



Chinese Hamster Care Guide

Cricetulus griseus

Chinese hamsters, also commonly referred to as Chinese dwarf hamsters, are a unique species of domesticated hamsters. With a mousey face and long tail, Chinese hamsters are often mistaken for mice due to their similar appearance. Chinese hamsters require mostly the same care standards as other species of dwarf hamsters but may require a larger diameter wheel because of their long bodies.

Chinese hamsters are also one of the least common hamster species in the pet trade.



A young Chinese hamster

What They Need

- Enclosure with a secure lid and a recommended 800+ square inches of unbroken floor space (600 square inches is the bare minimum)
- Accessible water source
- At least 6-8" of safe bedding (deeper is better, 10"+ is recommended)
- 10-12" diameter wheel with solid running track (larger is better)
- Sand bath with unscented + calcium free reptile sand
- At least 2 opaque hideouts with 2"+ entrance hole diameter
 - Multi-chamber hide highly recommended
- Appropriate food mix (high-variety seed-mix and lab blocks)
 - Food can either be offered in a bowl or scattered around!
 - Occasional fresh foods (fruit sparingly - diabetes risk)
- More accessories and enrichment like sprays, herbs, bridges, tunnels, and additional substrates



Chinese Hamster Care Guide

(continued)

Recommended Items List (non-exhaustive)

Enclosures:

- Niteangel Bigger World (Medium or Large)
- Niteangel Vista (Medium or Large)
- 40+ Gallon Aquariums
- IKEA Pax Hack
- IKEA Linnmon Hack
- 50 gallon Sterilite Bin
- Various DIYs

Wheels:

- Niteangel Silent Spinner (Medium or Large)
- Exotic Nutrition Silent Runner (12")
- Bucatstate Acrylic Wheel (10.2" or 12.5")
- Niteangel Acrylic Wheel (Medium or Large)

Bedding:

- Aspen shavings
- Rabbit Hole Hay
- Small Pet Select Paper
- Oxbow Pure Comfort

Sand:

- ZooMed Reptisand
- Exo-Terra Desert Sand
- CaribSea Super Naturals
- Niteangel Bath Sand

Hideouts:

- Niteangel Multichamber Hide
- FatPotatCreations (Etsy)

Diets:

- Bunny Nature DwarfHamsterDream Expert Flower (needs additional protein)
- RobinsGourmetFood (Etsy)
- Mazuri Rat + Mouse

Setup Inspiration (click the pictures to see more!)

Instructions on setting up an enriching enclosure can be found [here](#)





Chinese Hamster Care Guide

(continued)

Unsafe Items list

- Hamster balls/cars
- Mesh/bar wheels
- SnakShaks/"edible" hides
- Cotton/Kapok nesting material
- Coniferous wood accessories
- Pine/Cedar bedding
 - Unlabeled wood shavings
- Scented paper bedding
- Hamster leashes
- Calcium sand
- Chinchilla bath dust
- Vitamin/wet-tail drops
- Salt licks/mineral chew toys
- CritterTrail/Full Cheeks cages
- And many more!

Cleaning Guidelines

To maintain your enclosure, we recommend spot-cleaning every week, but cleaning frequency can depend on each hamster's habits. Spot-cleaning can include:

- Wiping/washing the wheel
- Removing soiled bedding and feces
- Sifting the sand bath
- Sweeping surfaces
- Removing empty sprays/other natural enrichment

A 1/3 or 1/2 clean is recommended every few months, and a complete clean should only be done when the hamster passes to mitigate unnecessary stress. More info on a full clean [here!](#)

Daily Routine

Daily routines can depend on the individual hamster's habits. This may include:

- Washing and refilling water sources
- Feeding
- Giving fresh food (see below)
- Health checks
 - More information can be found [here](#).

Fresh Foods

There are many safe fresh foods for Chinese hamsters. Fresh food should be fed 2-4 times a week in small portions. A full list of safe produce is linked [here](#), but fruit should be fed rarely due to risk of diabetes.