

Caring for your hamster

M&L Pets World
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Settling In

Once your hamster has been introduced to its new home, we advise that you leave it for at least 48 hours before starting to handle it.

Cage cleaning

It is advisable that the 'wet corner' of the hamster's cage is cleaned away daily, and replaced with fresh shavings. The cage needs a thorough clean at least ONCE PER WEEK. It is important to use an animal safe disinfectant, such as 'Keep it Clean'. Position the cage in a draught free place and away from sources of direct sunlight and loud noises.

Hamsters like to use a house to sleep in and to store their food. Occasionally, however, they will urinate in the house and in these cases, the house should be removed as the food will be contaminated and unsafe for the hamster to eat.

Hamster Health

Hamsters are prone to 'wet tail' and this condition can be fatal. Wet tail is usually brought on by excess levels of stress or poor hygiene conditions. If you suspect your hamster has this illness, you should take it to a vet immediately.

Hamsters are rodents and as a consequence their teeth are constantly growing. It is therefore essential that hard chews and wooden gnawing blocks are provided on a **WEEKLY BASIS**.

Hamsters can catch human colds: let an uninfected person handle your hamster whilst you have a heavy cold or flu'.

Their Daily Diet

Limit baby hamsters to good quality dry food chew sticks and water. When they are about 10 weeks old and have settled into their new home, they will often enjoy VERY small amounts of meat, cheese, or fruit, such as apple. More information on suitable treats can be found in a good book on hamsters.

Check the food store daily for leftover titbits of 'fresh' food to avoid stale food being eaten.

Handling & Exercise

Baby hamsters, unused to being handled, have a tendency to 'jump' from your hands if not held securely. Always ensure you handle your hamster close to a surface such as a table or sofa, etc., to avoid the hamster falling from a height.

Your hamster will enjoy running around the ground floor of your home in a playball. Initially, this time should be limited to about 5-10 mins, increasing gradually to a maximum of about 20 mins. Handling your hamster can be made easier in the early stages by letting them exercise in the playball first.

SHOPPING LIST

CAGE	FOOD
WATER BOTTLE	FOOD BOWL
WOOD SHAVINGS	TOYS

(eg. Puzzle block, playball, etc., See our range of small animal toys).

SAFE BEDDING(always make sure it is safe and non-toxic, made from vegetable fibre)

GNAWING BLOCK AND TREATS

DISINFECTANT