



Nibbles Rodent & Rabbit Rescue

Registered Charity Number: 1168657

Located near Crymch

www.nibbles.org.uk

A Life is Rescued
Love is Adopted

Chinchilla Facts

As social a social species, chinchillas need company of their own kind.

Chinchillas live for between 15-20 years, sometimes even older.

Due to their thick coats chinchillas cannot cope with the heat and are prone to heat stroke and therefore housing should not be placed in direct sunlight or near to radiators.

Chinchillas don't produce insulin and are therefore unable to cope with sugar in their diet, this includes naturally occurring sugars.

Chinchillas aren't able to process fats, and therefore should not be fed nuts and seeds which are high in fats. These fats accumulate in the liver eventually leading to liver failure.

Chinchillas don't have any claws.

To keep their coats in good condition chinchillas need daily access to a specialist bathing dust.

A chinchillas coat should never get wet and therefore they should never be bathed.

Chinchillas are nocturnal and therefore very active and noisy at night.

Basic Chinchilla Care

Healthy Diet

Chinchillas should always have access to good quality hay allowing them to graze constantly. Once a day they should be given a small amount of a good quality extruded pellet feed, which has been specifically designed for chinchillas. There are many products sold in pet shops which are labelled as suitable for chinchillas, when in fact they are not! Avoid anything with honey, dairy products, nuts and seeds, raisins and other dried fruits. All of these will lead to long term health problems and significantly reduce the chinchilla's lifespan.

Housing

Chinchillas are experts when it comes to chewing, therefore we only recommend all metal cages. A pair of chinchillas will require a cage no smaller than 96cm (l) x 63cm (w) x 120cm (h). We recommend:



Rat & Ferret Cage by Pet Planet which can be purchased at:

https://www.petplanet.co.uk/product.asp?dept_id=456&pf_id=68616



Savic Suite Royal XL

which can be purchased at:

https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small_pets/hutches_cages/chinchilla_cages/469805

Care

Housing will need to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week and spot cleaned every 2-3 days. Bathing dust should be made available at least once a day for a minimum of 10 minutes. Fresh water should be available at all times via a water bottle and an area for fresh hay should also be provided. Chinchillas love to chew and should be provided with a variety of suitable enrichment items. They love willow toys and other wooden chew toys commonly found in pet shops.

For more information on chinchilla care and welfare we recommend:

www.chinchillas4life.co.uk