

Caring for your Hamster



beaphar[®]

Hamsters make a lovely addition to any family, and are particularly good for those with limited space but unlimited love. Ranging in size from the large Syrian hamsters to smaller dwarf hamsters, they are mostly nocturnal but incredibly active when awake. They may only be small, but through gentle handling and taming you can forge a strong and loving bond with your hamster. Hamsters have an average lifespan of 1–2 years.

FIVE WELFARE NEEDS

Being a responsible hamster owner:

As an owner, it's your responsibility to provide your pet with the following so they live a fulfilled, happy and healthy life:



Companionship



Behaviour



Nutrition



Healthcare



Housing & environment



Friends for life

Syrian hamsters are territorial and solitary animals, so need to be housed on their own. Dwarf hamsters can be kept in small, single-sex groups, providing they have adequate space. Your pet retailer can offer advice on whether your chosen hamster would prefer company. Whichever breed you choose, you can form a great bond.

This will take patience but is incredibly rewarding. Start by talking softly to your hamster through the cage. Then, you can introduce your hand to the cage, perhaps with a treat (just be careful they don't nip you). Once you've done this a few times, you can begin to gently handle your hamster.

It's best to do this in the evening when hamsters are naturally awake; hamsters that are woken up may be frightened and can bite.



Your hamster's perfect home

Hamsters are very energetic and adventurous. As nocturnal animals this activity often occurs at night, so positioning their home in a bedroom may not be the best idea. One of the most popular housing options is a large cage with a deep plastic bottom; we recommend a size of at least 60cm long x 30cm wide x 30cm tall.



Your hamster's behavioural needs

Their cage should be filled with tunnels and other activities to keep them occupied, such as wheels and gnawing toys. Tunnels mimic a hamster's natural habitat, while the wheel allows them to exercise and prevents boredom. You can also encourage natural foraging behaviour and their inquisitive nature by hiding food around the cage for them to hunt for. Providing wooden toys for your pet to chew will help keep their teeth healthy.

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Feeding a healthy diet

Hamsters can be picky eaters, so pelleted hamster food is recommended over muesli-style food. This prevents selective feeding and ensures your hamster isn't missing out on vital nutrients. Feed your hamster the correct amount of food as indicated on the pack every day. Hamsters are notorious hoarders, so be sure to check their bedding area for stored food before topping up the food bowl.

Alongside this, you can feed your hamster a small amount of fresh fruit and vegetables. Fruit is very high in sugar and hamsters can sometimes develop diabetes if fed it too often, so we recommend a small piece of fruit no more than once a week. Remember to remove any uneaten fresh food at the end of each day. We recommend using a ceramic food bowl as your hamster is less likely to be able to tip this over. Always keep fresh drinking water available.



Looking after your hamster's health

Getting your hamster used to being handled makes it easier to give them a daily health check. If you notice any changes in appetite, drinking or toileting, or anything else that gives cause for concern, seek veterinary advice.

Hamsters are prone to respiratory problems which can lead to pneumonia and bronchitis, making it important to only use dust-extracted bedding. A common illness amongst hamsters is 'wet tail', which is severe diarrhoea. Unfortunately it can be fatal, so you need to contact a vet immediately if you notice your hamster has moist faeces or a very wet-looking behind.

Beaphar Anti-Parasite Spot On for golden hamsters and gerbils

- Kills lice, fleas, mites and roundworms for up to 4 weeks
- Vet strength medicine

Hamster Products



Beaphar Deep Clean Disinfectant for Small Animal Housing

- Long-lasting protection, kills bacteria and viruses
- Ideal for cages

**FIVE
MUST
HAVES**



Beaphar Cage Fresh Granules

- Contains friendly microbes that break down odours
- Ideal for cages and toilet areas



Beaphar CARE+® Hamster

- Nutritionally balanced, pellet food
- With added vitamins and prebiotics



Beaphar Hamster Vitamin Solution

- Contains 10 different vitamins to support optimum health
- Easy-to-use, just add to drinking water



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Use medicines responsibly (noah.co.uk)