



# All About the **Hamster**

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# The Hamster

## About the Hamster

The Hamster is the most popular of small rodents that are available as pets. A hamster's natural habitat is a desert like environment. There are many different species of hamsters but only five species are widely kept as pets. These are the Syrian Hamster, the Dwarf Campbell's Russian Hamster, the Dwarf Winter White Russian Hamster, the Chinese Hamster and the Roborovski Hamster.

It is important to make an informed pet selection and equally as important to make informed decisions throughout the life of your pet. We will take you through the process of bringing home your new family member and lead you all the way to cherishing your memories of the life you share together. We will provide you with an outstanding number of tips and helpful advice relating to all aspects of your life with your new pet. This complimentary book is packed full of all the information you will need to be a great parent to your new hamster! You will be given access to checklists and handy medical information to ensure you are taking proper care of your new family member and we will even provide you with beautiful pictures of hamsters like yours. So take a few minutes to read over this information and prepare to embark on a fun, memory filled adventure with your new hamster.



- [Toys for Your Hamster](#)
- [Treats for Your Hamster](#)

## Hamster Characteristics

Hamsters are cute and entertaining pets. They are nocturnal animals so will sleep most of the day and become active in the evenings. Hamsters do not have very good eyesight but have an excellent sense of smell. They are generally laid back and love to be handled and played with. While both male and females make good pets, the male hamster tends to be the most laid back. The life span of a hamster is on average 2 years with the maximum expectancy of 3 years. However, some have lived to 5 years. Proper health care and cleaning of your hamster's environment will help him to live the longest and happiest life possible. Hamsters make great pets but do require your care and attention on a daily basis. While they make great pets for children, the care of the hamster should be supervised by an adult. As with any animal, proper diet, exercise, and veterinary attention will benefit you and your hamster.



Average Weight	Male: 85-130g Female: 95-150g	Temperament	Laid back, playful, entertaining
Average Litter size	5-10 hamsters	Good with Children?	Does well with all children under adult supervision
Coat	Can be short or long, comes in variety of colors.	Health Concerns	Vitamin E deficiency, abscesses, skin mites, over growth of incisor teeth, bladder or kidney infections

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## Selecting your New Hamster

### A Few Words About Breeders

Purchasing your hamster from a reputable breeder may be the best option. They are bred with specific attention placed on health and temperament. Also most breeders will provide some type of guarantee where you can return the hamster if it does not work out. A breeder will be able to tell you the exact date of birth of your hamster which is important because of their relatively short lifespan. Also ask to see the parents of your new hamster. Hamsters bought from a breeder will generally have been handled more, possibly giving them a better temperament.

### A Few Words About Pet Stores

Perhaps you prefer to purchase your hamster from your local pet store. Pet stores usually purchase their hamsters from commercial hamster farms. The problem with this is that temperament, health, and date of birth can be in question. If you know what to look for you can still make a smart choice when choosing your hamster.

## How to Choose your Hamster

There are several things to look for when choosing a new hamster. Make sure the cages are not overcrowded. The hamsters should be divided in cages by sex. This is important because if they are not you could end up with a pregnant female. Determining the sex of hamsters is very easy. The hamsters should be no younger than 5-6 weeks and should have easy access to their food and water in the cage. If one hamster in the cage appears sick then it is best to choose one from a different cage or store because if one is sick it is likely that others are as well.

Pet stores are viable options for selecting your hamster. Of course, finding a good breeder is always a good option, too. Make sure you look for the following signs of a healthy hamster:

- Nose should be dry or moist with no discharge
- Round, wide, clear eyes with no signs of staining on the fur
- Healthy coat
- Should be inquisitive and comfortable being handled
- Bottom should not be wet or dirty



You'll need these basics before your Hamster comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Cage](#)
- [Bedding](#)
- [Litter](#)
- [Food Dish](#)
- [Wheel](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Bed](#)
- [Carrier](#)
- [Treats](#)
- [Water Bottle](#)
- [Nail Trimmer](#)
- [Toys](#)



[Happy Lux 3 Cage](#)

## Before You Bring Hamster Home

It is important to be as prepared as possible to provide a safe and secure environment for your new friend. In an effort to prepare for the care of your new best friend you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your hamster. Before you bring your hamster home you will need the basic necessities of a suitable cage, floor covering, nesting material, a water bottle and food. Have the cage in a good location set up and ready for your new hamster. The pet store or breeder will give you a cardboard carrier to bring your hamster home in. These will work for no more than 30 minutes to an hour because the hamster will begin to try and chew its way out of it. Most pet stores sell plastic carriers for small animals which may be better if you have a longer travel time.

Once you get your new hamster home you will be tempted to want to keep him out and play with him right away. However, it is best to leave him in the cage for two or three days and let him get used to his surroundings to keep his stress to a minimum. Excessive stress, especially in young hamsters, can lead to a condition called wet tail. Wet tail is a bacterial infection where one of the symptoms is diarrhea. In extreme cases this can lead to death within 24 hours. If you suspect that your hamster has wet tail you should seek vet care immediately and not rely on over the counter remedies which can be ineffective. Your hamster may seem frantic at first, running around the cage and moving his nesting from one place to another. This is normal and once this settles down is a good time to begin taking him out of the cage.

Create a list of items that you need for your new pet. At the end of this book you will find a list of recommended items and some suggestions on choosing the right ones.

Being prepared is the most important aspect of introducing your new hamster to his or her new environment. Purchase books about hamsters, ask questions of the breeder or pet store, read about your pet online or at your community library. Pay attention to the details for true success and your new hamster will make a quick and happy adjustment to his new home.

## Through The Years

### The Hamster Pup

Each stage of your hamster's life will be characterized by special needs. Once your hamster gets used to his new home you have many happy and fun times to look forward to. Enjoy the time you spend with your hamster. There are many fun toys and extra items you can purchase that will be fun for both you and your new friend.



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Can't miss gifts for the Hamster owner:

- [Step By Step About Hamsters](#)
- [Hamsters As A New Pet](#)
- [Hamsters As Hobby](#)
- [Guide To Owning Hamster](#)
- [Your First Hamster](#)



## The Hamster Pup (continued)

Maintaining a clean cage for your hamster to live in is the first step in ensuring that they remain as healthy as possible. The cage should be cleaned and disinfected once a week. Hamsters should be fed a well balanced diet consisting of a dry hamster food and small amounts of fruits and vegetables. Fresh food and water should be given on a daily basis. A water bottle is preferable to a bowl because the hamster will likely knock shavings into the water. Food can be placed into a bowl or sprinkled on the bottom of the cage. Putting it on the bottom of the cage will encourage them to forage as they do in the wild. Hamsters do not require grooming with the exception of the long haired male Syrian hamsters. They will benefit from an occasional brushing to remove any shavings from their fur. This is best done with a soft toothbrush. They do not require baths but may benefit from a dish of sand to roll around in much like they would in their natural habitat of the desert. This will remove any excess oils in their fur.



## The Hamster Adult

Daily well being checks by you will keep your adult hamster healthy and happy. Check their noses daily. A wet or runny nose can indicate a cold. Hamsters can catch colds from humans so if you are sick it is best to keep your distance from your furry friend. A runny nose or sneezing can also indicate allergies. Some hamsters may become allergic to shavings or dyes in their bedding. You also need to check their eyes on a daily basis to make sure they have not gotten a piece of shaving or any dust in them. They can easily get foreign materials in their eyes when burrowing. Changes in the skin or fur can also indicate health problems. Fur loss in adult hamsters is not normal and can be an indication of allergies or skin mites. Your hamster's teeth also need to be checked to make sure they are wearing down properly. They will continue to grow if he is not given something to chew on a regular basis. A hard biscuit will accomplish this. All these steps can be accomplished in your daily playtime with your hamster and will insure that he lives a healthy and happy life.



[Build 'N' Bites](#)

## The Hamster Senior

Unfortunately, a hamster has a short life span of about 2 years. As you hamster begins to age you will begin to notice changes in his fur such as thinning or fur loss. It may also begin to turn gray. Elderly hamsters will begin to slow down and will not be as active as they once were. They will generally sleep more and longer. Care for your senior hamster in a loving and gentle way and do your best to make him comfortable and happy.

You are about to embark on a wonderful journey with your new hamster. Enjoy the special moments with your pet and keep them close to your heart. Display pictures of your hamster around your home or office.



## Necessary Items (continued)

- Tunnel Toys – Your hamster will enjoy crawling in and out of holes in wooden blocks, plastic boots, tubes or saws. Most of these are fine for a dwarf hamster but if you have any other species you need to make sure the holes are big enough. Toilet paper tubes work well for this because they will also chew it and use it for nesting material.
- Food – You can purchase dry hamster food at pet stores and most grocery stores. This can be sprinkled on the bottom of the cage or placed in a dish. Like the water, if a dish is used, choose ceramic or metal.
- Sand Bath – Fine sand or chinchilla dust placed in a dish will help your hamster remove excess oils from his fur much like he would do in his natural desert habitat.
- Wood Gnaws – It is important to have something for your hamster to gnaw his teeth on since they continually grow. These can be purchased at any pet store.



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## Popular Products for your Hamster

[Hamster Potty](#)

[Four Paws Litter Scoop](#)

[Clip & Trim](#)

[Fancy Fruit Honey Sticks](#)

[Hay-Sentials](#)

[Hamster Harness And Lead](#)

[Small Animal Cage Cleaner](#)

[Squeaky Clean Shampoo](#)

[Hamster Bites](#)

[Hay Buffet](#)

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