



FACT SHEET - CHINCHILLAS

Chinchillas originate from high up in the Andes where it is cool and rocky, feeding on seeds and grasses. Their fur is very soft and dense and they have large ears, strong hind legs and a long tail. They are nocturnal and spend most of the day sleeping, becoming active at night.



Chinchillas Need

- A large cage with more than one level as they are very active
- A daily dust bath in a tray of chinchilla sand
- A gnawing block of non toxic wood
- A wooden box for sleeping in a special diet of chinchilla pellets
- A daily supply of fresh hay
- A constant supply of fresh water in a drinking bottle
- To be kept indoors where the temperature can be kept between 10-18°C with the humidity at approximately 40-50 per cent

Chinchilla Health

- Without the correct diet, chinchillas are susceptible to digestive problems - avoid peanuts and sunflower seeds
- Check their teeth regularly as the incisor teeth can become overgrown and will need a visit to the vet
- Keep cages away from radiators as chinchillas are vulnerable to heatstroke
- Faeces or dampness around the tail area may be a sign of gastrointestinal infection so check with your vet
- Vitamin A deficiency may show as white teeth - they are naturally a creamy/yellow colour
- Any respiratory problems should be referred to your vet

Chinchilla Facts

- Lifespan - about 10 years but can be more

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.