

Wilmette Pet Center

"the place for people who love pets"

Meeting your new hamster



Hamsters are among the most popular pets. They're adorable and easy to care for. To help build the best relationship with your new pet, we recommend you slowly introducing yourself to the new hamster. She'll probably be asleep when you want to see her, so wake her slowly. We recommend you follow the schedule below:

1. Leave her alone for the first day. The move to her new digs can be *really* stressful for such a small animal. As exciting as it is, don't have a lot of your friends over to see your new pet. Giving them a day of quiet time lets them adjust and de-stress in their new home.
2. The second day, gently wake her, let her smell your palm and offer treats. No more. Hamsters don't see too well and explore their world through scent and their mouth. When they see this blur that is your finger tip, they may try nibbling on it to learn more about it. Fingers are easy to nip, but the flat of your palm would be harder for them to bite if they get startled. Great healthy treats, like Oxbow's Barley Biscuits and Sunseed's Garden Wafers, help your hamster learn that you're their friend.
3. The third day, offer her small pieces of a treat after waking, let her smell the palm of your hand, and then gently pet her. Pet her for few minutes then let her get back to sleep. Do this a couple of times a day to help her get used to you.
4. By the fourth day, you'll do all the above to gently wake her up, then gently scoop her up in your hand. If you are too nervous, it's best to sit on the floor, have your parents scoop the hamster up in their hidey hut, and let them put her in your hands. A bathtub makes a great place to handle your new friend for the first time; if they jump out of your hands, they are contained by the tub and won't be able to run under anything.



Go gentle and slow, and you'll soon have a great new friend! Want some more information? Check out our caresheet on hamsters [here](#) on our website, or stop by to talk with our trained staff about what your new friend will need!