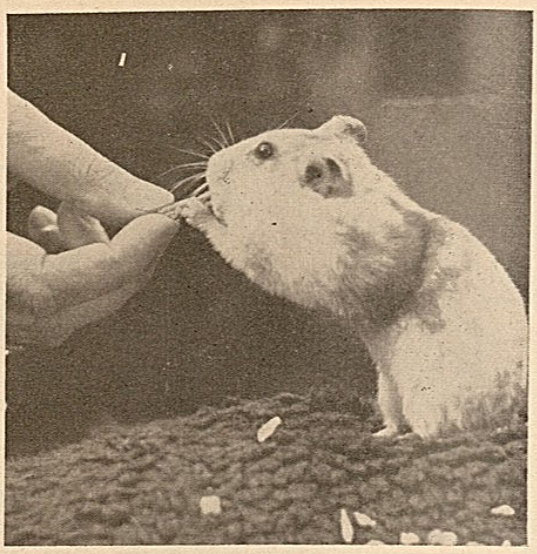
Hamster Mutations

by Alfred George Eldridge



A complete description of recognized varieties:

Dark Golden
Light Golden
Normal Golden
Ruby-eyed Fawn
Black-eyed Cream
Dark-eyed Albino
Golden Piebald
Cream Piebald
Ruby-eyed Fawn Piebald
Ruby-eyed Cream Piebald

Some few years have passed since the hamsters was introduced into the pet vocabulary, and during that time it has undergone some drastic changes. It is safe to say that no other pet has increased in popularity in so short a time, and it is this that has led to the magnificient colors now available. Improvements have come from work in England and America, and indeed some of turned up literally "out of the blue."



Three varieties: from top to bottom, albino, panda, cream.

The first color known was a somewhat grayish shade, for when a mother and her 12 kittens were taken into captivity in Syria, they were taken to a laboratory for research work. There the color was determined as Golden, but nothing compared with those available today. When the research people established this new rodent, some were made available as pets, and it is from these original 13 hamsters, that the present millions of pets have descended.

Here in England there are many attractive colors, and the original color of Golden has been segregated into three sections. In fact already there are 11 recognized shades or colors, with many others awaiting the standardization. One of the regulations governing the registration of new colors is that when the new variety is placed side by side with the existing types no possibility of confusion can arise. It must be capable of true breeding.

At a recent meeting of hamster specialists there was a galaxy of new varieties on show including — White-bellied Goldens, Black-eyed Whites, Piebalds in great variety, Silver Blues, Cinnamons (the name by which the Amber Golden of America will surely be called here in England), Golden Banded, Cream Banded, Broken Banded, Double Banded, Unbroken Banded, and many others. One of the specialists at this meeting said that the popular variety for 1960 would undoubtedly be the Cinnamon.

A brief description of the varieties recognized by the English National Hamster Council will be an advantage to all breeders of this fascinating rodent.

Dark Golden — top color rich, dark mahogany red, heavily ticked with black, color carried right down into the fur, with uniform under color of slate gray. Belly fur as near white as possible. Eyes and ears color shall be black.

Light Golden — top color fawny-gold, free from shadings and black hairs, under color pale gray. Belly fur as white as possible. Eye color black, ear color very dark gray, approaching black.

Normal Golden — top rich color of deep golden-brown, free from shadings, under color blue-gray, belly fur white as possible. Eye color should be black, ear color very dark gray, nearly black.

Ruby-eyed Fawn — top color clean bright fawn, free from shading and black hairs, under color uniform pale-gray. Belly fur as white as possible. Eye color, ruby, ear color pale gray.

Black-eyed Cream — the entire coat shall be a rich deep cream right down to the roots, with a warm pink tinge similar to a ripe peach. No other shading or marking is permissable. Eye color black, ear color very dark gray, nearly black.

Ruby-eyed Cream — the entire coat should be pale pastel cream right down to roots. Lighter and less yellowish in color than the black-eyed cream. Free from shadings/markings. Eye-ruby, ears flesh-colored.

Dark-eyed Albino — entire coat pure white to the roots, with no shading or markings. Dirty/stained fur

(Continued on next page.)

heavily penalized. Eye color, bright clear pink, with ear color dark gray, nearly black.

Golden Piebald — appearance of a white animal with brown markings. The markings to be the same rich golden brown of a normal golden, evenly broken into equal amounts of brown and white on upper part of coat. White areas and belly fur pure white fur to the roots. Eye color usually black, but ruby permissable. Ear color very dark gray, but may be partly or entirely fleshcolored.

(A golden Piebald hamster is a Golden Hamster on which parts of the coat are devoid of pigment; these parts are white.)

Cream Piebald — Coat to be a mixture of cream and white, the cream being the same rich color of the Black-eyed cream, the white being pure to the roots. Markings sharply defined, and evenly distributed. Eye color usually black, ruby permissable. Ear color dark gray, but may be partly or entirely flesh colored.

Ruby-eyed Fawn Piebald — a white animal with fawn markings. Markings to be clean and sharply defined as the Ruby-eyed fawn, evenly broken and equally distributed. White areas to be white

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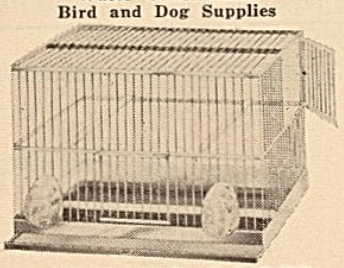
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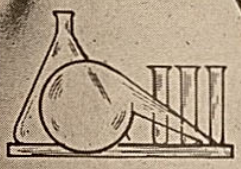


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Hamsters

right down. Eye color usually ruby, but pink eye or eyes permissable. Ear color light gray.

Ruby-eyed Cream Piebald — coat to be a mixture of pale cream and white. Cream being pastel shade of Ruby-eyed cream. Markings evenly broken, sharply defined and equally distributed. Eye color ruby, though pink eye or eyes allowed. Ear color, flesh colored.

Note — If pigment is absent in the region of eyes and ears in the Piebald hamsters, one or both eyes may have a ruby tint due to blood vessels showing through, and one or both ears may be partly or wholly flesh-colored.)

Since this article was prepared five new standards have been adopted for other varieties of Hamsters — Albino, Black-eyed White, Cinnamon, White Band, and Piebald. Details will be given in a later article. ★

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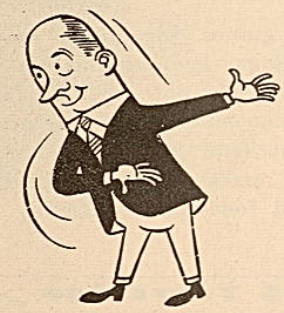
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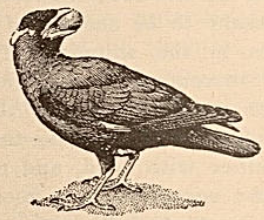
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