

Health

Hamsters are prone to tooth and skin (fur loss) ailments. Your hamster's incisor teeth grow continuously throughout his life. You should buy a wood or mineral block for him to gnaw on from a pet shop to help keep his teeth trimmed.

You should ensure that your hamster is given vitamins if the food you are feeding does not provide sufficient nutrition. Otherwise, it could result in loss of fur and inactivity amongst other things. If you suspect that your hamster has a skin problem, get him checked by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

A wet tail is an infection of the intestines. It is a condition that is predisposed by stress. The symptoms are diarrhoea, a hunched posture and messy wet fur at the bottom. A hamster becomes lethargic and dehydrated. If you suspect your hamster has wet tail, take it to the veterinarian as soon as possible as the conditions are life-threatening if not treated.

Overfeeding of wet food like vegetables and fruits can also cause diarrhoea. Discontinue feeding these immediately if your hamster develops diarrhoea. Check the cage for stale food and remove immediately. If the diarrhoea persists after 24 hours, consult a veterinarian.



Adoption Information:

To find out more about adopting a hamster from the SPCA, please visit us at www.sPCA.org.sg or call us at **6287 5355** ext. 24 during office hours.

As a pet is a lifetime of commitment with considerable responsibilities involved, the SPCA prefers that the whole family comes down and view the pet. If you are unsure of the responsibilities involved, you may ask to speak to an Adoption Counsellor.

Location of the SPCA:

31 Mount Vernon Road, Singapore 368054

MRT Station: Bartley (Circle Line)

Bus Services: 28, 93, 158

Contact Information:

Telephone: 6287 5355

Web: www.sPCA.org.sg

Opening Hours (Adoption Area):

- Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat: 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Sunday and Public Holiday: 11.00am to 3.30pm
- Thursday: Closed (Unless it is a public holiday)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PET NEEDS YOU TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND COMMITTED. A PET IS FOR LIFE.

Biodata of the **Hamster**:

Reproduction Age: From 6 weeks old

Gestation Period: 16 to 23 days

Average Litter: 4 to 7 babies

Weaning: 20 to 25 days

Lifespan: 2 to 2.5 years

Care of your Pet Hamster



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Important Information:

Hamsters are prolific breeders. As such, the SPCA advises that hamsters be kept separately. Many abandoned pet hamsters are received by the SPCA because the owners were not aware of this.

General Information:

Hamsters are relatively clean and easy pets to maintain and can give considerable enjoyment to their owners. They are by nature friendly but you must handle them gently. These animals are nocturnal (meaning they are active in the night and usually sleep in the day).



Housing:

A hamster is small and does not require much space. Whether the same or opposite sex, hamsters tend to fight when put together. Thus, they should preferably be kept singly as they are by nature, solitary animals.

A hamster should be kept in a cage big enough to allow for sufficient exercise. Cages sold in pet shops usually come complete with an exercise wheel which is essential for the hamster. You can also buy connective trails to add on to the existing cage. The cage can be cleaned approximately three times a week (or whenever it is dirty). Also, remember to keep the cage in a draught-free area away from direct sunlight or dark corners.

Never use pine or cedar shavings as bedding as they could potentially be harmful for your hamster. Suitable bedding could be made from recycled paper, wood pulp fibre, pelleted aspen and/or straw litter.

Hamsters enjoy sand-bathing, which helps keep them clean. Bathing sand is available in pet shops.



Diet:

Your hamster needs fresh food on a daily basis. Staple hamster food from respected manufacturers is easily available in pet shops. In addition to this, hamsters love and need a small amount of vegetables daily. Too much lettuce or leafy greens, though, can cause diarrhoea. It is very important to rinse and soak the vegetables in water for at least 30 minutes to remove traces of insecticide, which could harm your hamster.

Your hamster would also enjoy occasional treats like hard-boiled egg or fruits like apples.

Fresh water must be provided at all times in a bottle, which can be purchased from a pet shop.

