



MISFITS RESCUE

Roborovski Hamster Care Guide

Roborovski hamsters (often called “Robos”) are the smallest and fastest of all pet hamster species. They are lively, curious, and fascinating to watch, making them ideal for people who enjoy observing natural behaviour rather than frequent handling.

Temperament & Behaviour

- Roborovski hamsters are very active, quick, and alert
- They are less tolerant of handling than Syrian or some dwarf hamsters
- Best suited to hands-off interaction and enrichment-based care
- Most active at dusk and night
- Naturally inquisitive and thrive in complex, stimulating environments

Robos may become comfortable taking food from a hand over time, but many never enjoy being picked up — this is normal and should be respected.

Enclosure & Environment

Enclosure

Roborovski hamsters require more space than their size suggests, due to their high activity levels.

Recommended minimum enclosure size:

- 100cm (L) × 50cm (W) × 50cm (H)
Bigger is always better, especially floor space.

Suitable enclosure types

- Large tank-style enclosures (ideal for deep bedding)
- Barred cages with:
 - A solid base
 - Very narrow bar spacing to prevent escapes

Avoid:

- Small cages or “starter” habitats
- Wire or mesh flooring
- Shallow bases that prevent burrowing

Placement

- Quiet room away from direct sunlight and drafts
- Stable temperature (avoid overheating)
- Low-traffic areas to reduce stress



Bedding & Nesting

Roborovski hamsters are natural burrowers and need deep bedding.

Suitable bedding (examples)

- Paper-based bedding (dust-extracted)
- Aspen or other non-aromatic wood shavings
- Hemp bedding
- Corn-based bedding (chemical-free)

Provide at least 20–25cm depth to allow tunnelling.



Nesting material

- Shredded paper
- Unscented tissue paper
- Hay (small amounts)

Avoid fluffy/cotton nesting materials — these can cause injury or blockages.

Diet & Nutrition

Roborovski hamsters have high energy needs but very small stomachs.

Main diet

Feed a balanced hamster mix designed to provide:

- Seeds and grains
- Plant-based protein
- Small amounts of animal protein (e.g. insects)

Scatter feeding is strongly encouraged to support natural foraging behaviour.

Fresh foods (small amounts, a few times per week)

Examples:

- Broccoli
- Cucumber
- Courgette
- Spinach (very small amounts)
- Carrot (tiny portions)

Introduce new foods slowly and remove uneaten fresh food after a few hours.



Treats (very small & occasional)

Treats should be tiny and infrequent.

Examples of suitable treats:

- A small pinch of millet or grains
- Tiny pieces of dried herbs
- Occasional mealworms or insects
- A very small piece of apple or pear (rarely)

Avoid sugary, sticky, or fatty foods.

Enrichment & Exercise

Enrichment is essential for Roborovski hamsters.

Must-have enrichment

- Large solid running wheel (minimum 20cm diameter)
- Deep bedding for burrowing
- Multiple hides and tunnels
- Cork logs or wooden shelters

Additional enrichment ideas

- Sand bath (essential for coat care)
- Cardboard tubes and boxes
- Scatter feeding
- Natural chew items
- Multi-chamber hides

Rotate enrichment items regularly to prevent boredom.



Handling & Interaction

- Allow your hamster to settle before attempting interaction
- Use a cup or tunnel for transfers instead of hands
- Never chase or grab
- Supervise all out-of-enclosure time

Roborovskis are best enjoyed as watch-and-learn pets.



Health & Welfare

Check daily for:

- Changes in activity or appetite
- Limping or injuries
- Changes in coat condition
- Abnormal droppings



Seek veterinary advice if anything changes suddenly — small hamsters can decline quickly.