



Wet Pets N Critters

Hamster Care Guide

Hamsters are small, active pets that are fun to watch and can make great companions when properly cared for. With proper care, hamsters typically live **2–3 years**.

Housing

- **Cage:**
 - A **minimum 24x12-inch cage** is recommended for one hamster. Larger is better!
 - Choose a **secure cage with a solid floor**—wire-bottom cages can hurt feet.
- **Bedding:**
 - Use **aspen shavings** or **paper-based bedding** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid cedar or pine bedding.
- **Hides & Tunnels:**
 - Provide at least one **hide box**, plus **tunnels, ramps, and chew toys** for enrichment.

Temperature & Environment

- Keep the cage in a **quiet room**, away from direct sunlight, drafts, and extreme temperatures.
- Ideal temperature: **65–75°F**.

Diet

Hamsters are **omnivores**. Offer a balanced diet that includes:

- **Commercial hamster food or pellet diet** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- **Small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables:** apple (no seeds), carrot, broccoli, etc. Avoid citrus, onion, garlic, and sugary treats.
- Occasional treats like **small animal-safe snacks** (ask our staff for options).

Provide **fresh water daily** in a **water bottle** or a **heavy bowl**.

Chewing

Hamsters' teeth grow continuously! Provide **chew toys** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) to keep teeth healthy and prevent overgrowth.

Exercise

Hamsters are **active and need daily exercise**. Provide:

- A **solid-surface exercise wheel** (at least 8 inches for Syrian hamsters)
- **Play tunnels** and **toys** for enrichment
- **Supervised playtime** in a safe, enclosed area (never leave a hamster unattended).

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste daily.
- Replace soiled bedding weekly.
- Fully clean the cage and accessories with a **small animal-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) every 2–4 weeks.

Handling

Hamsters are **nocturnal** and may be grumpy when woken up.

- Handle gently and regularly to tame your hamster.
- Let them crawl onto your hand rather than grabbing them.
- Avoid waking a sleeping hamster, as they may nip.

Health Tips

Signs of a healthy hamster:

- Active, alert behavior
- Bright eyes
- Clean fur and ears
- Normal eating and drinking habits

Signs of illness:

- Lethargy
- Weight loss
- Labored breathing
- Wet tail (a sign of serious illness—seek a vet immediately)

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Hamster cage (minimum 24x12 inches)
- Aspen or paper bedding
- Hamster food or pellets
- Water bottle or bowl
- Hide box
- Chew toys
- Solid-surface exercise wheel
- Tunnels and ramps
- Small animal-safe cleaner
- Healthy treats (optional)