

## **IMPORT OF HAMSTER**

March 27, 2002  
Osaka customs

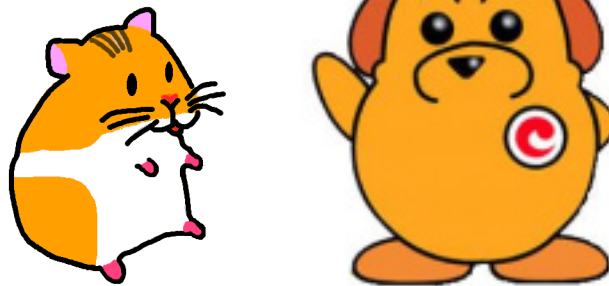
**If You Want a Pet, How About a HAMSTER !?**

☆ **A Million Head** Came to Japan in 2001!! ☆

Speaking of a hamster, it has become a synonymous with lovely small animals. A number of comic books and the book on the ways of breeding have been published, which have become animation or a computer game, and home pages on the hamster kept by oneself are so many now.

Hamster, more easily bred than the other animals, seems to be selected by many as pets.

A hamster was kept newly in a certain house. Let's see the situation of face-to-face meeting with a dog kept for long time.



Custom: Well, nice to see you. I'm "Custom", a dog.

Hamham: How do you do? I'm "Hamham", golden hamster. I am pleased to see you.

Custom: I am pleased to see you, too. By the way, where did you come from?

Hamham: I came to Japan from Holland by plane.

Custom: It's far away from here. Isn't it?

Hamham: The other comrade came from Czech Republic and South Korea.

In 2001, comrade of a million came to Japan.

Custom: Oh! Ghastly! Do they have all hair color of brown and white like you?

Hamham: Some have various colors. A pearl white and a black and white hamham etc.

Custom: You are small and lovely and have many kinds of hair color.

That's the secret of the latest rising popularity.

.....I would like to dye the color of my hair.

From April 1 to 7 is a pet week, and this time there are special stories on hamster, a pet with rising popularity.

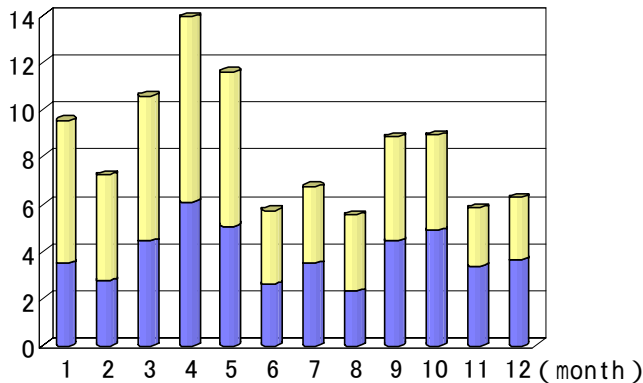


## IMPORT TREND

Import in all Japan in 2001 was 1,005,488 head in quantity and 165 million yen in amount. Import in Kinki region in 2001 was 466,011 head, and 70 million yen in amount. Share to all Japan was 46.3% in quantity and 42.3% in amount.

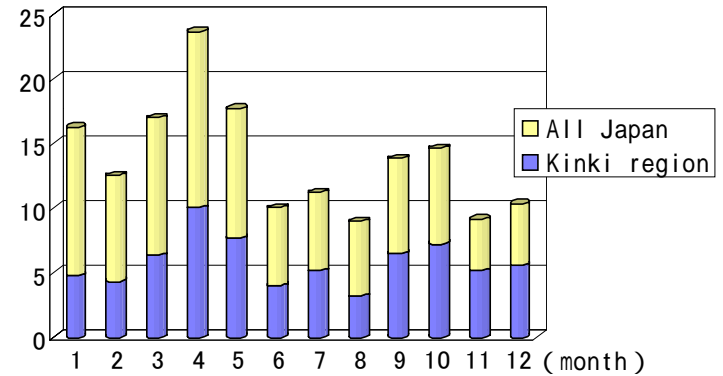
**TREND OF IMPORT QUANTITY (2001)**

(10 thousand head)



**TREND OF IMPORT AMOUNT (2001)**

¥ Million



The reason why that import was extremely increased in April is as follows:

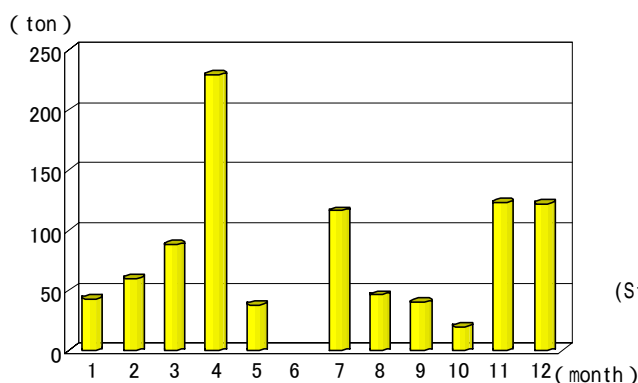
According to pet shop, many people who begin to breed hamster select a baby or child hamster. But infant hamster that is still poor in physical condition is apt to injure health resulting in death by a mere trifle in some cases. Then most people begin to breed it in spring and autumn, the suitable season for a hamster to pass. Besides in April there are many people who begin to breed adapting to new term and new life. Accordingly April is a prominent month.

Also in Golden Week, the week between 29 April and 5 May, which includes three national holidays, many pet shops make a sale campaign counting on the increasing parents and their children in this season, which is also a cause of prominence.

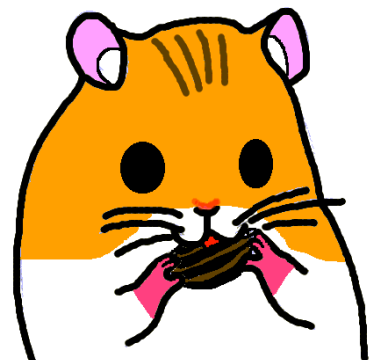
### A Little Knowledge on Hamham (1)

We think that you have understood a number of hamsters are imported in April, but there is another one thing that increases in April. It's "seed of sunflower"! It's our favorite. According to pet shop, many of those who have bought hamsters also buy seed of sunflower as bait at the same time. Which is more, the one from which oil is taken and which is used as sowing or the one which we take as food?

**IMPORT OF SUNFLOWER SEED (Kinki Region, 2001)**



(Statistical Item No.1206)



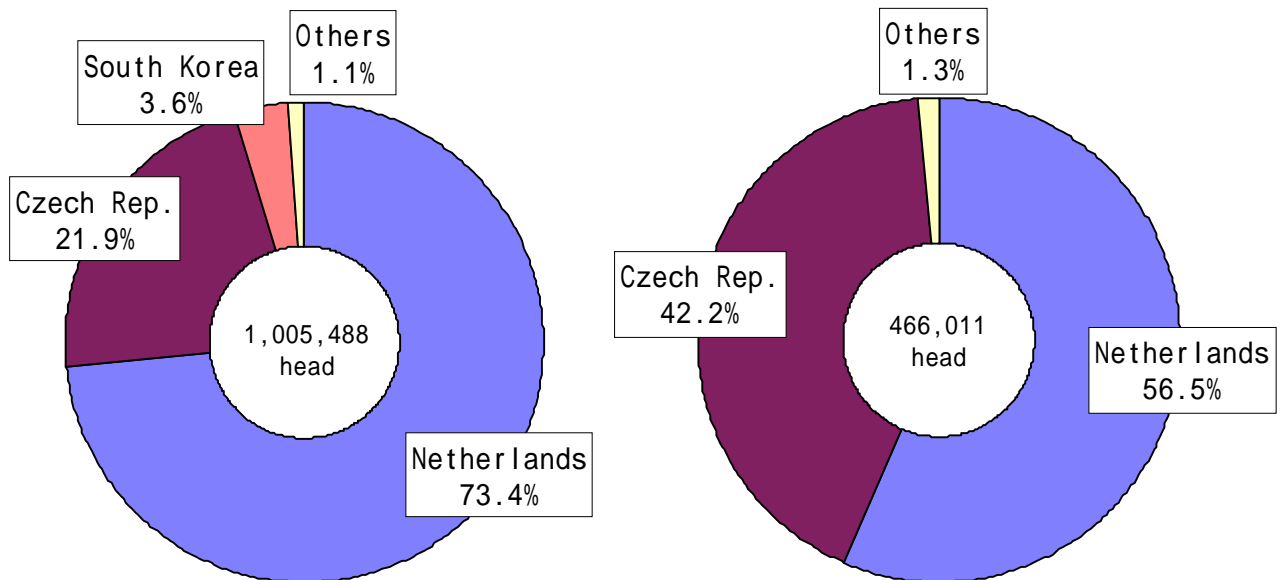


## TREND BY COUNTRY

The component ratio by country of import quantity in all Japan in 2001 was Netherlands 737,543 head, 73.4%, Czech Republic 219,985 head, 21.9% and South Korea 35,997 head, 3.6%. The component ratio by country of import amount was Netherlands 125 million yen, 75.9%, Czech Republic 26 million yen, 15.7% and South Korea 6 million yen, 3.8%.

The component ratio by country of import quantity in Kinki in 2001 was Netherlands 263,410 head, 56.5% and Czech Republic 196,711 head, 42.2%. The component ratio by country of import amount was Netherlands 46 million yen, 66.5% and Czech Republic 22 million yen, 32.2%.

IMPORT QUANTITY COMPONENT RATIO BY COUNTRY  
ALL JAPAN KINKI REGION



### A Little Knowledge on Hamham (2)

The word "hamster" came from a German meaning "store up". We think that we hamster store up plenty of our feed in our cheek pouch, don't we? This is the remains of a behavior that wild hamsters keep baits in their cheek pouch and eat them after carrying into safe nest.

There is no need to do so, as in the breeding case it is safe. Don't you think our face with cheek pouch stored up with plenty of baits pretty?



## SECRET OF POPULARITY OF HAMSTER

Most of hamster is bred as pet. The main reason why a million head of hamster are imported in 2001 is that many people began to keep them due to a boom. Then as to the reason why popularity of hamster is rising, the secret is probed as follows:

### ***Tiny and dear !***

The small body, cute behavior and dear face when they store up baits in their cheek pouch attract people's mind. According to pet shops, some people who were so moved that they bought them on impulse on the spot.

### ***Animation at a great break!***

The boom of hamster is greatly due to popularity of animation. There are many cases that those who began to like hamsters after looking at animation and they would like to breed them by themselves. According to pet shop, main purchasing class is school children especially girl student, who asked their parents to buy them. Then the case of the couple in their twenties, who comes to pet shop and mainly a woman often buys them. The reason why there are many feminine owners may be due to influence of animation.

### ***So small that no space is necessary!***

If you want to keep a large-sized animal, the necessary space must be secured. But in case of hamster, only a breeding case will be enough. You can keep it even in an apartment or mansion. As several types of breeding case are sold at pet shop, you had better buy it adjusting to your house.

Even at apartment or mansion where breeding is prohibited, there is somewhere breeding of small animal such as hamster and bird is permitted, they say.

### ***Easy to breed!***

Hamster is the living thing that a beginner is easy to keep. In the case of a dog, for example, you must take him to the outside. But a hamster is small, so if you let it go in a room and it will be sufficient walk.

Some dogs bark in a loud voice, but hamsters don't basically. And they don't smell comparably and they don't bother everyone in the neighborhood.

(Even if breeding is easy, but please take the responsibility for breeding to the end, since you take care of its life.)

### ***Pet shop is by your side hand!***

Such scenes are common now that a pet shop moves into a super market as a tenant, or to drop in a pet shop by the way of shopping of other goods as home center began to sell pets.

Furthermore, such hamster related articles as breeding case etc. began to be sold, and baits for hamsters were added to items of uniform 100 yen-shop, making care easy after you have bred them.

### **Moderate price!**

Hamster became familiar to us in the side of price. In case of Djungarian hamster, it is sold at about 500 yen now, though it was sold around 2,000-5,000 yen a few years ago. Of course, hamster with hair color of scarcity value is expensive, but the hamster with common color is never so dear.

### **You can select your favorite hamster!**

Formerly hamster is represented by golden hamster, but now Djungarian hamster etc. is imported, which makes wide latitude of choice in purchasing. You can select hamster that is easy to breed as each one has its peculiarity in character and in size of body. Some people keep each one head of different kind.

By mating, hamsters with various hairs have been born. So you can breed the hamster with your favorite color as black-white spotted panda and albino with white hair and red eyes etc.

### **Hamster is an eternal friend!**

The life span of a hamster is two or three years though it is different according to the kind.

In some cases, it is shorter according to the condition of environment.

According to pet shop, many owners of hamster will breed it again when their hamsters are dead leaving no children or they died of disease or from a wound. It may be true that once you know the charm of hamster then you want to breed it one after another.

### **There are a few breeders!**

As there are a few breeders who manage propagation, import will keep on continuing to meet the demand of breeder. Last year a million head of hamster came to Japan. They must be treated with affection by this time as pet by each owner.

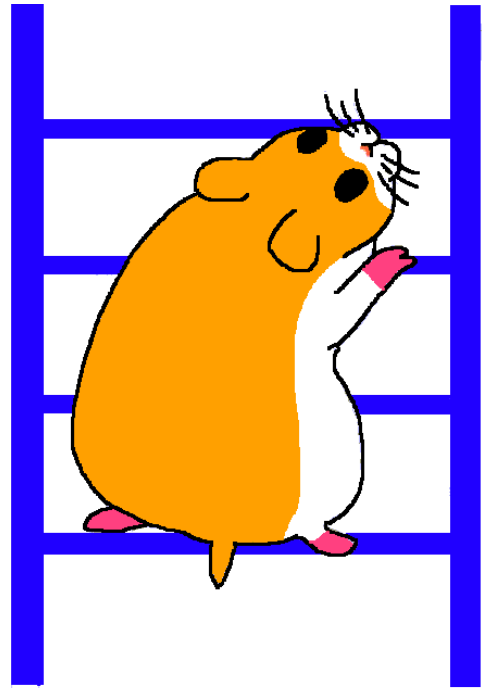
### **Touching zoological garden!**

The popularity of touching zoological garden is rising among those who can not keep pet according to the situation even if they want to do so and those who is at a loss whether to keep. There seems to be some kindergartens and elementary schools which adopt touching zoological garden as a course of excursion.

Besides it seems that the touching zoological garden of official trip style visiting the meeting place of event on demand is increasing.

There are some hamsters in almost touching zoological garden. The reason why is that even those who are fearful and cannot touch large animals can touch small hamster in safety mostly.

According to touching zoological garden, there seems to be those who decided to keep hamster after touching hamster there.





## PRINCIPAL KINDS OF HAMSTER

Kind	Main birthplace	Height (cm)	Hair color	Peculiarity
Golden	Europe Middle East	12 ~ 20	Brown(abdomen, white), black, silver, panda etc.	The largest, Easily tamed Long hair kind and short hair kind,
Djungarian	Siberia North China	7 ~ 11	Gray, pearl white, blue sapphire etc.	Tame character, Most popular now
Campbell	Mongol North China Shore of Lake Baikal	8 ~ 12	Gray, yellow, albino etc.	A little sharp temper
Roborovsky	Russia	5 ~ 7	Only light brown (abdomen, white)	The smallest, Quick movement, Timidity
Chinese	China	8 ~ 12	Gray, pearl, silver, brown etc.	Outward appearance similar to rat, Tame character, Excrement almost scentless

Note: Birthplace and breeding place (export country) is different

### A Little Knowledge on Hamham (3)

Djungarian, Campbelle, Roborovsky and Chinese hamsters are called dwarf hamster. Dwarf is an English word meaning "little" etc. The name is called after that these hamsters are smaller than golden hamster that was famous already.

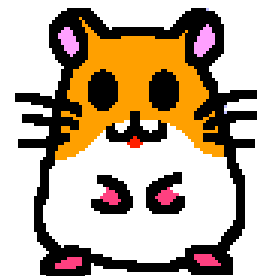
### A Little Knowledge on Hamham (4)

Now the most popular one is "Djungarian hamster", as it is small body compared with golden hamster and it is easily tamed as well as well-behaved character.

The one with pearl white and blue sapphire hair is favorite.



Djungarian  
Hamster



Golden  
Hamster



## COMING FORESIGHT

According to the industry, the popularity of hamster will keep on rising from now on and import will be increased favorably.

Statistical Items No:0106.00-151(newly set up in 2001).

## ☆ IMPORT OF HAMSTER ☆

ALL JAPAN

(Unit/ number: head, amount: ¥thousand)

### MONTHLY TRANSITION IN 2001

Month	Quantity	Amount	Yen/head
1	95,139	16,203	170
2	72,089	12,535	174
3	105,622	16,933	160
4	138,818	23,580	170
5	115,688	17,665	153
6	57,208	10,033	175
7	67,293	11,188	166
8	55,427	8,976	162
9	88,245	13,809	156
10	89,118	14,575	164
11	58,374	9,131	156
12	62,467	10,319	165
Total	1,005,488	164,947	164

### MAJOR IMPORT COUNTRY IN 2001

Country	Quantity	Amount	Yen/head	Ratio to Quantity	Ratio to Amount
Netherlands	737,543	125,115	170	73.4%	75.9%
Czech Rep.	219,985	25,840	117	21.9%	15.7%
South Korea	35,997	6,186	172	3.6%	3.8%

KINKI REGION

### MONTHLY TRANSITION IN 2001

Month	Quantity	Amount	Yen/head	% to All Japan (Quantity)	% to All Japan (Amount)
1	34,813	4,747	136	36.6%	29.3%
2	27,679	4,332	157	38.4%	34.6%
3	44,160	6,339	144	41.8%	37.4%
4	60,880	10,014	164	43.9%	42.5%
5	50,710	7,652	151	43.8%	43.3%
6	26,313	3,953	150	46.0%	39.4%
7	34,756	5,219	150	51.6%	46.6%
8	23,330	3,206	137	42.1%	35.7%
9	44,289	6,440	145	50.2%	46.6%
10	48,941	7,207	147	54.9%	49.4%
11	33,781	5,214	154	57.9%	57.1%
12	36,359	5,525	152	58.2%	53.5%
Total	466,011	69,848	150	46.3%	42.3%

### MAJOR IMPORT COUNTRY IN 2001

Country	Quantity	Amount	Yen/head	Ratio to Quantity	Ratio to Amount
Netherlands	263,410	46,467	176	56.5%	66.5%
Czech Rep.	196,711	22,461	114	42.2%	32.2%

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Questions should be referred to:

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Phone: 81-6-6576-3240

Homepage: <http://www.osaka-customs.go.jp>

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