

Pet Hamster Facts

- Hamsters are rodents. They belong to the same “family” as mice.
- The most common kind of pet hamster is the Golden Hamster.
- Hamsters can save food in their cheeks, just like chipmunks.
- Hamsters are nocturnal – that means they usually sleep during the day and do more stuff at night.
- The oldest hamster ever was three years old!
- Hamsters are very small, so you have to be very gentle with them so they don’t get scared or hurt.



Getting A Hamster

- Hamsters are fun pets 😊, but you need to take good care of them to keep them healthy.
- Always talk to your parents before getting a pet.
- Pick a hamster from the store that is nice and clean, has nice fur and moves around a lot.

Taking Care Of Your Hamster

- Your hamster should eat special hamster pellets from the store, without too many treats.
- Keep your hamster in its cage as much as you can. Don’t let it run around on the floor.



- Don’t take your hamster or its cage to the kitchen
- Don’t keep your hamster near your bed.

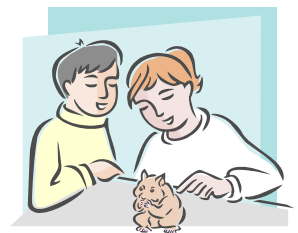
Picking Up Your Hamster

Being picked up can be scary for your hamster, so don’t do it for long.

- Ask an adult to show you how to pick your hamster up properly.
- Make sure you don’t surprise your hamster when you touch it.
- Tell an adult if your hamster bites you by accident.
- **Wash your hands really well as soon as you put your hamster down.**

Keeping Your Hamster’s Cage Clean

- Make sure your hamster always has nice clean water and that its leftover food doesn’t go bad. If your hamster’s cage smells bad, tell an adult.
- Ask an adult to clean your hamster’s cage at least once a week.



Is My Hamster Sick?

If you think your hamster is sick, tell an adult. Your hamster may need to go to the vet to find out what’s wrong. Some of the signs you might see if your hamster is not feeling well are:

- ✗ Moving less than normal
- ✗ Snotty nose, runny eyes
- ✗ Dirty or missing fur
- ✗ Eating less than normal
- ✗ Very soft or runny poop
- ✗ Bad smell

Can My Hamster Make *ME* Sick?

Yes, but it’s not very likely. There are a few hamster germs that can make people sick, and if your hamster bites you, the bite can get infected. The best way to stop from getting germs are:

- ✓ Always wash your hands really well after touching your hamster or your hamster’s stuff.
- ✓ Keep your hamster away from food and away from your face.
- ✓ Keep your hamster in its cage as much as you can. Get an adult to clean the cage every week.
- ✓ Be very gentle with your hamster so it doesn’t get scared and try to bite you.