

WILDSIDE VETERINARY HEALTH CENTER

CARE SHEET: CHINCHILLA



Caging and bedding

- Cages should have a flat bottom (no wire) and should be large enough for the animal to run and hop in any direction. A multi-level cage is ideal, since chinchillas are great jumpers.
- A hide box should be available at all times.
- Bedding should be unscented, dye-free and paper based.

Food and water

- UNLIMITED Grass hay (timothy hay, orchard hay, oat hay, meadow hay).
- Plain hay-based pellets - NO seeds, NO nuts or dried fruit should be mixed in. Give 1-2 tbsp per animal per day.
- A small amount of fresh produce like arugula, basil, beet greens, bok choy, cilantro, collards, endive, dill, green leaf lettuce, romaine lettuce, radicchio, watercress. Give ¼ cup of greens per pound of body weight daily.
- Do not offer sugary treats like yogurt drops. Fruits should be avoided.
- Freshwater should always be available. Change it daily. You may use bottles or bowls - I always recommend having at least 2 in the cage.

Activity

- Cardboard boxes make great toys! You may fill it with hay to make it even more fun!
- Timothy hay-based toys.
- Natural wood blocks to chew on.
- Solid (NOT wire) exercise wheel.
- Dust baths made from volcanic ash should be offered 3x a week for 10-15 minutes.

Veterinary care

- Yearly wellness exam is recommended for young animals. After 7 years old they should be seen every 6 months.
- Dental care may be needed as their teeth grow continuously through life
- Chinchillas do not need vaccines.
- Chinchillas are very good at hiding their disease, so if you have any indication that your chinchilla is not doing well, please call us ASAP. Not eating for 8h is considered an emergency.