



Hamster Care Fact Sheet and our Favorite Products

General Hamster Care Info:

All hamsters are solitary animals and should be housed by themselves. They are also crepuscular meaning they prefer to come out during dusk and dawn as well as overnight. For this reason, they do not always make the best pets for children under the age of ten. Hamsters can make cute and fun little pets, but as any pets do, they require some special care. In addition to the below mentioned products, there are lots of fun little “extras” you can put in the cage. Things like tunnels, chews, sprays, platforms for the wheels to go on above the bedding etc. For information on hamster care especially if you are new to owning a hamster, please check out Victoria Raechel Basic Hamster Care series on YouTube

Cage Information:

It is recommended that all hamsters regardless of if they are Syrian or dwarf move into a cage that is at least 600 sq inches of continuous floor space. Many cages sold in pet store do not meet this requirement. We recommend:

Prevue Pet Products 528 Universal Small Animal Home

Bucastate Hamster Cage 2.0 or 3.0 (39.3x19.7x20.6 or the larger version)

GDLF Hamster Cage with Storage Cabinet (39.5x19.7x43.7)

Niteangel Bigger World (39.4x19.7 or the larger version)

Also check out Erins Animals (SomethingAnimal) Hamster Bin Cages 101 and how to make a bin cage on YouTube.

Exercise Wheels:

All hamsters need exercise wheels. Spending a little extra money on a good one will not only be safer for your hamster, but also quieter and easier to clean. Only get a solid wheel. The ones with bars are dangerous to your hamster. We recommend the Medium 10" size Niteangel exercise wheels. They can be used for dwarf and Syrian hamsters. Only the smaller dwarf hamsters may benefit from the small Niteangel wheel. It is very important to not get a wheel that is too small, as it could injure your hamster.

Sand Bath:

Sand baths are another necessary item for the health and care of your hamster. This can be a Niteangel sand box, dog or cat food bowl, glass bowl, or even a guinea pig litter pan. We always recommend Reptisand because it doesn't need to be baked. It should never contain calcium though.



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Bedding:

Since hamsters are crepuscular it is very important that they have deep bedding. A soft bedding between 6-10" in depth is a must. There are many different bedding options to choose from. We use Small Pet Select white paper bedding, Oxbow Pure Comfort bedding, Kaytee Clean and Cozy or Carefresh. Bedding should not have a scent. Pine, cedar, and aspen bedding should be avoided.

Nesting House:

A good nest house is another necessity. The nest house should provide a darkened area for the hamster to rest. A hamster will spend a lot of time in their nest house so make sure it fits the hamster. The Kaytee mini-igloo is 8" long and that is usually a good fit for any hamster. Sometimes the larger Syrians need a bigger house though. Many people forget an igloo which is an important hideaway for a hamster. When people have larger cages they can use a variety of hideaways.

Food and Water:

For a food bowl, ceramic is generally recommended. There are a wide variety of options for these and some are super cute! Water bottles can be a bit of a pain. Sometimes they don't dispense water properly, and other times they leak. A good quality water bottle will help that. We recommend Full Cheeks™ Large Water Bottle. With any water bottle, test it with your finger periodically to make sure it is functioning properly.

What we feed them depends on if they are Dwarves or Syrians. We feed a main food, then also provide them with supplement blocks in addition to the main food. For Syrians we like Bunny Nature HamsterDream as the main food, and Teklad Lab Blocks as the blocks. For Dwarves we like Bunny Nature DwarfHamsterDream as the main food, and Supreme Petfoods Science Selective Hamster Foods as the supplement block. If these are not available, we also feed Higgins Sunburst Hamster Food to both Syrian's and Dwarves.

Treats:

Hamsters love treats too! Some of our favorites are Buddy Biscuit Softies Peanut Butter Dog Treats, Whimzees for chewing on, Oats, Millet Sprays, and sometimes bamboo chews!