

# Stretch your Memory: Animals

<p><b>Hamsters:</b> Hamsters are easy pets to have. They are small and have soft fur. Hamsters are smaller than guinea pigs, so you can keep them in a smaller cage. Hamsters like to climb and run around in their cage. You should give them some toys like a hamster wheel or some branches and tunnels to play with. Hamsters sleep a lot during the day and they are active at night. Hamsters eat grains, nuts, vegetables and even dry cat food. You should not put your hamster's food in a bowl. Hide it in their cage, so they have to find it. This will keep your hamster busy.</p>	<p><b>Cats:</b> Cats are great pets. They are soft and cuddly. Cats like to be around people and they will purr when they sit on your lap. If you have a garden, let your cat go outside and catch some mice and small birds. If you do not have a garden, you should give your cat some toys to play with and something to climb on. Cats that live in an apartment need a litter box. You must clean the litter box every day. Cats like meat, milk and yoghurt and a little bit of cheese. You should always give your cat water, so they can drink a lot.</p>	<p><b>Dogs:</b> Dogs are very clever animals, but they need more care than cats. You must walk your dog 2 to 3 times a day. To walk your dog, you need a leash. When you take your dog to a place with many people you will also need a muzzle, so your dog cannot bite anyone. Dogs eat all kinds of food. Good dog food should contain meat, vegetables, grains and fruits. You must not give your dog any chocolate or sugar. It is very bad for your dog. You should train your dog when he is still a puppy. Dogs must be obedient and do what their master tells them to do.</p>	<p><b>Rabbits:</b> Rabbits are small and soft pets. Usually rabbits live in a rabbit hutch in the garden. Often rabbits are quite shy and do not want to be cuddled and held. Rabbits love to dig tunnels in the ground. Therefore, you should put some wire mesh (Drahtgitter) in the ground so they cannot dig deep tunnels and run away.  Some people keep rabbits in the house. These rabbits can learn to use a litter box just like cats. Rabbits do not eat meat. They love carrots, green leaves and all kinds of vegetables, fruits and grains. You should always give your rabbits enough water.</p>
<p><b>Snakes:</b> Some snakes can be kept as pets. The ball python and the corn snake are popular pet snakes. They are quite easy to care for, but they are not soft and cuddly like hamsters, rabbits or cats. You need a glass tank with a strong lid to keep your snake inside. You should give them some branches and stones, so they can explore their home or hide. Snakes in a tank will spend most of their time sleeping. This can be quite boring.  Snakes eat small mice or rats. You can buy them in a pet store.</p>	<p><b>Rats:</b> Rats can be very good pets. They are very intelligent and can learn lots of tricks. Rats recognize their owners and like to cuddle and climb around on them. They like to hide inside the owner's sleeves or sit on their shoulders. Rats eat almost everything. They eat meat, grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables.  Rats do not get very old. They usually live for 2 to 3 years. Rats sleep a lot during the day and they are very active at night. Rats do not like to be alone, so you should keep 2 or 3 rats in one cage.</p>	<p><b>Fish:</b> It is beautiful and calming to watch colorful fish that are swimming in a fish tank. Fish are quiet, and you do not need to walk them or clean their litter box. To keep your fish healthy, you need a glass tank with a filtration system and electric lights. You should put some nice stones and water plants at the bottom of the fish-tank. If you have a cat or a bird in your house, you should also have a lid on your fish tank. Otherwise, your cat could catch some fish and eat them.  Different types of fish eat very different things. Some eat plants and algae, others eat little worms and snails. You have to ask the staff at the pet shop what your fish eats.</p>	<p><b>Budgies</b> Originally, budgies are from Australia. There, they fly long distances to find their food. If you keep a budgie in a cage you should let it fly around in your room every day. Budgies eat grains, green leaves, small pieces of vegetables and fruits. You can also feed them weeds from the garden (Unkraut). Budgies always need clean water. You should fill their water bottle every day. The budgie's cage should be in a light place, but not in the direct sunlight. You must not feed your budgie chocolate or avocado. These are poisonous for budgies.</p>