

# Handling Your Hamster

Allow your hamster to settle in for at least 24 hours before trying to handle them. It will take every hamster a different amount of time to become comfortable enough to be handled; the process may take weeks or even months.

Remember, your hamster will sleep and rest during the day. This means that during the day is not a good time to disturb them. Always wait until your hamster is awake and running around before interacting with them.

## Using Your Voice

The first thing that your hamster needs to get used to is your voice. It doesn't matter what you say to your hamster as you are just trying to get them used to the sound of your voice!

## Handing Out Treats

After a couple of days you can start giving your hamster treats from your hand. At first, just put your hand close to the entrance of the habitat while holding a treat and wait for your hamster to come to you.

Your hamster will eventually come over to investigate the food and will hopefully take the treat from your hand.

Eventually your hamster should feel comfortable enough to climb onto your hand to eat the treat.

## Let Play Time Commence!

When you first start to hold your hamster you should make sure that you only hold them for a minute or two each day. Eventually your hamster will get excited at the prospect of playtime and you can start holding them for longer. It's best to keep your hands low and close to a surface when you handle your hamster. That way, there is always a safe surface for your hamster to land on should it wiggle and fall from your hands.

Much like humans, hamsters all have different personalities, so some hamsters will happily curl up and watch TV while being held while others will want to go and explore after a few minutes. Always make sure that the area is safe for your hamster to run around and explore before you take it out of their cage. There should be no dangerous obstacles or escape routes and no other pets in the room.

