil pelleted diets.
- A lot of diets for hamsters/gerbils are based mainly of seed, removing some of the high fat sunflower seeds and feeding them later as treats is a great way to bond with your hamster and avoid hoarding.

Water

- Water can be supplied in a water bottle and should be changed daily.
- Check the valve on the water bottle daily to ensure it's working properly.

Health

Illnesses that may affect your hamster

- Wet tail, dental problems, trauma, bladder stones, cancer, abscesses, salmonellas, rabies and obesity.

Extra Information

- The most popular hamster is the Syrian or golden hamster, these hamsters are solitary and territorial animals. They MUST be housed alone.
- There are also Dwarf species of hamster which are more social and have the ability to be kept in pairs.



- Bedding material made of cotton can be dangerous for your hamster, posing a choking and tangling hazard if the strands of cotton are longer than a half an inch.
- Once a Syrian hamster is tame it will be tame for life.
- A hamster's life span is up to 4 years.

