



 **HEALTHY SIGNS & VET SIGNS**

# Is My Hamster OK?

Hamsters are tiny and get ill fast. Give them a quick look-over every single day.



Lives 2–3 years



Awake at night



One per cage



600+ sq in of floor space



## This looks healthy

What a well hamster looks like day to day.

- ✓ Bright, clear eyes — alert and curious
- ✓ Fur clean, with no bald patches or scabs
- ✓ Moves normally, with no limping
- ✓ Bottom and tail clean and dry
- ✓ Front teeth worn down, not sticking out
- ✓ Eating, drinking and running on the wheel at night
- ✓ Nails neat and unbroken



## Tell a grown-up — call the vet

Any of these means an exotic or small-animal vet should take a look.

- ! Eating much less, or much more
- ! Drinking much more or less than normal
- ! Low energy, or sleeping even more than usual
- ! Any unusual lump or swelling
- ! Fur loss, or a skin problem
- ! Overgrown front teeth
- ! Limping
- ! Runny eyes or nose

*Any change in how your hamster behaves or looks is worth a call to the vet.*



## Go now — this is an emergency

- ◆ Wet tail: watery poo with a wet, matted tail and belly — a hamster with this should see an exotic vet within 24 hours
- ◆ An eye pushed out of its socket
- ◆ Cold and stiff but still breathing — this can be 'torpor' from a cold room. Check the room hasn't dropped below 68°F, warm it up slowly, and call the vet
- ◆ Wheezing, or trouble breathing
- ◆ A hot, red, painful swelling (an abscess)



## Before you call: write this down for the vet

What did you notice? .....

When did it start? .....

Eating normally? .....

Drinking normally? .....

Poop and pee normal? .....

Anything else different? .....



## Put your vet's number here before you need it

Our vet ..... Phone .....

Emergency vet ..... Phone .....



If your pet has eaten something they shouldn't have, a grown-up can call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center on (888) 426-4435, any hour of any day. A consultation fee may apply.

Healthy signs: Merck Veterinary Manual. Vet signs: PDSA, RSPCA. Wet tail: PetMD.  
Torpor: PDSA. This sheet helps you notice — it is not a diagnosis. When in doubt, call your vet.