

# Syrian Hamster Care Guide

**Lifespan:** 2-3 years

**Size:** 5-7 inches long

## **Housing**

Syrian hamsters are solitary creatures who need to live alone. They need a spacious cage (not the small rectangle ones marketed for hamsters, these are WAY too small), with no wire on the bottom. They need a wheel, one that's big enough so they aren't arching their back when they run. That means the wheel is too small and is hurting their back.

## **Habits**

They are nocturnal, and get grumpy and scared when you wake them up. You should approach them when they are awake for the best results. With frequent love and handling, they are very tame and great pets. They usually use the bathroom in one corner of the cage, which makes cage cleaning easier.

## **Substrate and other needs**

They enjoy burrowing, so should have several inches of bedding in their habitat. The bedding should be a type of paper bedding, such as carefresh. Some types of wood shavings can be irritating and even toxic to them, and get soiled quicker. Hamster's teeth never stop growing, so they need wooden items in their cages that they can chew on. Try to avoid dyed objects, as they are not the greatest for them. They also need at least one hide in their house, as this makes them feel more secure. Hamsters can get bored very easily, so make sure they have plenty of toys or other things they can interact with in their habitat.

## **Diet**

Hamsters are omnivores and can have both plant and animal matter. They require a good pellet diet, without any additives such as seeds, dried corn etc. These are very fatty, and can even contain mold inside them. You can also provide freeze dried veggies to them (in moderation), as well as dried mealworms, and occasionally boiled chicken.

**Exercise Balls**

While exercise balls may seem fun, and like a good idea, they are in fact very stressful for the hamster. Hamsters can not see through the plastic, even if it's clear. This is terrifying to them, and they are running to seek shelter, not for fun. Please avoid using these at all costs.