

Name _____ Date _____

WHAT DO I FEED MY HAMSTER?

Hamsters are delicate animals. They need to eat a balanced diet, or they can become very sick. It is important that hamsters be fed only foods that are healthful for them.

Most pet stores sell hamster mix. This is a combination of foods that are just right for hamsters. Some hamsters are picky eaters, and you have to find a hamster mix that your hamster will like. Most hamsters only eat a few tablespoons a day. You should feed them at the same time every day, or you can just keep your hamster's bowl full. Remember to clean the bowl at least once a week. Hamsters also drink a lot of water, so be sure to keep the water supply full and fresh.

Just like people, hamsters like treats. In addition to the hamster mix, you can occasionally feed your hamster seeds, nuts, raisins, and some other people food. You should never feed your hamster anything unless you are sure that it is safe for hamsters. Hamsters have *cheek pouches*, little pockets in their mouths where they can store food. Foods that are not right for the hamster can get stuck in these pockets and make the hamster sick.

Feed your hamster carefully, and always take good care of your pet!

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *WHAT DO I FEED MY HAMSTER?*

1. Why do hamsters need a balanced diet?
 - a. So they don't fall down
 - b. So they don't become sick
 - c. So they don't get fat
 - d. Hamsters are picky eaters.

2. What does "hamsters are picky eaters" mean?
 - a. Hamsters like to pick up their food.
 - b. Hamsters eat food with special picks.
 - c. Hamsters don't eat foods they don't like.
 - d. Hamsters like to pick their food from the store.

3. How often should you clean the hamster bowl?
 - a. Every day
 - b. Every 30 days
 - c. Every 7 days
 - d. At the same time every day

4. When should you feed your hamster treats?
 - a. Sometimes
 - b. At least once a week
 - c. Every day
 - d. never

5. What does "people food" mean?
 - a. Food that people make
 - b. Food that people eat
 - c. Food that hamsters eat
 - d. Food that hamsters don't eat

6. What are "cheek pouches"?
 - a. Baggies for storing cheeks
 - b. Fat patches on the cheeks
 - c. Pockets inside of your cheeks
 - d. Pockets in hamster cheeks for storing food.

Reading Comprehension

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ANSWERS

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. d