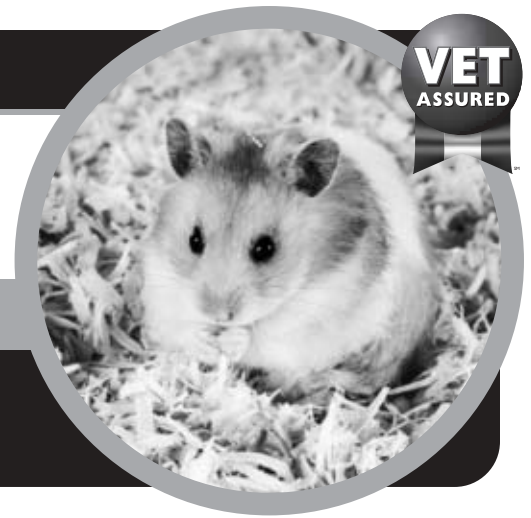


Hamsters

see page 2 for hamster varieties



Experience level: beginner

- For ages: 8 & up, with adult supervision
- Pet size: 5"-7" (13-18cm) long
- Pet lifespan: up to 3 years



All small pets purchased at PETSMART receive the VET ASSUREDSM promise of health and wellness plus a **14-day satisfaction guarantee**. VET ASSURED is our exclusive, veterinarian designed care program that helps to ensure your new pet is healthy. However, if your small pet becomes ill or dies during this initial 14-day period, or if you're not satisfied with your pet for any reason, PETSMART will replace it or refund the purchase price. Keep your sales receipt and return the pet to the store where it was purchased if needed. These programs are examples of the many ways we ensure that you enjoy your experience with your new small pet.

Is a hamster right for you?

Yes No

- I have an appropriate location for the habitat.
- I will provide daily interaction.
- I will house multiple hamsters separately.
- I understand that hamsters sleep during the day and are active at night.
- I will seek proper veterinary care if needed.
- A responsible adult will be the primary caregiver.

Traits & behavior

Nocturnal

They like to run and play at night and sleep during the day, so be prepared for them to be active and noisy after dark.

Solitary

Hamsters can learn to enjoy human interaction, but they're not crazy about other hamsters, so only one hamster per habitat.

Hoarders

Hamsters have large cheek pouches to carry food, which they'll store in a special hiding place.

Clean

You'll notice your hamster grooming herself a lot while she's awake.

Things to remember

Easily startled

Be careful, if she gets scared, she may bite. Take extra care when awakening her.

Lifting & handling

Handle your hamster gently – scoop her up in both hands and hold her with cupped hands so she'll feel safe and secure.

Special needs

Your hamster's front teeth never stop growing – so she needs lots of healthy things to chew on like treats and chew sticks.

Exercise

Hamsters have tons of energy and need to run on a wheel in their habitat, or in an exercise ball every day.

Safety & cleanliness

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit disease to humans. Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning his home.



Habitat

Housing

Your hamster needs a well-ventilated home, large enough for a food dish and water bottle, a hiding area (if one isn't built in) and an exercise wheel. There should be plenty of room for all cage accessories, and for her to move around freely.

Bedding

Hamsters love to hide and burrow, so lots of clean aspen or other appropriate bedding is a must. Line the home with 1"-2" (3-5cm) of bedding, and change it weekly or more often if needed.

Cage placement

Place the habitat in a cool, low humidity area, out of direct sunlight.



Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home today to help your new hamster stay healthy and happy. Please ask a PETS^{MART}® associate to help you choose these items.

Home

- Appropriate size and type of home
- Aspen or other appropriate bedding
- Water bottle
- Food bowls
- Hiding house
- Exercise wheel

Food

- Fortified hamster diet
- Appropriate fresh fruits and veggies
- Treat sticks and chews
- Mineral wheel

Toys

- Exercise ball or similar toy

Extras

- Books and magazines
- Vitamin drops
- Nesting material
- Hamster potty and litter
- Cage cleaner and disinfectant (read and follow label instructions)

Common varieties of

Syrian hamsters *Mesocricetus auratus*:

Long-hair, Short-hair, Black Bear, Honey Bear, Panda, Dalmatian, Calico, Tortoise-shell and Hairless

This Care Guide contains general information and helpful tips for the proper care of your pet, but is not comprehensive. Speak with our PETS^{MART} store associates or contact a veterinarian with questions about your pet's health.

Review your Pet Sales Record and Customer Contract for more details on pet ownership.



For more information on the care of pets, visit petsmart.com/careguides

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Hamsters

Nutrition

Staple diet

Choose a fortified diet appropriate for hamsters. Fill the bowl approximately 3/4 full.

Vegetables*

One teaspoon of chopped carrots and dark green veggies like mustard greens, collard greens or kale may be given daily. Take care not to overfeed these fresh foods. They have a high moisture content and too much can cause an upset stomach.

Fruits*

Treat your hamster to one teaspoon of finely chopped apple or banana twice a week.

Oatmeal

A pinch of plain, uncooked oatmeal added to your pet's food dish every day helps provide the fiber needed in her diet.

Treat sticks & chews

These hard and crunchy treats are yummy and keep your pet's teeth trimmed. Always keep one in the habitat.

Water

Change and fill your hamster's water bottle with clean water every day.

*Remember that fresh food items require their own dish and should be removed from the habitat after four hours to prevent spoilage. Treats should be less than 10% of total food intake.



Health

Signs of a healthy hamster:

- Clean, bright eyes
- Soft fur
- Full, slightly-rounded body
- Curious, active behavior
- Eats and drinks normally
- Well-formed droppings with no diarrhea

Things to watch for:

- Blood in the urine
- Overgrown front teeth
- Bare patches in the fur
- Diarrhea or wetness around the tail area (called "wet tail")
- Lethargic behavior
- Weight loss; not eating or drinking normally
- Sneezing; discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth

If you notice any of the signs described above, please consult a Small Animal Veterinarian as soon as possible.