



# Hamster

(Teddy Bear/ European Bear)

## Care Sheet

**Caging Needed:** A 10 gallon or equivalent aquarium makes a great home for a baby hamster. As an adult though, they will need at least a 20 gallon or equivalent set up. Aquarium tanks with screen top lids make great homes, but you can also use a hamster specific house. Always make sure the habitat has a solid bottom and if using a cage set up, make sure the bars are close enough together that your hamster will not squeeze out.

**Bedding:** Care fresh bedding is a great choice for bedding, very absorbent and great at odor control. You can also use shredded newspaper or pine shavings. Stay away from cedar bedding; it can poison your pet. Hamsters love to burrow, so make their bedding 2-4 inches thick.

**Accessories:** A water bottle, food dish, running wheel and hideaway house are necessary. Added toys, tunnels, chews, and hiding spots are always a bonus and will give your hamster a variety of things to do.

**Diet:** Use a prepared Hamster diet. Recommended brands: Oxbow and Kaytee are the top brands. Hamsters eat, on average, only about one to two tablespoons full of food per 24 hours. Most of their food they will put into "storage" somewhere in their cage for later. Unused food does not need to be thrown away, they will eat when they want to.

**Misc:** Hamsters are nocturnal; they are most active at dusk through the first morning hours. ALL TEDDY BEAR AND EUROPEAN BEAR HAMSTERS MUST BE HOUSED ALONE. They are solitary animals and will fight any other hamster living with them. Spot clean your tank daily, every week to 2 weeks clean out all soiled bedding and replace.

**Average Lifespan:** 2-3 years

