Hamsters
POLA 2019
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Syrian or Golden Hamster

- 22 chromosome pairs
- Popular pet – comes in a variety of colors and angora (teddy bear)
- Will bite you as soon as look at you
Syrian or Golden Hamster

Chinese Hamster
Anatomic Features

• Flank glands
• Cheek pouches
• Incisors are elodont; cheek teeth are anelodont
• Glandular and non-glandular stomach: esophagus enters at junction
• Single left lung lobe
• Unipapillate kidneys
• Wandering trophoblastic emboli during pregnancy
• Pigmented sebaceous glands
• Mark territory
• Secrete during sexual arousal
Hepatocyte inclusions

Look hard enough you can see them in any species.
Pathology
Rectal prolapse
Hamster papovavirus

- Polyomavirus very similar to PVM.
- Transmissible lymphoma
- Keratinizing hair follicle tumors
- Virus can cause lytic infection or transformation of cells.
- Passed in urine
Demodicosis

- D. aurati or D. criceti
- Very common in old hamsters or those being experimentally manipulated
D. aurati – live in hair follicles
D. criceti – live in epidermal pits

Demodicosis
Atrial thrombosis

\[ \text{ranges from asymptomatic to CHF.} \]

\[ \text{May show evidence of organization and hypertrophy of heart muscle.} \]
Arteriolar Nephrosclerosis

Very similar to disease seen in rat.

Cause unknown.
Spontaneous hemorrhagic necrosis

- Fetal hamsters deficient in Vitamin E during development.
- Recognized in last third of pregnancy.
- Dam may cannibalize (yum yum!).