



LWAS Animal Care Sheets

Chinchilla



Chinchillas are quick, clever rodents who are great climbers!

Quick Facts

Average size: 1-2lbs **Diet:** Hay, pellets, dry treats **Handling:** Intermediate

Average Lifespan: 15-25 years **Enclosure:** tall metal cage with platforms

Housing

Size: Minimum of 3'x2'x2' for a single chinchilla but bigger is always better as they are active animals who love to climb and jump. We recommend the Midwest Critter Nation Deluxe!



Population: Chinchillas can live in pairs and groups but need to be properly bonded to other chinchillas before cohabitating

Substrate: Our vet recommends fleece and newspaper for chinchilla cage flooring. Wire flooring should be avoided for safety.

Furniture: Chinchillas enjoy climbing platforms, perches and and hidey houses. Many Chinchillas will also use a litterbox. Make sure to use only paper-based beddings in the litterbox.

Diet Chinchillas have very sensitive digestive systems and improper snacks can cause life-threatening illness. Their diet consists entirely of grass hay and chinchilla pellets. For treats they can have dried flowers, chinchilla biscuits, dried rosehips, or an occasional raisin.

Exercise: Some Chinchillas enjoy having access to a safety-proofed room or playpen for free roam time. Make sure to supervise them the entire time- they like to get themselves into trouble!

Temperature/Humidity: Chinchillas prefer a cool, dry environment. They should never be over 72F and should be kept out of direct sunlight.

Handling

Chinchillas are prey animals and are naturally skittish. Most do not want to be scooped up by humans, especially those they don't know well.

A good way to start bonding with your chinchilla is to sit/lay on the floor and allow the chinchilla to approach and explore you. Offer snacks to show them you are fun!

Eventually, your chinchilla will learn to trust you and be more alright with you picking them up.

Grooming

Dust Bath: Chinchillas can never get wet and require frequent dust baths to aid in grooming. Provide a container with chinchilla dust bath every other day.