



pets in the classroom



CARE SHEET

DWARF HAMSTER

Housing

Your Dwarf Hamster needs a home large enough for a food dish and water bottle, plus a hiding area and an exercise wheel. There should be plenty of room for all cage accessories, and for your hamster to move around freely. The minimum cage size is 12x12x12" with wire spacing no larger than 1/2" apart. It should have enough room for your hamster to flip and roll around. Dwarf Hamsters can be friendly and social if raised together, but must be housed in same gender pairs only.

Environment

Hamsters do not need extra heating or cooling elements in their cages but the cages should be placed in a safe, cool 65-75° F (18-24° C), low humidity area, out of direct sunlight. Hamsters love to hide and burrow, the habitat should have a minimum of 1-2" of clean aspen, pine or recycled paper bedding. Cedar shavings are not recommended. Hamsters also like to shred material and make sleep areas. Paper or cotton fabrics are acceptable. Hamsters have tons of energy and need to run on a wheel in their habitat, or in an exercise ball daily. Hamsters are also social and playful, but are nocturnal, meaning they will sleep during the day and be awake at night. While they are very sound sleepers, they often become startled or afraid when awoken. Take extra care when waking your hamster and handling it as it may bite.

Care

A hamster's diet should consist of high-quality hamster pellets and limited amounts of grains, vegetables, fruits and timothy hay. Dwarf Hamsters groom frequently while awake. Add 2" of bath dust to a container 2-3 times per week to let your hamster take a dust bath for 10-20 minutes. Bedding should be spot cleaned weekly and completely changed monthly. And since its front teeth never stop growing, your hamster should have healthy things to chew on like treat sticks and chews at all times.