



9 Hamster Care Tips for Beginners

With tiny paws, shiny eyes, and twitchy whiskers, hamsters are undeniably adorable companions. If you've just brought one home, here are nine simple tips to help you take great care of your new furry friend.

1. Set Up a Comfortable Home

Your hamster needs a secure and engaging environment. Choose a cage that offers space to explore, with tunnels, hideouts, and bedding that allows for digging and burrowing. You can connect multiple cages using tubes to expand their play area. Make sure to provide a chew-proof water bottle, ideally around 6 ounces in size.

2. Pick a Good Location

Where you place your hamster's cage is important. Keep it in a spot where they can hear your daily routine without being overwhelmed by constant noise or activity. Avoid placing the cage near vents or drafty windows to ensure a stable, comfortable temperature.

3. Give Them a Quiet Start

For the first few days, help your hamster adjust by covering their cage with a light cloth. This gives them a calm space to settle into their new environment. You can remove the cover for short periods when you want to interact.

4. Don't Rush to Handle Them

Let your hamster get used to you before trying to pick them up. After a few days of feeding and care, they'll start to feel more comfortable and may begin to trust you. Afraid of picking up a dwarf hamster? Use a toilet paper roll to scoop up your ham and place in your hand.

5. Offer a Variety of Foods

Once your hamster is settled in, add some variety to their meals. Along with their regular food, offer small portions of safe fruits and veggies like apples, cucumbers, carrots, or broccoli. Always check with a vet to be sure what's safe and only offer treats in small amounts.

6. Keep Their Home Clean

A clean habitat is essential, but try not to overdo it. Clean the potty area daily, change wet or dirty bedding as needed, and refresh their water each day. Wash food bowls weekly, and fully clean the cage—removing all bedding and wiping down surfaces—once or twice a week.

7. Provide Supervised Playtime Outside the Cage

Let your hamster stretch their legs with time outside the cage in a safe play area. Use a small pet playpen or gated space with toys and treats. Always supervise them to prevent escapes or accidents.

8. Build a Bond Gradually

Forming a bond takes time and patience. Use calm voices, gentle handling, and regular interaction. Feed them by hand and give them time outside the cage to help them get used to you. Over time, they'll start to recognize your voice and scent.

9. Handle Them Gently

Hamsters should be picked up with both hands and supported carefully. When putting them down, make sure they don't fall or slip away. Since they're mostly active at night, try not to wake or disturb them during the day.

Welcome to the world of hamster care!

With the right setup, attention, and love, you'll be a great hamster parent in no time. Make sure to explore pet care products and expert advice to keep your little buddy happy and healthy.