Mini project 1 information

>What is Hamster?

Hamsters are small rodents that are commonly kept as house pets. They are distinguishable from other rodents due to their short tails, stubby legs small ears and cheek pouch.

Hamsters are [nocturnal](https://www.livescience.com/photos-nocturnal-animals.html) (meaning active at night), which means they like sleeping during the day. In the wild, they dig burrows, which are a series of tunnels, to live and breed in. Hamsters will also store food in their burrows. Living underground keeps wild hamsters cool in hot climates.

>Hamster cheeks

All hamsters have cheek pouches. These large pockets are evaginations of the oral mucosa and can stretch all the way back to a hamster's shoulders.

The primary purpose of the pouches is to carry food from place to place. In the wild, hamsters use their cheeks to bring food back to their burrows. This habit led to their name, which roughly translates to "mister saddlebags" in the local Arabic dialect where they are from. Female hamsters may even carry or hide [their babies](https://www.thesprucepets.com/what-should-you-do-if-your-hamster-has-babies-1238930) in their cheek pouches.

Hamster cheeks vid

<https://youtu.be/BwktcpF-rjY?si=kKWsfmF9zlL5546N>

>Can hamster live with another hamster

Hamster are very territorial and should never be put in a cage with other hamsters. Or else it will bite the other hamster, and may even kill it. That is why they should only keep in pairs for breading purposes.

Vid of hamster fighting

<https://youtu.be/PrmzhUgC5NE?si=s5D7F8ExbSfE7z8Z>

<https://youtu.be/75-iDUxwYMY?si=KItFH-p8J8283Y7S>

<https://youtu.be/aVIHirG4XQA?si=qDx2QD8GNkdw5i3m>

Hamster species

Hamsters come from various regions and environments resulting in a wide range of species that are all unique in their own way. There are 18 species of hamster but only five of those are domesticated (meaning).

First of the 18 species is

* Mongolian hamsters (Allocricetulus Curtatus)
  + This species of yamster is found in China, Mongolia, and Russia.
  + Living in habitats of sand dunes, grasslands or semi desserts
  + Weighing 30 to 65 grams and measuring 3.9 to 5 inches in length
  + This species unlike the typical hamsters tend to build shallow short burrows with several entrances
* Eversmann’s or Kazakh hamster (Allocricetulus Eversmanni)
  + This species is found in China, Kazakhstan and Russia
  + Would inhabit in dry grasslands, semi desserts, and sometimes even found in agricultural fields
  + Weighing 32 to 68 grams and 4 to 5.3 inches in length
  + They do not hibernate like other species but daily activity in winter is definitely lower, they typically eat seeds but also eat insects and mollusks on a regular basis there are even records of them eating lizards and young ground squirrels.
* Gansu hamster (Cansumys canus)
  + This species is found in china and is usually an arboreal species found in deciduous forests
  + Weighing 44 to57 grams and measuring 5 to 5.5 inches in length
  + This species has been found to be a herbivore feeding on leaves and grasses unlike your typical domesticated hamster
* Chinese hamster (Cricetulus barabensis)
  + One of the five domesticated species
  + This species in the wild is found in china, korea, Mongolia and Russia
  + Inhabits in arid areas including grasslands and semi-dessert habitats but have been known to adapt and commonly be found in croplands
  + Weighing 30 to 50 grams and 3 to 5 inches in length
  + They often will have a barrow that runs 3ft in length and a depth of 4 to 19.6 inches
* Long tailed dwarf hamster (cricetulus longicaudatus)
  + This species is found in China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia
  + They inhabit in areas of desserts to forests to alpine meadows and even found in Rocky Mountains and semi-desserts areas
  + Weighing 15 to 50 grams and measuring 3 to 5 inches in length
  + They would occupy shallow burrows typically made under rocks and sometimes occupies burrows constructed by other small animals
* Sokolov’s dwarf hamster
  + This species is found in china and Mongolia
  + Typically live in semi desserts habitats
  + Weighing around 60grams and measuring 3 to 4.4 inches in length
* Tibetan dwarf or Ladakh hamster (urocricetus alticola)
  + They can be found in china, india and Nepal
  + Typically occupying coniferous and brich forest to desert grasslands, shrubland, swampy meadows and highlands meadows
  + Weighing 22 to 48 grams and 3 to 3.9 inches in length
* Kam dwarf hamster (urocricetus kamensis)
  + They are found in china
  + And typically leaves in high mountains grasslands, shrubby marshes and open grasslands
  + Weighing 20 to 40 grams and 3.4 to 4.4 inches in length
  + They’ve also been found to exhibit activity during the day and the night
* European hamster (cricetus cricetus)
  + This is the one of the largest hamster species and unfortunately is critically endangered
  + They are found in awide range from Australia, France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland and ukrain
  + They usually live in crops but have spread to habitats like meadows, gardens and orchards living close to humans
  + Weighing 220 to 460 grams and 8 to 13 inches in length
  + They are big burrowers so they prefer to live in deep heavy soils
* Syrian hamster (mesocricteus auratus)
  + One of the popular domesticated species of hamster
  + In the wild they are found in Syria and turkey
  + Inhabiting in fields and annual crops like wheat, barley, chickpeas, lentis and vegetables
  + Weighing 120 to 200 grams and measuring 6 to 8 inches length
  + They can live in burrows that can reach to 9 meters long
* Turkish hamster or Brandt’s hamster (mesocricetus brandti)
  + They are found in Armenia, iran, Russia, and turkey
  + They would live in dry open grasslands and in agricultural lands
  + Weighing around 174 grams and being 7 inches in length
  + Their burrows would have several passages and often would have burrows within colonies of common vole and social vole
* Romanian hamster (mesocricetus newtoni)
  + Found in Bulgaria and Romania
  + living in dry habitats like barren rocky areas, grasslands, burclover, dandelion, and cereal fields and gardens
  + weighing 60 to 130 grams and measuring 5.3 to 6inches in length
* ciscaucasian hamster (mesocricetus raddei)
  + found in Georgia and Russia
  + typically inhabit in cereal / herbs grasslands, agricultural places, and especially in forest line between fields
  + they are slightly larger than a Syrian hamster being 6 to 8.6 inches long and weighing 200 to 300 grams
  + they tend to be most active at dusk and night but in spring and summer they are also diurnal
  + They can store up to 35lbs of food for winter and hibernates typically from 4 to 6 months depending on the winter temperatures
* Grey dwarf hamster or Armenian hamster (nothocricetulus mifratorius)
  + They are found in wide range of places like Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Greece, India, Israel, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, turkey, and Ukraine
  + Inhabits usually in dry grasslands and semi-desserts and now also inhabits agricultural lands, gardens, and even sometimes in houses
  + Weighing anywhere from 20 to 58 grams and being 3 to 6 inches long
* Campbells dwarf hamster (phodopus campbelli)
  + In the wild they would be found in china, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia
  + Typically leaves in grasslands, semi desserts and desserts areas
  + Weighing 55 to 66 grams in weight and around 5 inches in length
  + Their burrows would have four to six entrances leading to nest chambers as deep as 3ft and some may occupy burrows of gerbils instead of making their own
  + Its is one of the few domesticated hamsters
* Winter white (phodopus sungorus)
  + In the wild they are typically found in Kazakhstan and Russia
  + Living in dry plains and mountains grasslands
  + Weighing 45 to 55 grams and measuring 5 inches in length
  + Their winter nests can be up to 3ft below the ground and often uses rodents’ burrows
  + This species is one of the domesticated species of hamster and have the ability to change coat coloring to white based on the length of light during the days
* Roborovski hamster (phodopus roborovskii)
  + The smallest domesticated species of hamster
  + In the wild they are found in china, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia
  + They inhabit in sandy desserts and grasslands
  + Weighing 20 to 25 grams and measuring 2 to 3 inches in length
  + Their burrows are dug between sand dunes or at the edge of them and would extend 35 inches deep
* Great long tailed hamster or korean hamster (tscherskia triton)
  + They are found in China, Korea, north Korea and Russia
  + Generally found in open dry areas but also found at fields edges, along canals, roads and rice fields
  + Weighing a wide range 92 to 241 grams and measuring 5.7 to 8.6 inches in length
  + They would construct deep vertical barrows and are primarily nocturnal

>What Do Hamsters Eat?

Hamster are ‘omnivores’ – this means wild hamsters eat a mix of plants and insects. The best diet for you hamster is one that’s similar to what they would eat in the wild, including fresh veg and protein-packed treats like mealworms.

Hamsters love to hoard their food. They pack extra food into special cheek pouches and then store it around their cage for later.

>The ideal hamster diet will include:

* Commercial hamster pellets. You can buy these in pet shops or online.
* Small amounts of fresh fruit, vegetables or herbs
* Occasional treats, like nuts, boiled egg or mealworms.
* You hamster will also need constant access to clean, fresh water. It can be put in water bottle with a metal spout or water dish.

Insert photo

>Healthy fruit, veg and herbs

These fruits, vegetables and herbs are all suitable for your hamster. Make sure you give them a good wash before you feed them to your hamster and only feed a small amount each day.

Vegetables:

* Carrot
* Broccoli
* Cabbage
* Cauliflower
* Chicory
* Spinach
* Sweet peppers
* Cucumber
* Cress
* Courgette

Fruits:

* Apple
* Pear
* Peach
* Melon

Herbs:

* Basil
* Sage
* Parsley
* Coriander

>Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Hamster

There are some foods that should not be fed to your hamster such us.

Fruits

* Citrus fruits
* avocado

Vegetables

* Onions
* Garlic
* chives
* Chili peppers
* Pickels
* Raw potatoes

Other foods

* Candy
* Chocolate
* Spices/seasoning

>How big should be your hamster cage

People think that because hamster is a small animal it is ok for them to have a small cage. But in reality, hamster needs a big cage, because they are active animals. In the wild, hamsters make burrows, climb and walk for miles each day. So, in order for them to thrive and be happy they need to have a big cage that at least have 800 square inches of floor space that is also deep enough to accommodate 10 inches of suitable bedding. Wherein you can put different enrichment in to stimulate the things they usually do in wild.

>How to measure floor space

To measure the floor space of your cage you need to measure the width and length of your cage and multiply the figures together.

Insert picture

>What will happen if you have small cage

Small cages can cause repetitive boredom behaviors for hamsters which can lead to stress that will result for hamster to be prone to health issues as well as shortened lifespan. This boredom behaviors includes

bar biting or cage chewing,(insert vid)

cage aggression ,(insert vid)

cage pacing,(insert vid)

monkey barring ,(insert vid)

>What type of cage should you get

Most hamster cages sold in shops aren’t big enough to even meet a hamster’s most basic needs, so instead of buying the cage on the pet shops , we recommend providing them with a much larger space, such as an extra-large cage, glass tank, or home-made enclosure such as bin-cage.

>Suitable bedding

Safe hamster beddings

It’s really important to give your hamster a deep (approx. 25cm/10 inches) layer of bedding so they can burrow like they would in the wild. They use the burrow for sleeping, hiding and storing food so it’s important to use a bedding that will hold its structure when tunneled into.

Examples of safe bedding include:

Paper-based bedding – this is a really good option and can be used on its own or with other types mixed in.

Aspen, spruce or hemp bedding – similar to sawdust/wood shavings but made from hardwood and dust free. However, they aren’t great at supporting burrows, so you’ll need to add a paper-based bedding for extra stability.

Toilet paper – unscented, and the cheaper the better because thick toilet paper can cause gut blockages if eaten.

Soft hay – hay is a great addition to any of the beddings above, and will help add extra structure and stability to your hamster’s burrows.

>Unsafe hamster beddings

Some beddings marketed as ‘suitable for hamsters’ are unsafe, such as:

Pine/cedar shavings – wood shavings and sawdust are very dusty and can cause breathing problems.

Fluffy beddings – such as cotton wool, kapok, and bamboo fluff, these are often marketed as safe for hamsters but can cause injuries by getting wrapped around their legs, and life-threatening gut blockages if ingested.

Scented bedding – the scent will irritate your hamsters’ airways.

Shredded newspaper – the ink can be toxic to hamsters.

>What is a hamster sand bath?

A sand bath is quite different to the regular sort of bath we might give our pet dogs. A sand bath is a pet-safe sand poured into a container that is shallow enough for your hamster to get in and out of. And large enough to roll about in. Rather than using soap and water to wash away any dirt from your pet’s fur, your hamster will roll around and play in the sand. This removes grease and dirt from their fur.

>Do hamsters need sand baths?

Hamsters need sand baths because they cannot be bathed in water like a dog or other animals. When a hamster gets bathed with soap and water it removes a lot of the good oils in their coat and it can wreck their coat, so a good way to get rid of any excess oil in their coat is to provide them with a sand bath.

>What sand should you use

There quite a few varieties of sand available and advertised as safe for small animals, however not all of them are actually safe. In choosing for a sand bath for your hamster you should avoid anything that is labeled dust or powder. Hamsters have delicate respiratory systems, so inhaling fine particles of dust may cause infections and other health issues. The type of sand you can used are the following

* Play Sand
* Plain reptile sand
* Aquarium sand

> Hamster in the wild would travel 5.5 miles per night. And in order for them to mimic this activity they need to have hamster wheels

> Sizes of Wheels

The size of your hamster wheel depends on the size of your full-grown hamster. Your hamster should be able to run in the wheel without its back arching, but if the wheel is too big, your hamster will have a difficult time actually running and moving the wheel.

>Wheel type

In addition to providing the correct size wheel for your hamster, it's essential to choose the appropriate constructive material. Wheel surfaces should not be too smooth as to provide enough grip, but also not too rough to damage a hamster’s footpads.

Any surface can cause footpad lesions if your hamster runs excessively, so it's essential to provide a varied environment for exercise in addition to their wheel enrichment.

Wheels featuring open metal slots are not recommended because hamster feet can easily become stuck and cause injury.

Metal wheels with mesh overlay are an acceptable option, but closely monitor your hamster for any foot lesions—excessive running on this type of wheel can cause footpad injuries.

Plastic wheels with small ridges or a textured surface have been shown to cause the least injuries.

>Hideouts

hamster is a pray animals that is why they need hideouts to sleep in or just go somewhere to feel safe. There are plenty of different types of hideouts

* Wooden hideouts insert photo
* Ceramic hideouts insert photo
* Multi chamber hideouts insert photo
* Diy hideouts insert photo

>Chew toys

Hamsters are small rodents. The word “rodent” comes from the Latin word “rodere,” which means “to gnaw.” Gnawing is a very important activity for hamsters, as their upper and lower front teeth (known as incisors), are covered by yellow-orange enamel and continuously grow throughout their life. It is critical that these small animals gnaw to wear down their continuously growing front teeth as they grow.

To lessen the chance of developing overgrown incisors, hamsters should be given small, soft wood blocks or other appropriate wooden chew toys made for small rodents on which they can chew and wear down their teeth.