

Hamsters

Syrian or Dwarf Species



Estimated adult size: Syrian breed 100-200 grams | most dwarf breeds 30-50 grams | Roborovski dwarf breed 22-35 grams

Difficulty Level: Beginner-Intermediate



Hamsters are a small rodent, making up several completely different species of animals. The most common pet breed is a Syrian hamster, commonly referred to as a teddy bear hamster. Several dwarf hamster species are also frequent pets, including Campbell's, Winter White, and Robovski.

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Hamsters are not social and should never be housed together, to avoid risk of injury or breeding. They require far more cage space than people assume, to allow enough space for food, water, wheel, and sleeping space. Syrian hamsters should have at least 450 square inches on one floor. Dwarf hamsters need a minimum of 350 square inches. Cages should be well ventilated, with paper based bedding changed weekly. Avoid wire cages when possible, as hamsters will burrow and build tunnels but are not great climbers. Offer a wheel large enough for your hamster to stretch without bending his back and a wood or cardboard hide for visual security, since hamsters are nocturnal. These should be replaced frequently as they are chewed up or soiled.

DIETARY NEEDS

Hamsters can be picky eaters so a variety of healthy foods should be offered. Choose a high quality rodent block with a small amount of seed, nuts, and grains mixed in. Fresh, healthy fruits & vegetables can also be offered, but limit foods higher in sugar.

RECOMMENDED VETERINARY CARE

- Annual exams
- Common illnesses: parasites, heart disease, diabetes, tumors, wet tail