

Evergreen Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital

Holly G. Carter, BVetMed

12930 NE 125h Way, Ste B130, Kirkland, WA 98034

Ph: 425-821-6165 Fax: 425-821-6130

info@evergreenae.com

www.exopet.com

Dwarf Hamster FAQs

Dwarf Hamsters

Adapted from Vanderlip S, Dwarf Hamsters, Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Hauppauge NY, 2009

Scientific Name	<i>Phodopus campbelli</i>	<i>Phodopus sungorus</i>	<i>Phodopus roborovskii</i>	<i>Cricetulus griseus</i>
Common Names	Djungarian hamster, Campbell's hamster	Siberian hamster, Djungarian, Winter White hamster	Desert hamster, Roborovskii hamster	Chinese hamster
Other Names	Dwarf Russian hamster, Eastern Russian hamster	Dwarf Russian striped hairyfooted hamster, Western russian hamster	Dwarf Russian hamster, robby, robo	Ratlike hamster, striped hamster, striped-back hamster, grey hamster
Easiest to handle and tame	Sometimes quick, most likely to bite	Easy to handle, slow, sluggish, easy to tame	Challenging to handle, quick and jumpy	Easy to handle, friendly toward people
Native Range	Central Asia, Mongolia, Northern China, Southern Siberia	Kazakhstan, Manchuria, Mongolia Siberia	China, Mongolia, Russia	China
Natural Habitat	Steppes, dry steppes	Grasslands, steppes	Deserts, semi-deserts	Steppes, semi-deserts
Wild-type color	Gray-brown to light gray on back, ivory on sides, white on abdomen	Gray back, white abdomen, dark line separating gray and white fur (the "triple arch line"), color is almost entirely white in winter	Sandy shades from brown to brown-apricot	Gray to gray-brown, light gray abdomen
Natural Diet, Water source	Seeds; insects for water	Seeds; vegetation, some insects for water	Seeds, needs less water than other <i>Phodopus</i>	Seeds, vegetation for water
Captive breeding markings	Thin, dark gray stripe down back, ends 1 inch (2.5 cm) above base of tail; variety of coat colors	thick, black stripe down back that extends to base of tail; dark patch on head; also found in a few other colors	No stripe down back. Has white patch above each eye	Dark stripe down back; dark patch on crown of head; some individuals may have white spots

Dedicated to serving the health care needs of birds and exotic companion animals.

Body shape	Stocky, compact, less rounded back	Short, robust, compact, rounded back	Stocky, compact, rounded back	Long, slip, robust; similar to a rat, has short tail
Body length	3-4 inches (7.6-10 cm) Head shorter and less	4 inches (10 cm) deeper than	2 inches (5.1 cm)	4-5 inches (10-13 cm)
Head shape	deep than P.sungorus; eyes placed equal distance between ears and nose; broad nose	P.campbelli, convex face; large eyes set closer to ears than to nose	broad head, rounded when viewed from the back; large eyes	Elongated head with blunt muzzle; eyes placed almost equal distance between ears and nose
Weight	1 ounce (28.35 g)	1-2 ounces (28.35-56.7 g)	1/2 to 3/4 ounce (14-21 g)	1-1.5 ounces (28-42 g)
Scent glands	Mid-ventral scent glands, cheek pouch secretory sacculles, scent glands in skin behind ears	Mid-ventral scent gland, cheek pouch secretory sacculles	Mid-ventral scent glands	Mid-ventral scent glands, flank scent glands
Social and breeding behavior	Biparental: male's help raising pups very important to their survival. Easy to breed and raise in captivity: enjoys companionship and group housing	Uniparental: male may help raise pups but his help is not necessary for pup survival. Easy to breed and raise in captivity. Enjoy companionship and group housing	Easy to breed and raise in captivity. Can be colonial and group housed	Most difficult to breed and raise in captivity. Often prefers solitary housing. Can be very aggressive toward other hamsters
Male/Female pairs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Females can be very aggressive toward males and kill them
Male/Male pairs	No	Sometimes but not advised; use caution	Yes, but prefers colonial group housing	Yes, but use caution. Most prefer solitary housing
Female/Female pairs	Yes	Yes, but may quarrel	Yes, but prefers colonial group housing	No
Group Housing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Use caution; make sure animals do not fight
Safe to house with another species	No	No	No	No
Most active	February, March, early evenings, twilight	November, evening. Can conserve energy in cold conditions by becoming torporous if temperatures drop in range 41 deg F - 60 deg F (5 - 16 deg C)	November, late evenings	Spring, summer, anytime

Least active	November	February, March	February, March	Fall, winter
Life Span	1.5-2 years	1.5-2 years	3-3.5 years	2-3 years.
Number of chromosomes	28	28	34	22
Natural illness	Cancer,obesity	Diabetes	No known predisposition	Diabetes

Dedicated to serving the health care needs of birds and exotic companion animals.