

Lavender Meadows Hamstery – Christmas Adoption Program

Lavender Meadows Hamstery is an ethical hamstery based in Richmond, BC. We breed Syrian hamsters with the goal of improving their health, conformation, and temperament. As an ethical alternative to pet stores, which often source hamsters from rodent mills, all our hamsters are pedigreed and come from well-established, genetically strong lines. We are proud to be in our fourth year of operation, and this year marks the launch of our first-ever **Christmas Adoption Program (CAP)**. Every year after Christmas, there is a noticeable increase in pets being rehomed due to insufficient consideration before purchasing them as holiday gifts. Unfortunately, this trend is especially evident in hamsters across the Greater Vancouver Area. The **Christmas Adoption Program** is designed for the responsible gifting of hamsters; to prevent hamsters from being given as gifts without the consent of all responsible parties, such as parents or guardians. Additionally, the busy holiday season often leaves little time for thorough research, leading to pet parents being misinformed. This is particularly important for hamsters, as pet stores and online resources frequently provide misleading or incorrect care information. Whether you're looking to adopt a hamster for yourself, a partner, or your family, CAP prioritizes informed and responsible adoption. By the time of adoption, all adopters will be well-educated about proper hamster care and welfare.

Perks of the program:

- Adorable, well tamed and ethically bred hamster
- Pre adoption care guide
 - Explaining hamster cages, care, diets, and enrichment
- Post adoption guide
 - Fail-proof bonding, feeding and cleaning schedule, reminders, safe foods
- Get your supplies all from us - one stop shop + support a small business
 - Support the hamstery – all funds go right back into the hamstery to help lower the cost for vet bills, bedding, food, and enrichment costs
- Included in the package is the hamster, its pedigree, ID card, and carrier

We believe that hamsters can make wonderful gifts when adopted responsibly. The Christmas Adoption Program ensures that every hamster will have a safe, suitable, and permanent home after adoption.

Steps of the Adoption Process:

1. **Get in touch:** Adopters need to get in contact with us by December 15th at the absolute latest – the earlier adopters fill out the application, the sooner they will be matching with a hamster. **We can ship across Canada but this requires quite a bit of planning.**
2. **Application form and deposit:** Fill out the application form and send the non-refundable deposit (20 cad) **APPLICATION FORM**
 - a. The application form serves to help us understand what you are looking for. It asks questions about what kind of hamster you're looking for so please respond thoroughly and read through all the questions.
3. Message us on Facebook or Instagram before you submit the form and alert us that you have submitted the form
4. Every adopter's situation will be different in terms of timing and pickup and available so please communicate your situation with us as soon as you know
5. The adoption period will be between 20-24th. Possibly the 25th but we can't confirm that we'll be available then just yet. You can let us know your preferred day and can try to make it work.

6. We will be matching adopters to hamsters on the 19th and 20th. Hamsters become available for pickup on the 20th.

Our Policies

1. Anyone applying under the age of 19 will need to have their parents included in the conversation at all times. Group chats or email CC.
2. **GIFTING: to immediate family:** If the hamster is being gifted to an immediate family (someone younger/a kid), the parents/guardians need to be the ones contacting us. Older siblings over 19 can apply but parents/guardians still need to be in the loop.
 - a. Please let us know if the hamster will be for someone young (5-6) so we may recommend the most friendly one.
2. **GIFTING to non- family for someone under 19:** Parents/guardians of the receiver need to know and give written confirmation that they are accepting the gift. The person gifting the hamster needs to coordinate with the receiver's parents/guardians such that the hamster has everything that is on our required list.
3. **We will be matching adopters to a hamster.** To ensure that the hamster isn't being chosen for its color, we are going to be matching adopters to the hamster based on personality. Our long term goal is for the hamster not to be rehomed again. We take the preferences of families into heavy consideration but we will be matching based on the adopter's goals and the hamster's personality. We will aim to give everyone their top choices.

4. **The deposit is non-refundable** – if you do not end up getting a hamster during Christmas – the deposit can be transferred to one of our 2025 litters. If we fail to provide/offer a hamster for the Christmas period – then a future hamster will be available at a discounted price.
5. The hamster will not be used for breeding unless discussed beforehand. If the hamster is bred without written agreement from Lavender Meadows Hamstery, we reserve the right to ask for monetary compensation (500 CAD)
6. Under no circumstance should the hamster be dropped off to the shelter or rehomed on any rehoming sites (Kijiji, Craigslist, etc). If you can't keep the hamster anymore, please let us know and we will facilitate the process of finding the hamster a new home.