



## Hamsters

There are five main types of hamster we have as pets:

- **Syrian hamsters** - these are the most common and are often a golden colour, although they can be other colours too
- **Dwarf campbell russian hamsters**
- **Dwarf winter white russian hamsters**
- **Roborovski dwarf hamsters**
- **Chinese hamsters**

Hamsters are mainly **nocturnal** which means they spend most of their time sleeping during the day and are awake at night.

We advise that hamsters should be kept on their own as they often fight if kept in pairs or a bigger group.

Most hamsters live for an average of 18-24 months.

### Hamster Housing

Your hamster will need a safe cage that it can't escape from. Plastic ones are the best because your hamster can't gnaw its way out and they're easy to keep nice and clean.

You'll need to put plenty of bedding which absorbs moisture in your hamster's cage to keep him or her nice and comfy and clean.

Your hamster will also need a water bottle to drink from and a little bowl to put their food in, along with any toys you choose for them to keep them busy and entertained.

### Holding and stroking your hamster

When you first get your hamster he or she might be a bit scared of you because you're so big compared to them! So it's important to give your new pet time to settle in and get used to you and your smell.

You can encourage your hamster to walk into your cupped hands and that's the best way to pick it up to stroke it. Try not to move your hands too quickly so you don't frighten your hamster. A frightened hamster will sometimes bite so it is important to be careful.

## **What should you feed your hamster?**

You can buy special hamster food – we can order this for you at Hillside Vets or from a good pet shop. This is the best thing for your hamster and always ensure they have fresh clean water in their water bottle.

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