

# Hamster care at a glance



#### **Accommodation**

Minimum size: 100cm x 50cm x 50cm.

**Ideal location:** quiet room – sensitive to noise and light.

Indoor only

Bar spacing: 1cm or less.

Substrate depth: 'Burrow-able' 20cm +

**Suitable substrate types:** Hemp, paper products (like Carefresh) wood pulp products (like Megazorb), shredded paper, shredded card, coco soil, hay.

Mixing substrates helps maintain burrow structures.

# **Nocturnal** – mostly active during the night

## **Natural behaviours**

Digging, burrowing, nesting, running, foraging, gnawing, hoarding food, sand bathing.

# Reproduction

Gestation period: 16-22 days (species dependent).

**Age of sexual maturity:** 4 -10 weeks (species

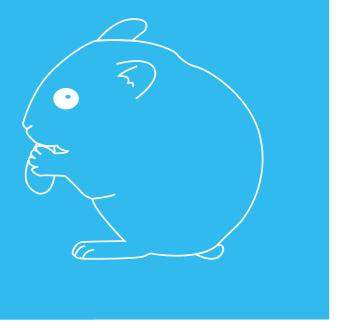
dependent).

**Split from mother and opposite sex litter mates:** 4 weeks

**Split from same sex litter mates:** By 8 weeks – sooner if they are starting to squabble.

**Neutering:** Not required.

# Average life span 1.5-3 years depending on species



# Cleaning

Spot clean daily: remove uneaten fresh food and soiled bedding. Change the water.

**Full clean:** Every 2-4 weeks.

Return some used bedding in to the freshly cleaned cage.

Vaccinations required: No Microchipping required: No

# Companionship

- Most hamster species should not live in pairs or groups
- Roborovskis can live in same sex pairs but it is not necessary and there is a risk they may fight.

#### Diet

Omnivore – requires plant and animal-based food.

Main feed: 1 tsp high quality commercial mixed species-specific hamster food per day.

**Additional food:** See hamster feeding chart.

### **Enrichment**

**Provide:** Wheel, wide tunnels, nesting material, multi-chamber hides, safe branches, cork logs, digging box, sand bath, sprigs of plants and seeds.

#### Appropriate wheel size:

- 27 -32cm for Syrian hamsters
- 25-27cm for Chinese hamsters
- 20-25cm for dwarf hamsters

Hamsters can be rehomed from 8 weeks old

# Top tip

Hamsters feel safer when sleeping in a multi chamber hide as they like to sleep away from the entrance.

## Harmful food

Rhubarb, onion, leeks, garlic, chocolate and kidney beans 619332398/0423