

## **Chinchilla Secrets**

### **Tips to caring for your Chinchilla**



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## Chinchillas - How They Make a Good Pet

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Gary\\_Prestwich](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Gary_Prestwich)]Gary Prestwich



Chinchillas make great pets. Unlike other small animals, the chinchilla's lifespan is about fifteen years. That's great for the folks that really get attached to their small pets. Chinchillas are very small, and can easily be kept in smaller spaces. Your child can have years of enjoyment from them.

Caring for chinchillas is relatively easy as well. You can get a cage for them and use woodchips, as you would for other small caged animals. You can also let your chinchilla out of the cage, but be careful to watch them as they love to hide and can be difficult to find!

One of the other nice aspects about pet chinchillas is the fact that they sleep during the day, making them nice pets for children who can play with them when they get home from school in the afternoon, or for adults who work during the day.

Pet chinchilla's are fun to play with. They can be housetrained, too, although it might be difficult, so watch them if they are out of their house. Also be sure to keep them away from dogs and cats. They are excellent pets for apartments that don't allow larger animals, too.

Your chinchilla likes to have hiding places in its house, so provide things like clay pots for them to sleep in. They need that nesting box, so make sure their cage is large enough for it. All wood used in a chinchilla's environment must be non-treated, because your pet chinchilla is, after all, a rodent. They like to chew!

Chinchillas are generally clean animals, but they do need some grooming in the form of dust baths to keep their fur nice and soft. Chinchilla dust is available at most pet stores or through your veterinarian's office. Let your chinchilla enjoy a dust bath a few times a week. Be sure to follow the directions on the label, but it's quite easy. As for more aesthetic grooming, you can get special combs at the pet store for your chinchilla.

When you get your pet chinchilla, it's best to get a young one, so you have a chance to let your chinchilla get accustomed to being held. They might nip if you scare them, so acclimatize them to their new home and their new owner as soon as possible. They are soft and cuddly, and when you start interacting with them early, you'll have a loyal pet that will bring you years and years of enjoyment. For the young or old, a chinchilla makes a wonderful pet, that is easy to care for, and will be a friend for a long time. Visit [ChinchillaGuide.Com](http://ChinchillaGuide.Com)

Chinchillas make great pets. Unlike other small animals, the chinchilla's lifespan is about fifteen years. That's great for the folks that really get attached to their small pets. Find out more at <http://www.chinchillaguide.com>

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## **Chinchilla Food - Five Tips For Feeding Chinchillas**

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jake\\_D](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jake_D)]Jake D

In order to ensure that your chinchilla maintains good health, you will need to feed him a proper diet. There are a few things you need to know about feeding chinchillas. This article will give you a few tips.

### **Pellets**

Your chin's diet should mainly consist of specially made pellets. This is where he will get nutrients from. If he's like most other chins, he will probably eat about two tablespoons of these pellets on a daily basis. You don't have to worry about giving him too many pellets because they only eat enough to get full.

### **Hay**

When feeding chinchillas, you will also need to give them hay. They need roughage in addition to pellets. Therefore, make sure they always have access to hay. There are different varieties that you can use including Timothy, oat, and wheat hay. You can give your chin alfalfa hay periodically. You shouldn't give it too much because it's too rich in protein and calcium and will cause health problems.

### **Vegetables**

Your chin will also enjoy eating fresh vegetables. You should feed green, leafy vegetables such as parsley, broccoli, collard greens, and squash. They also like carrots, basil, and alfalfa sprouts.

### **Bowl**

You may put your chinchilla food in a bowl inside the cage. However, you need to make sure that it's quite heavy. This will prevent him from tipping it over. You shouldn't use a plastic bowl because these animals love to chew on plastic. Alternatively, you can use a feeder with a hopper that attaches to the side of the cage.

### **Routine**

You should be aware that chins love routines. Therefore, feeding chinchillas should be done at the same time everyday. This will help prevent undue stress.

These are a few tips for feeding chinchillas. If you've never raised one before, then there are many things you need to learn about proper

[<http://chinchillacare.blogspot.com/>]chinchilla care. So, click here now to start learning about some of the most important [<http://chinchillacare.blogspot.com/>]chinchilla information you need to know

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## Why People Love Chinchillas As Pets

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Frank\\_Veda](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Frank_Veda)]Frank Veda



You know what a hamster or a gerbil look like, but do you know what a Chinchilla is? They are a rodent animal not unlike the hamster and they are native to the mountains of Chile in South America. Chinchillas look like a cross between a hamster, rabbit, kangaroo and squirrel. Through decades of breeding, they come in many types of colors. Here are reasons why Chinchilla make good pets for some people.

### Chinchillas Are Unique

Even though Chinchillas have been offered as pets for a long time now in the United States, there are still many who have not ever seen one before. People's eyes light up and ask what they are. Dogs and cats are common household pets, but not Chinchillas. If you are a person who likes to have something that not many others have, then you should look further into seeing if a Chinchilla is the right pet for you.

### Watching a Chinchilla Play Is very Fun

When you let a Chinchilla out of its cage, it has so much energy that it literally bounces off the walls of your home. This is their way of playing. But that's not all, if you lay out a sand bath for a Chinchilla, it will roll around in the sand to clean itself. It is extremely entertaining to watch and something you might want to record on your camcorder. During playtime, you can feed them with treats from your hand and watch them take the treat into their tiny arms and start nibbling away.

### Chinchilla Are Friendly Animals

Many owners will tell you how friendly their Chinchilla is. Even though they are jumpy, Chinchillas are quite docile and will not bite humans without a very good reason. They are smart enough that they can recognize different voices and can even recognize their name when you call it enough times. When they get quite comfortable with their owner, Chinchilla will jump on their laps and shoulders.

Even with all these positives, you should remember some important details. Chinchillas are limited to certain foods. And when picking out a [<http://chinchillacages.net>]Chinchilla Cage, you have to take many factors into account such as the size of their cage.



Chinchillas need a lot of love and attention so if you have that to offer, then you just might want to pick up a Chinchilla at the local pet shop.

When buying a Chinchilla, you should also buy a cage to house it. It is one of the more important purchases for your pet. Find the right one at this [<http://chinchillacages.net>]Chinchilla Cages site, which offer a lists of good cages and sound advice on Chinchillas

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## **A Different Kind of Pet - An Introduction to Chinchillas**

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Kit\\_Marsters](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Kit_Marsters)]Kit Marsters

When choosing a family pet, many people automatically think of a cat or a dog. Those who do not enjoy having a pet running around the house all day, might think of rabbits, guinea pigs or hamsters. But if you want a different kind of furry friend, I suggest looking into adding a chinchilla to your family.

Chinchillas are members of the rodent family. They originate from the mountains in South America. They are especially known for their soft fur, which they keep in excellent shape by rolling around in sand.

One thing to keep in mind when considering a chinchilla is that they can live for a long time, up to 20 years. You could compare it to the lifespan of a cat. The chinchilla is not a short-term pet, so you have to be sure you can accommodate them properly and are willing to make a commitment.

A fully grown chinchilla is about 12 inches long and weighs between 18 and 35 ounces – approximately the size of a smaller breed of rabbit. They have round ears and a bushy tail.

A chinchilla's fur is so dense that fleas and other parasites are not an issue. They are very clean by nature, so there is practically no smell.

They are not difficult to keep, but you do need to provide them with sufficient space. Cages should be kept indoors and cleaned once a week. Hygiene is very important and avoids harmful bacteria which could harm your chinchilla.

Experts recommend that the minimum cage space for one chinchilla should be approximately 100cm high x 70cm wide x 50cm deep. The chinchilla does like room to move about in, so I advise building or purchasing a larger cage than that. I recommend creating different levels within the cage and perhaps a climbing branch, as they enjoy jumping and climbing.

Please keep your chinchilla away from the heat and allow them to have access to cool air and a shaded space on hot days. Chinchillas can suffer from heat strokes when the temperature goes too high.

I also recommend letting your chinchilla run free for at least an hour a day, within a safe space such as a closed room with not too many hidey-holes. Anything you would not like chewed should be removed, as chinchillas need to keep their teeth trimmed. A variety of items for them to chew can be purchased in pet shops.

Do not be afraid when a chinchilla runs straight at a wall. This can be a scary sight at first, but they will twist in the air at the last moment, and bounce off the wall with their back legs. They are agile and great fun to watch.

Chinchillas are friendly pets. It can take a bit of time for them to get to know you, and for them to be comfortable with being handled, but if you are patient and caring you will be rewarded. They are very intelligent and like to have fun, so once you have earned their friendship they might even try to play tricks on you in order to get a treat.

If at all possible, add a couple of chinchillas to your family, to avoid loneliness. Chinchillas love company and interaction, and will happily play together. If you only have room for one, they will need more attention and playing time to keep them stimulated.

Adding a chinchilla to your family is a rewarding experience, both for adults and children. So the next time you're looking for a family pet, why not consider one of these friendly little creatures?

This article has been submitted in affiliation with <http://www.PetLovers.Com/> which is a site for Pets

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## **Top 10 Chinchilla Care Mistakes Or How To Double Your Chinnie's Lifespan**

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=David\\_Kohlmann](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=David_Kohlmann)]David Kohlmann

Chinchillas, originating from mountaineous regions of South America, are great pets - cute, social, yet inexpensive and relatively easy to take care of. However, most beginner chinchilla owners don't know much about the animals. In fact, chinchillas, like other small rodents, can be rather delicate and an illness contracted for instance by a cold draft can be fatal for them within a very short period of time.

The most common mistakes made by inexperienced chinchilla owners include the following:

10) Wrong cage placement. Both too hot or too cold temperatures are bad for chinchillas. They can easily get heatstroke at temperatures of above 90F (30C), but can also freeze at temperatures below 50F (10C). Drafts are to be avoided as well, since they can cause pneumonia.

9) Mistakes when handling. The correct way to pick up and hold a chinchilla is by placing one hand below the body, with the thumb around a front leg, and supporting the weight with the second hand below the hindquarters. Never pull a chinchilla by the tail since it has a lot of delicate vertebrae which can break easily.

8) Not giving the chin a chance to take a regular dust bath. Dust baths are essential for chinchilla hygiene, and a fun spectacle to observe, too. Chinchillas should have the chance to take a dust bath at least once a week.

7) Using a wire mesh bottom cage. This is not a very good idea since chinchillas' small feet can slip through the mesh and get irritated by the metal, causing foot sores. A solid floor cage with a soft bedding like pelleted paper is much better.

6) Overfeeding treats. Many a newbie owner is all too happy feeding sweets and treats to a chinchilla, unaware that it is in fact harmful for the animal. Treats like a raisin should only be fed occasionally, maximum once a day. Things containing chocolate and industrial sugar should not be fed at all.

5) Not making the house chinchilla-proof. There are numerous dangers in a typical household for a chin on the loose. The most obvious ones include anything that moves - be it people, doors, things that can fall down, or anything that can squeeze. Another one is cables - chinchillas chew everything in sight, and electric cables are not very healthy food! Green plants are another potential threat to chinchilla health - a lot of them (such as ficus or azalea) cause food poisoning if chewed on.

4) Not cleaning the cage regularly and often enough. Chinchillas are clean animals and feel miserable in a dirty cage. Bad hygiene is often one of the main reasons for infections and various serious diseases. A chinchilla cage should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week (better twice), with the whole bedding renewed. Food bowls and the water tube should be cleaned daily.

3) Not providing enough space and exercise. A sight seen very often is a chinchilla hunched in the corner of a small cage, barely moving from that spot all day. Combined with unrestricted dry food access, this is a sure way to make a chinchilla overweight and significantly reduce its lifespan. For chinchillas, the same basic principle applies as for humans - leaner is better. A healthy chinchilla should feel firm to the touch below the fur, not soft and wobbly. Methods to ensure that your chin is in good shape and not overweight include enough space (at least 9 sq.ft for



an adult chinchilla), toys to play with, an exercise wheel, and regular exploration forays outside of the cage.

2) Incorrect bedding. Wood shavings in particular, although very frequently used, are not a good bedding for chinchillas. They can cause foot sores and injuries to the chins' delicate eyes. Also, the wood dust which often accompanies shavings causes respiratory (lung) problems. Some kinds of wood, such as cedar or redwood, also contain oily components that can cause liver damage.

1) Improper food. This is probably the most frequent cause of illnesses among pet chinchillas. In particular, feeding a lot of moist vegetables such as lettuce can cause diarrhea, which can be lethal for a chinchilla within one or two days. Insufficient access to water (for instance, failure to notice that a gravity water bottle's ball was stuck and the chinchilla cannot drink enough) leads to dehydration and is also quite dangerous. Providing water in open bowls instead of a bottle can lead to contamination with droppings and bedding material and various infections as a result.

By avoiding these mistakes you are on a good way towards having a healthy and happy chinchilla with a long lifespan (perhaps over 20 years!). However, there are more issues that we could not cover in this short article.

David is a long-time chinchilla fan and has helped numerous chinchilla owners solve their problems. He runs a complete chinchilla care guide under <http://www.chinchillacare.net>

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## **10 Tips for a Healthy Chinchilla**

By [[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Sandra\\_Kwok](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Sandra_Kwok)]Sandra Kwok

Healthy chinchillas have active, bright and clear eyes; yellow-orange and aligned teeth, dry nose; hard and elongated stools; dense and even fur. The ideal weight for a full grown chin is about 450 to 800 grams. Chins are hardy and rarely fall ill.

Today, you'll learn health tips to keep your chinchilla happy and ways to make it younger.

To have a happy chinchilla, try the following tips:

1) Keep your chin safe and secure in its cage at all times.

- 2) Make sure that the temperature is right – Chins thrive in temperatures of not more than 77 F.
- 3) Know the best food to give to your chin. Ensure your chin avoid human food as much as possible.
- 4) Provide lots of chewing things. Chins need to constantly gnaw to file their growing teeth.
- 5) Get ready a chin first aid kit ready and the contact of a nearby vet in case or emergencies.
- 6) Give your chin treats only occasionally. They should compromise no more than 10% of its total diet.
- 7) Ensure sufficient ventilation and clean the cage every other day.
- 8) If you must travel (advisably not), ensure you keep your chin in a protective small animal carrier.
- 9) Ensure that you chins are matured enough to breed before putting a male and female together.
- 10) Last but not least, provide lots of love and hugs.

As you can see, keeping a chin, like any other pet, require time and effort. Be prepared as this is a long commitment as chins can live up to 15 years.

Sandra Kwok is the author of “By the Fur of my Chinny Chin Chin” Ezines.  
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