

# Chinchilla Care Sheet

- **Habitat Setup:**
  - Use a cage that's big enough for your Chinchilla to jump and play.
  - Line the bottom with bedding made of paper or aspen shavings.
  - Provide platforms and shelves for climbing and resting.
  - Include a hiding house where your Chinchilla can feel safe.
- **Temperature and Environment:**
  - Keep the cage in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and drafts.
  - Chinchillas prefer temperatures between 60-70°F (15-21°C).
  - Avoid placing the cage near heaters or air conditioners.
- **Feeding:**
  - Offer fresh hay like timothy hay or orchard grass every day.
  - Provide Chinchilla pellets as their main food source, about 1-2 tablespoons per day.
  - Offer fresh vegetables like carrots, celery, and leafy greens as treats, but not too much.
  - Always have fresh, clean water available in a sipper bottle.
- **Handling and Interaction:**
  - Approach your Chinchilla calmly and speak softly to avoid scaring it.
  - Support its body when picking it up, as Chinchillas can jump and squirm.
  - Let your Chinchilla come to you for handling; don't force it if it seems scared or nervous.
  - Spend time near the cage talking to your Chinchilla to get it used to your presence.
- **Cleaning and Maintenance:**
  - Spot clean the cage daily by removing droppings and uneaten food.
  - Change the bedding completely every 1-2 weeks.
  - Wash and dry food and water dishes regularly to keep them clean.
- **Health and Care:**
  - Watch for signs of illness like loss of appetite, discharge from eyes or nose, or changes in behavior.
  - Take your Chinchilla to a veterinarian who knows about Chinchillas if you notice any health concerns.
  - Brush your Chinchilla gently with a soft-bristled brush to keep its fur clean and free of mats.
- **Fun Facts:**
  - Chinchillas have the softest fur of any mammal and love to take dust baths to keep their fur clean.
  - They can jump up to 6 feet in the air!
  - Chinchillas are nocturnal, which means they are most active during the night.

Taking care of a Chinchilla can be a lot of fun! They are playful and curious animals that can make great pets with proper care and attention.