

Hamsters



Know what your hamster needs.



FOOD AND WATER

- Find out what and how much your hamster should eat to stay happy and healthy. You can ask your vet for advice.
- Always make sure your hamster has fresh, clean water – use a drip-feed water bottle available from pet shops.



A GOOD HOME

- Give your hamster a large home to live in. This should include a nest area for sleeping during the day. Your hamster will need to live indoors in a warm place, but away from direct sunlight.
- Tidy your hamster's home every day, and clean it once a week.



COMPANY

- Most hamsters prefer to live alone – two hamsters may fight. Find out about the particular hamster you are buying in case he/she needs company.



TO BEHAVE NORMALLY

- Make sure your hamster gets plenty of exercise. Fix a solid exercise wheel to the wall of your hamster's home.
- Give your hamster toys such as cardboard tubes and wooden cotton reels to play with.



TO BE HEALTHY

- Get to know your hamster – you will soon be able to spot the signs if something is wrong.
- Take your hamster to the vet if he/she is unwell or injured. Don't leave it too late – if you are unsure, ask your vet for advice.

This is very basic information. Find out more about what your hamster needs. Talk to us on the RSPCA advice line: 0300 1234 555 or visit: www.rspca.org.uk/petcare

www.rspca.org.uk



H A M S T E R C A R E

Your hamster deserves the best care possible so make sure you are also prepared to:



- accept your hamster will be asleep during the daytime and awake at night – they are nocturnal animals and disturbing them during the day is very stressful for them
- keep an eye on your hamster's teeth and claws – if they get too long they may need to be trimmed by your vet
- make sure the room in which your hamster is kept is at an even temperature – if too cold, your hamster may go into hibernation.



Beware of feeding your hamster rhubarb leaves, potato tops, tomato leaves and coltsfoot (a wild plant with dandelion-like flower heads) – they are all poisonous.

Did you know...

the law that protects pets has changed? You have a legal responsibility to care for your hamster.

Find out more at: www.rspca.org.uk/petcare or talk to us on the **RSPCA advice line: 0300 1234 555**

0300 numbers are charged at your carrier's national rate, inclusive of call packages.

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