

Syrian hamster

Mesocricetus auratus

🇫🇷 Hamster · 🇩🇪 Goldhamster



REGULATIONS

Companion animal

OPAn: minimum enclosure sizes, deep substrate for burrowing; golden hamsters typically solitary (separate housing). Professional trade: competence required.



LIFESPAN

1.5–2.5 years



ADULT WEIGHT

27–150 g



LIFESTYLE

Nocturnal / Solitary



BODY TEMPERATURE

37–38 °C



SEXUAL MATURITY

42–56 days



GESTATION

15–18 days



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

4–14



Habitat & environment



Type — Large multi-level cage, sheltered from drafts



Substrate — Plant-based bedding (hemp, corncob), paper (Twistynest), cellulose (Carefresh), towels, DryBed®, Toftbo® mats or blankets. Avoid cedar and pine.



Equipment

- Wheel (appropriate diameter)
- Branches to gnaw (hazel)
- Hideouts (PVC pipe, small house)
- Sand bath
- Food bowl
- Water bottle or heavy water bowl (refresh daily)



Technical parameters



Ambient

21–25 °C

Heatstroke >28 °C



Lighting



Photoperiod — Natural cycle (at least 12 h)

Prevent torpor when days are too short or temperature low.



Behaviour

Strictly solitary and territorial. Uses cheek pouches to transport food.



Social life — Does not tolerate cohabitation (especially females).



Activity cycle — Nocturnal, very active at night.



Enrichment

- Running wheel
- Tunnels and mazes (PVC)



Nutrition

Vegetarian with omnivorous tendencies. Pellets or extruded food (<5% fat) to prevent selective feeding.

Daily base

Pellet

Brands: Oxbow, Supreme Science, Beaphar

Vegetables & greens

Fresh and/or dried vegetables 1 to 2 times per day.

Endive

Carrot

Lettuce Lettuce

★ Treats (occasional)

Animal protein (occasionally). Remove uneaten fruit after 12 hrs.

White Fish White fish fillet

Hard-boiled Egg White Soy Milk

White Meat

TO AVOID

Seed Mix Predisposes to obesity

Table Scraps

Citrus Cabbage Cabbages / Brassicas

Potato Raw Chocolate

Health & prevention

Preventive medicine

Avoid drafts and dusty bedding. Monitor weight. Provide a cool spot during hot weather.

Vaccination

None

Surgery & neutering

Castration (male): prevents testicular tumours and reduces seborrhoea. Spaying (female, from 4 months) if necessary.

WARNING SIGNS

- Wet tail (diarrhoea)
- Hair loss
- Breathing difficulties
- Lethargy (torpor if <12 hrs of light)

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.

Even more on nacvet.ch

The online sheet is updated regularly with enriched content: new photos, refreshed recommendations, related advice articles. Scan this code to open the web version of this sheet.

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