Chinchillas have an inquisitive and gentle nature, but also have a lot of energy.

**facts**

- **average adult size:** 12 inches long
- **average life span:** up to 10+ years with proper care
- **diet:** herbivore

*Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.*

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.
red flags
- Weight loss
- Abnormal hair loss
- Diarrhea or dirty bottom
- Distressed breathing
- Lethargic
- Eye or nasal discharge

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Diarrhea
- Loose stool caused by poor diet, stress, internal parasites, unclean housing or other illness.
- Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment.

Eye irritations
- From dust, bedding or infection.
- Consult with a veterinarian.

Heat stroke
- An emergency condition; symptoms include heavy panting, seizures, loss of consciousness.
- Can be fatal; consult with a veterinarian immediately.

Malocclusion
- Overgrown teeth.
- Consult with a veterinarian to possibly have teeth trimmed regularly.

Mites
- External parasites that cause chinchillas to lose patches of hair.
- Consult with a veterinarian for treatment.

Ringworm
- Skin infection caused by a fungus.
- Consult with a veterinarian for treatment.

common health issues

Health Issue | Symptoms or Causes | Suggested Action
--- | --- | ---
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If you notice any of these signs, contact your veterinarian.
shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- High-quality chinchilla food
- Timothy hay
- Treats
- Bedding
- Food bowl/water bottle
- Exercise wheel
- Hideaway place
- Toys
- Wood chews
- Mineral chews
- Dust and dust bath
- Indoor playpen
- Chew tubes
- Book about chinchillas

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco’s selection of books on chinchillas and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all small animals are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis, Rat Bite Fever and Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your small animal or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for small animals and should consider not having a small animal as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about small animals and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to petco.com for more information.