



FACT SHEET - HAMSTERS

Hamsters are active and are easy to care for. They live alone so you don't have to find a companion hamster. They are nocturnal creatures which mean they are active at night and like to sleep during the day.

When a hamster is sleeping, do not disturb it. Young hamsters need time and patience to get used to being handled, but once tamed a hamster can become very friendly and enjoy your companionship. Always handle them gently and pick them up using both hands. Hamsters can move very quickly so it is important to ensure they do not fall, even a short distance, as it can cause serious injuries.



Hamsters Need

- To live on its own
- A large cage, at least 75x40x40 cm cleaned out daily
- A nest box with suitable nesting material
- A daily mixed diet of seeds, grains, nuts, fresh fruit and vegetables
- A supply of fresh water in a drinking bottle available at all times.
- Hard wood to gnaw on
- Plenty of exercise
- If your hamster is long-haired it will need regular brushing

Hamster Health

- Any sores on the skin or abscesses should be seen by your vet.
- A damaged pouch occurs when food or splinters from wood become lodged in the lining of the cheek pouches. Seek veterinary help immediately.

Hamster Facts

- Average lifespan is 18 months - 2 years
- Females come into season every 4 days for between 4 - 23 hours
- Hamsters are not easy to breed and can fight
- Gestation is only 16 days
- Average litter size is 5 - 9

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.