



Syrian Hamster at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **2-3 years**


Average adult size: **4-7"; 4-10 ounces**

Diet: **Omnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **24" L x 12" W x 12" H**
(larger for females)

Temperature: **65-75 F**



Fun fact  They rely on their whiskers and sense of smell to explore.

Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Syrian hamsters need plenty of space to explore, nest, and play. The minimum cage size is 24 x 12 x 12 inches, though females often need larger enclosures, such as a 40-gallon tank. Choose a cage with a solid base and a secure lid, as hamsters are skilled escape artists. Bar spacing should be no wider than a 1/4 inch.
- Add at least 2 inches of soft, safe bedding like paper-based materials or aspen shavings. Avoid pine and cedar shavings, as they release harmful chemicals.
- Include enrichment items such as chew toys, a running wheel, and hideouts, but avoid overcrowding the space. Rotate toys regularly to prevent boredom.
- Spot-clean daily by removing waste and uneaten food. Clean the food dish and water bottle every day. Perform a full cage cleaning weekly, replacing bedding and disinfecting all items before returning your hamster to the enclosure.

Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized cage
- Bedding
- Food dish and water bottle
- Food and treats
- Exercise wheel and hideout
- Chew toys
- Cleaning supplies



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Health

Healthy Syrian hamsters should have clean fur, clear ears and eyes, and be alert and curious.

- **Signs of illness:** Shaking, weight loss, hair loss, or discharge
- **Respiratory issues:** Wheezing or labored breathing
- **Digestive issues:** Diarrhea (wet tail)
- **Other concerns:** Lumps, bumps, or excessive drooling

Schedule yearly vet visits and seek care if any unusual symptoms appear.

Fun fact ↻ Syrian hamsters grow quickly and reach maturity at about 4 weeks old.

Diet

Syrian hamsters eat a variety of foods, including seeds, grains, and pellets. They should be fed a high-quality commercial hamster food once a day as their main diet. Their meals can be supplemented with small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables to add variety.

They can also have small portions of cooked, unseasoned animal protein such as chicken, as well as boiled eggs or superworms for added nutrition. Treats like leafy greens and carrots can be offered in moderation. Avoid feeding harmful foods such as avocados, onions, and fruit pits or seeds.

Fun fact ↻ They are born blind and have poor vision even as adults.

