

## Habitat Needs

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### Housing

- A minimum of 2' W x 2' L x 3' H cage provides good housing. The cage must have multiple climbing areas and a place to hide.

### Habitat Placement

- Place your chinchilla's home away from drafts, an ideal temperature range is 68 F - 70 F. No special lighting is required, room lighting is sufficient with a 12-hour photo period.
- Place away from electronics and in a well ventilated area due to the amount of dust from their bath.

### Enrichment

- Chinchilla's are very active, therefore need a chinchilla-safe wheel for exercise, the wheel should have a solid running surface and no cross bars that a chin could get a leg or tail caught in.
- Chinchilla's also need plenty of chew toys not only to stimulate them mentally but to keep their continually growing teeth trimmed.

### Bathing

- Chinchillas need dust baths no less than 3 times a week. Using a bath house, bowl or box, place a thin layer of chinchilla specific dust. It is important not to leave the bath in the cage with them...they will poop, pee, and sleep in it which can actually have the reverse effect.

## Nutrition

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### Staple Diet

- A good pellet food is essential. Hay should also be offered freely. If the chin is on an alfalfa based pellet, they should be given timothy hay to balance it out.

### Water

- Water can be supplied in a water bottle and should be changed daily.

## Extra Information

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- Lifespan of a Chinchilla is 10 - 20 years.
- Chinchillas are almost odor-free.
- Chinchillas are nocturnal so they are most active at night.
- Their activity includes climbing, darting and spinning around their habitat.
- Chinchillas can jump up to five feet in the air.
- Chinchillas are intelligent, sensitive, very active, and rarely bite.

