



RSPCA Hamster Care Advice

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



HAMSTER HOME CAGES

ALWAYS PROVIDE YOUR HAMSTER WITH A SUITABLE HOME CAGE, AND APPROPRIATE BEDDING AND NESTING MATERIAL



- The cage should be safe from hazards and secure. Plastic cages are better than metal, but wooden cages should not be used.
- A cage with stainless steel bars or mesh sides is preferable to one with solid sides, and it should have a raised lid.
- The cage floor should be solid to allow for bedding material to be provided (to absorb the relatively small quantities of urine they produce).
- The bedding material should also be deep enough to allow your hamster(s) to dig.
- If possible also provide your hamster(s) with an area of litter that is deep enough to allow them to burrow:
 - Coarse sand is a natural substrate but is difficult to handle.
 - Peat would be suitable but discolours the animal's coat.
 - Dust-free wood shavings or granulated corn-cob, free of preservatives or other chemicals are a good compromise.
- Provide your hamster(s) with appropriate nesting material:
 - Suitable materials are good-quality hay, wood wool, shredded paper or cardboard
 - Do not provide them with nesting materials that can separate into thin strands such as cotton wool or similar 'fluffy' bedding products. They pose a serious risk to the health and welfare of your pet.
- Hamsters need a lot of room (especially at night), so buy as large a cage as you can to provide your hamster(s) with suitable enrichment (such as small boxes and tubes – for example inner cores from toilet rolls – and wooden chew blocks) whilst still allowing generous space for your hamster(s).

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