

CHINCHILLA INFORMATION LEAFLET



Chinchillas are timid creatures, but with plenty of gentle handling they will become a wonderful, lively, inquisitive long term pet.

Chinchillas are nocturnal creatures so come out to play after school and work.

DIET

Fresh water must be available at all times.

Chinchillas need a high level of fibre in their diet for dental, digestive and emotional well-being.

Chinchillas are fed on pellets to provide them with essential vitamins and minerals.

Hay is a beneficial fibre and should be given daily to help digestion and dental health.

Fibrevores can also be given fresh fruit and veg to provide additional nutrients but should only be fed in small amounts.

Safe greens:

APPLE, CARROT, GRAPES, ORANGE, PLUM,
SQUASH AND RAISONS

Cuttlefish is a brilliant source of calcium to ensure dental health.

Willow sticks and wooden chews are also important for dental health.

HOUSING

Chinchillas are busy, active and inquisitive so the larger the cage the happier your chinchilla.

Wire cages are best, as it will prevent them from gnawing their way out. Plastic and wooden cages are not advisable as they may be destroyed by continuous chewing.

Ensure cages have branches, solid shelves and a small box to nest in.

Chinchillas must be kept indoors.

It is important to clean your cage regularly at least once a week. Sawdust or wood pellets may be used at the base to absorb urine.

It is ideal to use a small animal safe disinfectant when cleaning as many household chemicals contain dangerous chemicals that may harm your pet. Small animal disinfectant kills bacteria and viruses providing a safe home for your pet.

COMPANIONSHIP

Chinchillas love companionship ,so it is best to choose a pair of chinchillas either a male and female or two females chinchillas.

NEUTERING

If your chinchillas are one of each sex it is possible to neuter your male to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

GROOMING

They do not need brushing or bathing!

Chinchillas will clean themselves in a dust bath; which contains silver sand. Your chinchilla will roll in the sand to remove dirt and grease from its coat. Place bath in cage for at least 30 minutes to ensure a good

amount of time to bathe. Do not leave in cage as chins may soil sandbath.

EXCERCISE AND PLAY

Make sure your chinchilla has lots of wooden nibbles and branches to play on to keep them entertained. This will help prevent behavioural problems such as fur plucking.

If you let your chinchilla out to play, make sure it is escape proof. Always make sure wires and cables are safely out the way to avoid serious injury.

HANDLING

Chinchillas are timid, so talk softly and let them venture and investigate, placing your hand for them to sniff.

To pick up your chinchilla be firm but gentle place hand over their back and scoop them up with your other hand under their bum to make them secure, but be careful as their ribs are fragile.

When holding generally chinchillas do not like to be restricted, let them sit on you loosely at a low level to avoid jumping injuries.

BOARDING

Fiveways pets offer a small animal boarding service when you go on holiday

£2 PER DAY ONE ANIMAL IN A CAGE

£3.50 PER DAY 2 ANIMALS IN ONE CAGE

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