

REPTILIA

We Specialize in Small Animals and Reptiles



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CHINCHILLA CARE

Chinchillas are nocturnal rodents originating from South America, where they are commonly found in the mountains of the Andes. There, they were originally bred for their fur, but nowadays in the UK are kept as pets. They can be friendly docile pets and can live between 10-15 years if looked after correctly. Their teeth grow continuously throughout their life, so they must wear them down by eating hay and grass.

HOUSING

- Chinchillas are very active and destructive animals so should be housed in multi-level wire cages at least 2 x 2 x 1m, to allow natural jumping and climbing behavior.
- Within the cage, nest boxes, hammocks, branches and shelves should be provided.
- A dust bath should be offered twice a week to keep their fur in good condition. Chinchilla bath sand available at Reptilia.
- Chinchillas are very active and loves to play, a special Chinchilla designed running wheel can also be offered to your Chinchilla.
- Temperature – Chinchillas will get heat stress and ideally should be kept in a low humidity environment between 10-20°C. Air-conditioned room will be perfect in the African weather condition, other alternatives to keep them cool is to put frozen tiles 4-5 times per day in their cages to sleep on.
- Protection from predators is essential.
- Drinking tubes are recommended and not water bowls, it is preferred to give them filtered water.
- Ensure that your Chinchilla does not get wet, their fur will fall out. Their fur takes time to grow back, while feeling miserable.
- The vivarium should be cleaned out at least once a week with F10 disinfectant or similar disinfectant and spot cleaned daily to help prevent diseases.

COMPANIONS

- Chinchillas are highly social, and are best kept in pairs, single sex groups, or one male with several females.
- Male Chinchillas may be castrated if opposite sexes are kept together.

WHAT TO FEED

- Hay, grass and wood treats/ toys is essential to maintain gastrointestinal and dental health and should make up most of the diet.

- Fresh vegetables and small amounts of fruit (not fruit high in simple sugar) should be fed daily.
- Commercial diets are also available and can make up a small part of a Chinchilla's diet. However, as Chinchillas can be highly selective feeders, complete pelleted diets are preferable to muesli mixes as they help to ensure that the animal receives a balanced diet.

NEUTERING

- Male Chinchillas may be castrated in order to reduce fighting, or prevent reproduction
- Female Chinchillas are not routinely spayed unless there is a concern about reproductive disease

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS

We recommend annual health checks every year for pet as medical problems are more easily treated if detected at an early stage.