



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Chinchilla Care Guide

Chinchillas are fun, active pets known for their soft, dense fur and playful personalities. With proper care, they can live **10–15 years**.

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#### Housing

- **Cage:**
  - Use a **large multi-level cage** with plenty of space for climbing and jumping. A solid floor is best for their feet.
- **Bedding:**
  - Use **aspen shavings** or **paper-based bedding** (sold at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid cedar or pine, as these are harmful to chinchillas.
- **Hides and Shelves:**
  - Provide a **wooden hide box** or tunnel for resting.
  - Add **wooden ledges or ramps** for climbing and jumping.

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#### Temperature & Environment

- Chinchillas are sensitive to heat. Keep the room **between 60–70°F**.
- Avoid drafts and direct sunlight.

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#### Diet

- **Pellets:** Feed a high-quality **chinchilla pellet** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- **Hay:** Provide unlimited **timothy hay** for proper digestion and dental health.
- **Treats:** Offer small amounts of safe treats like dried rose hips or hay cubes. Avoid sugary or fatty snacks.

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#### Dust Baths

Chinchillas do not bathe in water. They need **dust baths** to keep their fur clean and healthy.

- Use **chinchilla dust** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) in a shallow dish.
- Offer a dust bath **3–4 times per week** for 10–15 minutes.
- Remove the dust after bath time to prevent soiling.

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## Enrichment

- Chinchillas are active and need things to chew on. Provide **safe wooden chews** or **pumice stones** (sold at Wet Pets N Critters) to keep their teeth healthy.
- Offer **exercise wheels** designed for chinchillas (solid surface, no wire mesh).
- Supervised playtime outside the cage is encouraged but always in a safe, enclosed space.

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## Cleaning

- Spot clean daily.
- Clean the cage thoroughly once a week with **small animal-safe cleaners** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- Replace bedding regularly.

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## Health & Handling

- Chinchillas are naturally shy but can become friendly with regular, gentle handling. Always support their body and avoid grabbing by the fur.
- Signs of a healthy chinchilla include bright eyes, a clean nose, normal droppings, and a healthy coat.

If you notice signs of illness (diarrhea, lethargy, weight loss), contact a veterinarian who treats small animals.

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## Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Large, multi-level cage
- Aspen or paper bedding
- Chinchilla pellets
- Timothy hay
- Chinchilla dust
- Dust bath container
- Wooden hide
- Ledges or ramps
- Chew toys (wood or pumice)
- Exercise wheel (solid surface)
- Water bottle
- Food dish