

Caring for your CHINCHILLA

Total chinchilla wellbeing

From daily enrichment and balanced nutrition to physical exercise and loads of love, we focus on every aspect of small pet care to help you create a full, healthy and joyful life for the chinchilla you love. In this care guide, we'll cover the basics of what you need to keep your chinchilla happy and healthy.



Hay

Fresh, high quality grass hay should make up at least 70% of your chinchilla's diet and should always be available. Health benefits of hay include:

- Hay provides long strand fiber that supports digestive health in herbivores.
- Chinchillas' teeth never stop growing. Hay provides essential wear for dental health.
- Eating multiple varieties of hay daily provides enrichment and prevents picky eating.



Alfalfa is more nutritionally dense than grass hay and can be beneficial for young, pregnant, nursing, ill, or senior pets. For healthy adults, offer alfalfa only as an occasional treat.

FIND OUT WHAT MAKES OXBOW HAY SPECIAL:



Treats

Treats are great for building the bond between you and your pet but should only be offered in moderation. All Oxbow treats are designed to be as wholesome as they are delicious.



Fortified food

Providing a daily recommended amount of a high-fiber, age-appropriate fortified food provides your chinchilla with essential vitamins and minerals not provided by hay.



OFFER a food that is formulated to meet the species-specific needs of chinchillas. Choose between our three quality choices – Essentials, Garden Select, or Simple Harvest.

AVOID mixes with nuts, corn, seeds, or fruit. Chinchillas are wired to selectively feed on these tempting morsels over the healthy pellets, leading to nutritional deficiencies.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SELECTIVE FEEDING IN SMALL ANIMALS:



Greens

Fresh greens are an important part of your chinchilla's daily diet. Greens help keep your pet hydrated and are a healthy source of vitamins and minerals as well as enrichment.

OFFER Romaine, bib, and red or green leaf lettuce.

AVOID Iceberg lettuce, leeks, chives, and onions.



With proper nutrition and care, chinchillas may live ten or more years.

Dust baths

Because of the density of chinchilla fur and their naturally oily skin, chinchillas will instinctively "bathe" themselves in dust to maintain a lush, healthy coat of fur. Oxbow's Poof! Chinchilla Dust Bath is the ideal material for keeping your chinchilla's fur healthy and soft.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHINCHILLA DUST BATHS:



Housing your chinchilla

It's easy to make chinchillas feel at home inside your house. As prey animals by nature, all chins need safe surroundings free of environmental stressors.

- Chinchillas love to get vertical! Choose a spacious, multi-level habitat with a solid floor and set it up near household activities, but away from windows and heating and cooling ducts.
- Chinchillas are especially sensitive to temperature and require 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit at all times to avoid overheating. Your chinchilla must be in a temperature-controlled area with low humidity and no direct sunlight.
- Your chinchilla's habitat should be outfitted with essentials such as a hideout with plenty of space to rest, a litter box lined with litter and bedding, multiple chews, grass hay, a food bowl, a dust bath, and two sources of fresh, clean water.
- No habitat is large enough to meet your pet's exercise and enrichment needs. Provide as much supervised time outside of the habitat as possible each day.

Your chinchilla's health

You should visit a qualified exotics veterinarian at least once a year for checkups on your pet's diet, behavior, and health.

- Make a list of any questions or concerns you may have before the visit and bring examples of your pet's nutrition, habitat, and husbandry-related items.
- Ask your veterinarian to recommend when to have your chinchilla spayed or neutered; this increases the chance of a longer, healthier life for your pet.
- Many health problems are preventable with proper diet and care.

LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMON HEALTH ISSUES:



REASONS TO CONTACT YOUR VET:

- Loose, soft, or lack of stool
- Small, dry, or infrequent stools
- Blood in the urine
- Sneezing or trouble breathing
- Overgrown teeth
- Sores on the feet
- Observed difficulty with chewing
- Bald patches in the fur
- Abnormal eating or drinking
- Hunching in a corner or lack of activity (lethargy)

FIND A QUALIFIED EXOTICS VETERINARIAN NEAR YOU:



Enriching your pet's world

All chinchillas are wired to engage in a set of core instinctual behaviors each day. These behaviors include chewing, playing, hiding, and exploring. Intentionally encouraging these behaviors in healthy ways is called enrichment.

- Support all four behaviors in a variety of ways each day to support your chinchilla's mental and physical health.
- Providing daily enrichment is a fun, interactive way to build your bond with your chinchilla.
- Offer a variety of natural chews, engagement accessories, places for rest and relaxation, and exercise items daily.
- Oxbow's Enriched Life accessories are designed to help make enrichment fun, easy, and safe!

GET MORE ENRICHMENT INSPIRATION FOR YOUR PET:



Supplies for your chinchilla

- Fortified species-specific food:** one of Oxbow's three premium formulas for chinchillas.
- Two or more varieties of Oxbow's hays**
- Oxbow treats** for healthy bonding and enrichment
- Water bottle, no-tip water dish, and no-tip food bowl**
- Multiple **Enriched Life natural chews and accessories**
- Large **play yard** for safe exercise outside the habitat
- Large habitat** with solid, non-slip flooring
- Multiple **hiding spaces**
- Litter box** with **Oxbow's Eco-straw litter**
- Bedding material**, such as **Oxbow's Pure Comfort**. Avoid aromatic cedar and pine shavings that may contain resin and could irritate your pet's lungs and skin.
- Natural Science supplements** as needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHINCHILLA CARE AND BEHAVIOR, VISIT WWW.OXBOWANIMALHEALTH.COM

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