



HAMSTER CARE GUIDE: SAFE HANDLING AND GROOMING

SAFE HANDLING

Trust: It is best to let your hamster come to you before reaching in to pick it up—this develops trust. Talk to your hamster and let it sniff your hand to announce your presence. Hamsters have very poor eyesight and this will help prevent startling them. A great way to earn your hamster's trust is to place a treat in the palm of your hand and just rest your hand flat, palm up on the floor of the cage without moving. Leave it there for as long as you are able. Eventually, your hamster will be curious and comfortable enough to come up and sniff you, then climb into your hand to take the treat. Be patient. It may take several tries over several days. In time you will be able to have your pet come up to you without a treat. Once your hamster is comfortable being in your hand, it will be easy to pick them up. Then you can take them out of the cage for play time.



Dental Care: You do not need to brush your hamster's teeth but you must provide plenty of chew toys so your hamster can wear down its teeth naturally. Check your hamster's teeth regularly to be sure they are not overgrown or misaligned.

Nails: Generally, hamsters do not need their nails trimmed and will wear down their claws naturally, especially if you provide your pet with a brick or something similar to run on. It is not recommended that you cut your hamster's nails as their toes are very tiny and the risk of cutting of a toe is high.

Dust Bath: Dwarf hamsters often enjoy rolling around in dust baths which actually help keep their fur clean. Use only dust made for small animals. Never use play sand. Place a small amount of dust in a hamster dust bath house or a small dish and allow your hamster to roll around. Remove from the cage once your hamster is finished or he may use it as a toilet! Change the dust if it gets coarse or dirty.

PICKING UP YOUR HAMSTER

It is ideal to you train your hamster to hop in your hand then pick it up. Until then, you can gently scoop them from underneath if needed to put them in an exercise ball or for brushing. Once your hamster is comfortable being picked up and handled, you can let it run around you.

GROOMING

Bathing: Hamsters are fastidiously clean animals and spend a large part of their time grooming themselves. Never bathe your hamster.

Brushing: Long-haired Syrian hamsters may occasionally need to be brushed. Use a soft bristled brush or a toothbrush.