



HAMSTER CARE: ENCLOSURES

A properly sized enclosure is vital to a hamster's happiness and well-being. Below are some of the minimum square inches of floorspace for Syrian and dwarf hamsters from different organizations. Keep in mind that some hamsters will be unhappy even in the biggest of enclosures, so it is still very important to provide your hamster with proper enrichment and upgrade their enclosure size if they continue to be unhappy. See the "enrichment" section for ways to enrich your hamster.

Minimum Square Inches of Floorspace:

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) - 200 sq in

Canadian Council on Animal Care - 100 sq in

PetSmart - 144 sq in for dwarf hamsters, 200 sq in for Syrian hamsters

Hamster Society Singapore - 434 sq in for dwarf hamsters, 620 sq in for Syrian hamsters

Hamster South Africa - 465 sq in for dwarf hamsters, 558 sq in for Syrian hamsters

Ontario Hamster Club & California Hamster Association - 450 sq in

Wood Green Animal Charity - 620 sq in

TVT (Germany's Veterinary Association for Animal Welfare) - 774 sq in

Victoria Raechel's minimum is 450 sq in but she recommends 800 sq in

Overall, the best thing to do is to give your hamster the biggest enclosure possible. The hamsters that come from Gretta's Hamster Rescue are in 40-gallon glass breeders from Petco that have **almost 650 sq in of floor space**. These enclosures provide room for plenty of bedding, lots of enrichment, a large hideout, a properly sized wheel, and a sand bath. However, please feel free to upgrade your hamster's enclosure to a bigger size.

