

ANIMAL INFORMATION SHEET
Common Name – **Long-tailed Chinchilla**
Scientific Name – *Chinchilla lanigera*
Order – Rodentia Family – Chincillidae



Care, feeding and handling guidelines are researched and outlined by the Association of Zoo and Aquariums, United States Fish and Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

General Information:

Size: 1-2 pounds (500-800g; females are larger)

Lifespan: up to 10 years (wild); up to 20 years (captivity)

Wild Habitat: Rocky Mountain ranges of Chile where areas are hot and dry climates

Diet: Herbivores; primary diet of “Chinchilla” pellets with unlimited access to timothy hay. Limited amounts of vegetables, nuts and fruits as a training “primary” and “jack-pot” reward.

Indigenous Habitat: Chinchillas live in burrows and rock crevices in arid, rocky regions. You can find these burrows in Northern Chile in South America, in upper and lower ranges of the Andes Mountains. They live in social groups that can have up to 100 individuals.

Home Habitat: As a social animal it is best to have more than one; Chinchillas thrive in pairs/groups. Use their indigenous environment to arrange an enriching area for jumping, running and scampering. Requires an ample sized cage for room to jump, run and scurry. Large exercise wheel is a must. Jump and play levels can be created from cardboard boxes that have been “heat sealed” with no tape, cardboard/hay tubes and access to volcanic ash for dust bath.

Recommended max time for handling: 30 minutes

Temperature Range: 55° F – 80° F

Transport: Small kennel cab lined with paper and a crate cover to decrease stress for transporting to/from veterinarian or any other location. <55° F hot water bottle wrapped in towel **MUST** be placed in kennel. >80° F place a towel wrapped frozen water bottle in kennel.

Restraint: Hold gently in both hands- one hand supporting waist area and the other cupping his legs & feet.

Handling: Can become used to being touched; but do NOT touch head as this will cause stress.

Signs of Stress: Biting, struggling/wiggling to get away, growling, teeth-chattering, urinating.

Vocalization: Barking, chirping and growling.



Interesting Facts: Chinchillas are nocturnal, social animals, sometimes known to live in colonies. The extreme density and softness of the fur make it some of the most valuable fur in the world. During the height of fur trade, the chinchilla population was hunted to near extinction.

Animal adoption saves millions, contact a local shelter to adopt today:

1. Whimsy’s Menagerie and Chinchilla Rescue at www.whimsys-menagerie.com
2. Forever Feisty Chinchilla Rescue at www.foreverfeistychinchilla.org/rescues.htm
3. For questions or concerns you may have about your pets or where to adopt contact The Bunny Hutch at Info@TheBunnyHutch.ORG or call (866) 488-4248.