

 8-15 years

 8-14 inches

 Advanced

 60 -70° F

 Pellets & Hay



Chinchillas are soft, fun, entertaining pets, and can be a great addition to your family. Because of their dense fur, chinchillas produce very little dander, making them hypo-allergenic, and people who can not have other small animals as pets, may be just fine with a chinchilla. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

#### CAGE SET UP

Chinchillas need room to roam, in a well-ventilated, spacious cage, such as the Ferret Nation, Marshall Mansion, Kaytee Chinchilla Home, or Multi-Level Exotics Cage. Chinchillas are social and do very well in pairs.

#### BEDDING

Bedding for chinchillas must be soft. Care Fresh or a hardwood bedding such as aspen works well. As always, NEVER use cedar shavings with any small animal. It negatively affects the respiratory tracts in small animals.

#### TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, between 60-70°F, is ideal, yet cooler temperatures are suitable as well. When it's excessively warm, a cooling stone, or Chin Chiller, may be used in their enclosure. It is imperative that chinchillas are not allowed to overheat.

#### FOOD

Mazuri and Oxbow Chinchilla pellets are good choices. Feed according to the directions on the feed, 2 tablespoons – ¼ cup per day depending on the chinchillas eating habits. They will need a constant supply of good hay at all times.

#### HANDLING

Chinchillas are not cuddlers by nature. They can be skiddish and off-standing, but with time and patience, can be quite sweet. Chinchillas are crepuscular, meaning their active times are at dawn and dusk, making these the best times to interact with them.

#### CAGE CLEANING

Chinchillas are very clean animals, but they may use their entire cage as a litter box. Since there is no smell when they defecate, they typically can not be litter trained.

#### ACCESSORIES AND CHEW TOYS

Chinchillas love to run on an exercise wheel, such as the Silent Spinner. Many models of wheels can attach directly to the cage, making them much safer. Chinchillas will also need a hide and several wood chews. As other small rodents, chinchillas' teeth continue to grow, and need to be kept at a reasonable length by chewing. If chins do not have ample items to chew on, they may chew on their cage or themselves! Chews such as Critter Pops, Grass mats, Apple wood, and Natural willow wood chews are excellent choices for your pet.

#### BATHING

Chinchillas DO NOT get water baths. A chinchilla's fur is too dense to put in water, and will not dry; it is actually very detrimental to the animal. Chinchillas take sand baths approximately twice a week. Leave the sand bath in the chins cage for 20 minutes, then remove. CountryMax sells a variety of chinchilla sand and the bath houses.