

CARE OF HAMSTERS

DIET

Hamsters should always have access to a shallow bowl of good quality hamster pellets or mix. It is important to change the food daily. Fresh vegetables can be an interesting addition to their diet and an important source of vitamins. One – two dessertspoons of vegetables should be given every day. Carrots tops, broccoli, romaine and Chinese lettuce are good. Chinese “Choi” and spinach can be given once a week. Remember to wash thoroughly and make sure they are fresh. Hamsters like to store and hide their food so it is important to remember to clean this area out weekly, or daily if they are hiding fresh vegetables. In the wild hamsters will also eat insects so a treat of a mealworm or a tiny piece of lean cooked pork can be offered once a week.

Any dietary changes **MUST** be slow and gentle. Take up to 1 week to gradually introduce a new brand of pellets/mix to your hamster. Please note their front teeth grow continuously and need to be constantly worn down to prevent overgrowth providing a chewing block can help. Wet tail (moist or dirty anal/genital area) is a serious problem so seek veterinary advice if a hamster has wetness around its bottom or tummy. When buying food ensure that it is fresh (always check the expiry date) and keep the food in airtight containers and away from heat.

WATER

24 hour access is essential. Offer water a small dripper bottle.

CAGE

The cage should be a minimum of 1ft x 1ft x 1ft. Syrian and Chinese hamsters are happy climbing up to different levels in a cage but most Russian dwarf hamsters prefer to stay on the ground level. Make sure your cage suits your hamster’s species. The floor of the cage should be solid and easy to clean, not wire (as this may cause ulceration of the feet). Most hamsters like to use an exercise wheel, make sure the wheel is solid so their feet cannot get caught in it. Of course you must keep the cage clean and dry. Ideally the cage should have a hide box where the hamster can have privacy and an open area. Hamsters do not cope well with hot humid weather, so ensure the cage is situated in a cool, non humid place and there are no draughts. Remember hamsters are most active at night so will require the cage to be in a quiet place during the day so they can sleep.

HEALTH

To keep your hamster healthy please follow the above advice. Most hamsters are happiest kept on their own but they still need attention and company from you. Hamsters can be quite nervous initially so make sure you reward them with a piece of tasty vegetable every time you handle them. Hamsters can get very stressed from the presence of another animal in the house particularly cats and dogs. Also never leave a hamster unattended with another animal, even if you think they are good friends. Please also check your hamster’s mouth (for a wet chin and teeth grinding which can be signs of oral disease) and feet (for infection and ulceration) regularly. Also check the anal/genital area daily to check it is clean and dry. Any abnormal hair loss please seek veterinary attention.

FOR FURTHER ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERINARY SURGEON

倉鼠護理

糧食

飼主應常放置優質的乾糧作主糧於淺身容器，讓倉鼠能隨時進食。此外，每日額外給予不同種類食物亦十分重要，如新鮮蔬菜乃重要的維他命來源。飼主每天可餵飼一至兩匙蔬菜，紅蘿蔔、西蘭花、唐生菜、羅馬生菜等都是好選擇。中式菜及菠菜可以一星期給予一次。食用前緊記徹底地清洗蔬菜及確保蔬菜新鮮。倉鼠有儲存和隱藏食物的習慣，故此飼主需每星期清理籠子。若倉鼠埋藏新鮮蔬菜的話則需每天進行清理。生活於野外的倉鼠會吃昆蟲，所以飼主可每星期可給予一次麵包蟲或一小塊已煮熟的瘦肉。

所有食物上的轉換均必須慢慢進行。一般來說轉換不同品牌的乾糧需分一星期漸漸進行。另外需注意的是倉鼠的牙齒會不斷生長。牠們需要不停咀嚼磨短牙齒，以防止牙齒生長過長。可考慮使用磨牙石。尾部濕潤（濕潤或骯髒的肛門/陰部）有機會是嚴重的健康問題，如發現尾部或腹部濕潤的話請即求醫。

食水

要確保廿四小時都有潔淨的食水供應。可提供水樽以供飲用。

籠子

籠的大小最少為一尺乘一尺乘一尺。黃金倉鼠和中國倉鼠天性喜歡舉爬，而俄羅斯侏儒則愛留於地面。因此飼主應根據其品種而佈置籠子。另外籠底要密閉及容易清洗。籠底不應有任何類型的網狀或鐵線，因容易傷及足部引致潰瘍。大部份倉鼠均喜歡在運動輪跑步，要留意輪身要堅固並且不會夾腳。籠子要盡量保持乾爽清潔。籠裏應有小屋以提供遮蓋使倉鼠有地方可以躲起來及感覺安全。倉鼠較難適應炎熱潮濕的氣候，故籠子宜置於陰涼乾爽的環境。除此之外，倉鼠於晚間較為活躍，所以在日間應擺放籠子於較安靜的環境讓倉鼠休息。

健康

請根據上述建議以維持倉鼠健康。倉鼠乃獨居動物，但仍需要飼主的注意和陪伴。倉鼠一開始有機會會表現較為慌張，飼主可於每次與倉鼠互動時以蔬菜獎勵倉鼠。家中有貓狗的話，倉鼠可能會大感壓力。倉鼠不宜在沒人監督的情況下與其他動物獨處。另外飼主應定期檢查倉鼠口腔（面頰濕潤或磨牙可以是口腔毛病）及足部（容易受感染或潰瘍）。飼主亦應留意倉鼠的肛門及陰部位置是否清潔。若有不正常的毛髮脫落，應及早求診。

請聯絡您的獸醫以獲取更多資訊。