

Primary Worksheets: Chinchilla



The chinchilla is a small but highly social rodent from South America. There are two types of Chinchilla species, one with long tails and one with short tails.

The chinchilla is a small, quick, and attractive animal with large, rounded ears. Though it looks quite bulky and fat, it is mostly plush fur that hides most of its physique.

They are similarly shaped to a kangaroo because of their long back legs and how far they can jump.



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Chinchillas have rear limbs built for leaping and are known for clearing at least 6 feet jumps! For wild Chinchillas, it helps them navigate their rocky habitat.

They nearly became extinct in the early 1900s because of their fur. Their fur was used to make coats, and they were nearly hunted to extinction. Hunters used dynamite to destroy their hiding places by blasting their homes.

Today they are domestically raised on farms for their fur and be kept as pets. They breed in great quantities and come in various different colours.



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Chinchillas are not common pets. They are very active but nocturnal animals. They can be easily distressed by rough or clumsy handling.

They can live up to 20 years but are very sensitive to changes in their environment, to the point they may become sick and die.

They are social animals and can bond with their owner, showing affection and even learning basic tricks!



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Baby chinchillas are called kits. They begin to walk within an hour of birth and are fully weaned after 8 weeks old. The average litter of a chinchilla is around 2 to 4 babies.

Naturally, chinchillas eat grass, leaves and twigs. Their teeth grow continuously throughout their life and they need to be worn down. Pet chinchillas are often fed hay and pellets.

Chinchillas reproduce at a fast rate, so it best not to have a male and a female live together!



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Answer the questions.

What is a chinchilla?

Why did they nearly become extinct?

Can we keep them as pets?



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Answer the questions.

Write about their diet.

Would you like a chinchilla? Why?

