



Hamster

scientific name



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Hamsters are widely used in medical research and keep as children's pets. In 1956 it was discovered that hamsters can be infected with the common cold. This discovery is of great significance to cold-virus research, in that the hamster is the first small laboratory animal found to be susceptible to colds.

Habitat / Climate

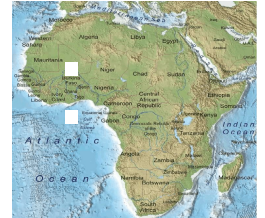
From desert heat to cool forrests

Where am I from?

Europe and North Africa; and Asia

Who are my relatives?

There are over 20 types of Hamster to be found, they are part of the rodent family so they have cousins as unusual as a Porcupine and a Muskrat.



Other family members:

- Gambian Rat
- Long nosed hociudo
- Capibara



Breeding

is from April to October, with two to five litters of 1 to 13 young

How am I born?

Our gestation period is 16 to 23 days. The average litter is about 7, we are born hairless and blind. After one week we begin to explore outside the nest. We are completely weaned after three weeks.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

We are able to start breeding between the ages of 4 weeks and 3 months depending on what type of Hamster we are. When seen from above, a sexually mature female hamster has a trim tail line; a male's tail line bulges on both sides. This might not be very visible in all species.

What kind of family life do I have?

We are primarily considered crepuscular and at one point were considered nocturnal as we are sometimes active all night. Some species have been observed to be more nocturnal than others. All hamsters are excellent diggers.

What do I eat and when do I eat?

Our diet contains a variety of foods, including dried food, berries, nuts, fresh fruits and vegetables. In the wild we will eat any wheat, nuts and small bits of fruit and vegetables that we might find lying around on the ground, and will occasionally eat small insects such as small crickets or mealworms. We have elongated fur-lined pouches on both sides of our heads which extend to our shoulders, which we stuff full of food to be brought back to the colony or to be eaten later.

Who are my predators?

Hunters like cats and ferrets would catch me in the wild.

Breeding Season

A	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
N	E	A	P	A	U	U	E	E	C	O	E
	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C

Names for:

- Adult male- Buck
- Adult female- Doe
- Young- Pup
- Group:- Colony



Comments:

Here at the Ranch we have several different types of Hamsters ,Like the Dwarf, Teddy Bear and the Golden Hamster.