

## General Signs of Illness

There are specific ailments your hamster can suffer from, and we'll go into those symptoms in just a bit. But first, here's an overview of some of the signs you should watch for to determine if something isn't right with your pet hamster.

- **Eyes**

Probably one of the easiest ways to determine if your hamster is not feeling well is to look at his eyes. In a healthy hamster the eyes will be bright and alert; however, in a sick hamster the eyes are often inflamed, with wetness on the fur around the edges of the eyes.

- **Fur**

Hamsters are very clean creatures, and seem to take pride in keeping their coat shiny and smooth. If you notice your hamster's coat looking disheveled and dull it's a sign that something could be wrong.

- **Nose**

A hamster's nose should always be dry and never damp or runny.

- **Anal Region**

Again, due to their clean nature, the only time you should notice anything but a clean rear end is when they're ill. If this region is wet or is covered in fecal matter then your hamster is definitely ill.

- **Body Shape**

A healthy and active hamster will have a relatively cylindrical shape. If his sides look sunken due to weight loss it could be the onset of diabetes, or dental problems.

- **General Behavior**

A healthy and happy hamster is lively and active, taking an interest in everything around him, especially when you pay a visit. If you notice your hamster is unusually sluggish or disinterested it's time to take notice.

## Specific Symptoms

Let's take a look at some of the more specific symptoms and their causes:

| Symptom                           | Possible Cause  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Blood in Urine                    | Aspergillus Fungus, Bladder and Kidney Infection                    |
| Excessive Soft Feces              | Aspergillus Fungus, Diarrhea, Wet Tail                              |
| Excessive Drinking                | Diabetes, Bladder and Kidney Infection                              |
| Excessive Scratching              | Allergy, Mange, Mites, Ringworm, Skin Infection                     |
| Excessive Urinating               | Aspergillus Fungus, Bladder and Kidney Infection, Diabetes          |
| Fur Loss                          | Allergy, Diet Deficiency, Age, Mange, Mites, Ringworm               |
| Irritation of Stomach and/or Feet | Allergy   |
| Lack of Coordination and Balance  | Ear Infection, Stroke   |
| Lack of Droppings                 | Constipation  |
| Lumps                             | Abscess, Tumor  |
| Runny Nose                        | Allergy, Cold   |
| Runny Eyes                        | Allergy, Cold, Eye Infection  |
| Scabs                             | Mange, Ringworm   |
| Sever Lethargy                    | Aspergillus Fungus, Dehydration, Heat Stroke, Lung Infection, Shock |
| Shivering                         | Cold, Shock, Lung Infection, Heat Stroke                            |
| Sneezing                          | Allergy, Cold   |
| Weight Loss                       | Diabetes, Dental Problems   |
| Wheezing                          | Allergy, Aspergillus Fungus, Cold, Lung Infection                   |