

INFORMATION

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Short Guide to Keeping CHINCHILLAS

Chinchillas are from the rodent family and they are native to Andes mountains in South America, there are two living species of chinchilla; the chinchilla brevicaudata and chinchilla lanigera. There is little noticeable difference between them, the brevicaudata has a thicker neck and shoulders and shorter tail and ears.



HOUSING:

Chinchillas are very active and need plenty of space to jump about. Ideally your cage should have several levels or platforms to allow your pet to bounce.

Because they like to chew, a wire mesh cage is essential to ensure that they can't chew through it. Please position your cage away from direct sunlight, radiators or draughts.

Also to help maintain your chinchillas health and hygiene it is best to give them a dust bath. This is a vital part of their grooming routine and helps keep their fur soft. Just place a chinchilla bath in their cage filled with dust or sand (not play sand) and leave it in there during the day, taking it out at night, because they may want to start using it as a toilet if not. This will help keep your chinchilla's coat shiny and clean.

BEDDING:

Hay makes good bedding for chinchillas so you can put some in a corner of the cage or inside a nesting box for them to snuggle up in.



HANDLING:

When you first take your pet home give them a day or so to get used to their new surroundings without being disturbed. You should then start talking to them so that they get to know your voice. Secondly, is to offer them a treat by putting your hand in the cage with the treat. After this you will be able to gradually stroke them and gently pick them up. You should always hold your chinchilla close to your chest facing you, with one hand supporting its back. Hold it firmly but gently. It's important to handle them regularly to develop their confidence and maintain a healthy relationship with them.



DIET:

Quality chinchilla pellets will provide your chinchilla with a healthy diet. We use these ourselves and best that you do too because changing their food can cause them to stress. Also you may want to give them some hay, as it provides essential fibre for you chinchilla and helps them to digest their food, as well as helping to grind their teeth down. Also make sure they get fresh water daily. You can also add vitamins to their diet.

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A valid receipt is required.