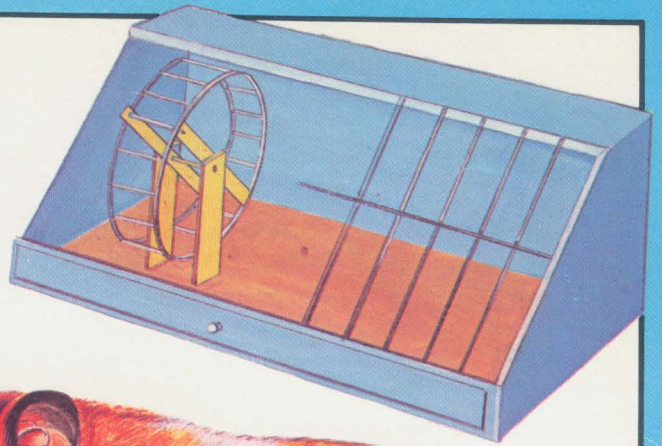


What is a hamster?



A hamster cage should be made of metal or hardwood and include a treadwheel.



Hamsters are timid animals with sharp teeth, but once tamed they make fine pets.

Hamsters are cute little rodents with stumpy tails. They are clean and healthy, and do not cost much to keep. Their name comes from a German word meaning *hoarder*. All pet golden hamsters are descended from a female with a litter of 12 babies discovered in Syria in 1930.



What do hamsters eat?

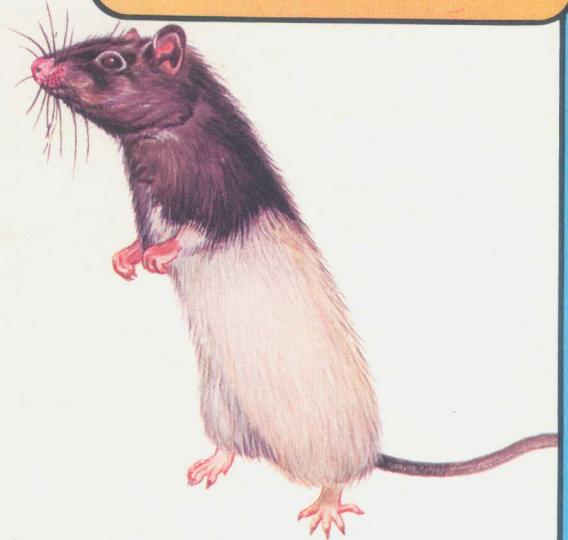
It is best to feed a hamster in the evening, because in the wild it is active at night.



There is no danger of overfeeding a hamster because it will hoard any food left over.

Hamsters, like other rodents, will eat almost anything. Favorite foods include sunflower seeds, dog biscuit-meal, and root vegetables. They also need a supply of fresh drinking water. When a hamster has had enough, it will stuff its cheek pouches with left-over food, and carry it to a secret hoard in some corner of its cage.

Do rats make good pets?



A rat makes a good pet, provided it is handled frequently and with care. Any sudden movement or rough treatment can make it bite. The more it is handled, the tamer it will get. The rat is an extremely healthy animal and causes little trouble. It is very inquisitive and is fun to watch.