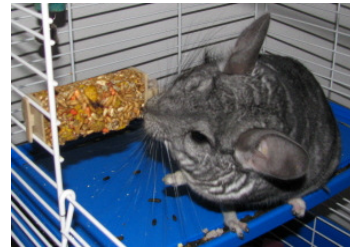




This care sheet is very basic. Upon adoption of animal, we will provide more in-depth information. If you have questions, feel free to contact us!

## Basic Chinchilla Care

**Feeding:** Several companies make pellets that are specially formulated for chinchillas. Oxbow is a good brand, as well as Kaytee. Around 2 tablespoons of pellets are recommended per day. In addition to pellets, chinchillas need timothy hay. This can be found at any pet supply store that sells the pellets. About a handful of hay per day should be sufficient.



**Treats:** Raisins can be given as a treat, but limit to only 2 or 3 raisins per week. Chinchillas have sensitive digestive systems and do best on a diet of pellets and hay only. There are a few specially formulated chinchilla treats (such as the treat stick above) sold at pet supply places that are OK to give occasionally.

**Water:** Chinchillas will drink from a water bottle fastened to their cage. Be sure they always have access to fresh, clean water.

**Chew sticks:** Chinchillas must have chew sticks to gnaw on in order to wear down their teeth. These can be purchased at any pet supply store.

**Bathing:** Chinchillas must have a dust bath 2 or 3 times per week. Pet supply stores carry a special chinchilla dusting powder made for this purpose. Get a container big enough for the chinchilla to get in and roll around. Pour a decent amount of the dust bath into the container, and let the chinchilla jump in. You may want to use a container that is covered, as the dust is very fine and will fly

everywhere once the chinchilla begins to roll around. This dust removes excess dirt and oil from the fur.

Chinchillas should not get wet. Because their fur is so dense, it does not air-dry and moisture can be retained close to the skin. This has the potential to cause fungal issues. If your chinchilla becomes wet, dry him/her immediately with a towel and a no-heat hair dryer.

**Habitat:** Chinchillas are able to jump very high and enjoy jumping about their cage. For this reason, a large cage with several platforms, where they can jump to and fro, is best. Placing an igloo or box in their cage, where they can hide and sleep is also important. Due to their dense fur, they cannot tolerate high temperatures. It is best to keep them in an area where temperatures will not reach higher than 80 degrees. Chinchillas are most active at night and in the early morning hours. You may want to consider this when choosing a spot in your home for the cage. They may disturb your sleep, if kept too close to the bedroom!

**Bedding:** Carefresh bedding is good to use for chinchillas. Cedar chips are not the best choice because many chinchillas will eat these and may become sick. They tend to chew on everything, so please consider this when choosing which bedding to use.

**Exercise:** It is important for chinchillas to get a good amount of exercise. A large exercise wheel can be put in their cage, but make sure the running surface is solid. Do not use a mesh wheel! Injuries can result from their paws getting caught in the mesh. It is even better to let your chinchilla out of his/her cage daily to romp around. A tiled surface, such as a bathroom, is a good area for this. Be sure to stay in the room with the chinchilla, if you do this, as he/she may chew on woodwork or anything else they find the room.