

CARE ♦ PETS

Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

The Best Care For Your Companion

All about HAMSTERS !

Facts about hamsters:

- Hamsters are members of the rodent family. Many different types of hamsters are commonly kept as pets. Care for all types of hamsters is similar.
- Hamsters live up to 3 years and grow to be 3-5 inches long.

Hamster traits and behavior:

- Hamsters are solitary animals that do well with human interaction, but do not like to be kept with other hamsters. Only one hamster should be kept in a cage.
- Hamsters are not easily litter trained, but do keep themselves clean with regular grooming.
- Hamsters are nocturnal animals, meaning they are active at night and sleep most of the day. Hamsters can be noisy at night and keep family members awake if they are close.
- Hamsters collect their food and carry it in large cheek pouches to hide and bury.

Habitat

- Your hamster's habitat should be large enough for him or her to move and run in. There should also be plenty of room for food and water dishes, a hiding place, and an exercise wheel if you choose to have one.
- Hamster cages should be well ventilated. Air should flow freely through the cage.
- Hamsters love to dig and burrow. 1-2 inches of soft, absorbent bedding should be provided. Recycled paper and aspen shavings work well.
- Place your hamster's cage in a cool, low humidity area out of direct sunlight. Try to avoid placing their cage against an exterior wall or in a drafty area.

Nutrition

- Commercial hamster diets are available and should be your hamster's primary source of food. Pellet diets are generally much healthier and more nutritious than seed diets.
- Your hamster may enjoy supplemental fruits and vegetables. Good choices include chopped carrot, dark green, leafy vegetables, oats, apple, and banana. These foods should be given as a supplement. Remember, most of your hamster's diet should consist of a commercial pellet diet.
- Provide a constant source of water for your hamster. Water bottles should be washed and filled with fresh water every day.

CARE ♦ PETS

Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

The Best Care For Your Companion

Health

- Regular visits to the veterinarian are recommended for your hamster. Wellness check ups are necessary to recognize potential disease and treat it early.
- Hamster's front teeth never stop growing. It is important to give them healthy things to chew on. Chew sticks and other toys should always be kept in the cage.
- Signs of a healthy hamsters include clean and bright eyes, soft fur, slightly-rounded body, curious and active behavior, eats and drinks normally, and has well-formed droppings with no diarrhea.
- Things to watch for include blood in the urine, overgrowth of front teeth, hair loss, diarrhea or wetness around the tail, lethargy, weight loss, and sneezing.