



Syrian hamster

Origin

All Syrian hamsters originated from three littermates captured near Aleppo in Syria in 1930, though additional animals were trapped in 1971. In 1973, from Sprague Dawley Company to Central Institute for Laboratory Breeding, Hannover.

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In 1994, to Harlan Laboratories, through acquisition of Central Institute for Laboratory Breeding, Hannover. Harlan became Envigo in 2015.

Characteristics

The Syrian Hamster (*Mesocricetus auratus*) has been used in experimental tumor production, hormonal effects on reproduction, dental caries, nutritional studies, cardiovascular and pharmacological research in infectious disease and pathological investigation. The Syrian hamster is the only common laboratory animal that hibernates. The tendency to hibernate is genetically controlled.

Genetics

Coat color – Brown and white.

References

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