

## Hamster Checklist

Hamsters are wonderful pets. They are fun to watch, easy to care for and become very attached to their owners with some love and attention.

Hamsters are also very popular pets. The most popular hamster is called the Golden, also known as Syrian hamsters. Hamsters that have been frequently held at a very young age are usually very friendly, docile creatures. It typically requires time, patience and a food treat to win their trust. They can easily be held using two hands, preferably close to the body.

Hamster's cute roly-poly features intrigue children. Their small size makes them easy for children to hold. Because they readily breed, children can experience the pleasure of watching baby animals grow up. With more than 30 color varieties and three coat types, there is a hamster that will fascinate every child.

Following are some accessories you can provide for your new little pet that will make his/her life a happier and healthier one.

### **Housing:**

There are a variety of cages and plastic modular cages available, all of which will house your hamster safely and comfortably. The plastic modular cage encourages youngsters to create their own custom-made hamster homes.

### **Food:**

Specially formulated foods are available for the optimal nutrition of your hamster.

### **Treats:**

There are plenty of nutritional treats for your hamster; biscuits, honey sticks, fruit and vegetable mixes for the culinary enjoyment of your pet.

### **Salt Block:**

Salt is an essential mineral for your hamster. This will help your hamster retain the proper fluid levels in his/her system.

### **Vitamin Supplements:**

Liquid vitamin supplements help assure that all of the hamster's nutritional requirements are fulfilled.

### **Skin/Coat Conditioner:**

Food supplements containing linoleic acid, aid in eliminating excessive scratching, dry skin, hair breakage (unseasonable shedding) while supplying essential fatty acids often missing in seed or chow diets.

**☐ Wood Blocks/Chews:**

Wood blocks aid in the satisfaction of a hamster's chewing instinct. Because rabbit's teeth grow continuously, a chew toy or a small dog chew will help keep teeth filed down.

**☐ Litter:**

There are a wide variety of litters available for your small animal's cleanliness and comfort. Hamsters usually pick out one corner to urinate in. If you clean this spot daily and replace with fresh litter, the cage environment should remain odor free between weekly cleanings.

**☐ Water Bottle:**

Ball tips on water bottles help prevent leakage, which can soak bedding. Wet bedding is a health hazard to small animals. Be sure to place the tip of the water bottle in a position that is comfortable for the hamster to drink. If the bottle is hung in a cage or tank, a metal bottle holder will keep him/her from chewing the bottle.

**☐ Bowl:**

A heavy-duty bowl is recommended for food to eliminate excessive spillage.

**☐ Exercise Ball/Wheel:**

An exercise ball will provide entertainment for you and your pet. More importantly, it aids in preventing obesity, which is a common health hazard for these pets. An exercise wheel allows the hamster to run and get needed exercise each night.

**☐ Toys:**

Many toys have a practical function besides offering hamsters entertainment. These include items such as wooden houses, which can be chewed to keep incisors trim. Hamsters like to burrow and hide. Many toys are available that can be made into playground of hiding places and tunnels for hamsters. Hamsters housed with toys are more active and interesting to watch, and the animals are content and happier.

**☐ Books**

There are many books available that will give you information on the behavior and care of your new pet.