

Long-tailed chinchilla

Chinchilla lanigera

 Chinchilla  Langschwanz-Chinchilla



REGULATIONS

Companion animal

OPAn: mandatory social housing (min. pair), ample climbing/running space; daily dust bath. Professional trade requires competence. Transport per FSV0 rules.



LIFESPAN

10–15 years



ADULT WEIGHT

400–850 g



LIFESTYLE

Crepuscular /
Nocturnal



BODY TEMPERATURE

36.8–38.2 °C



SEXUAL MATURITY

4–9 months



GESTATION

105–118 days



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

1–6



Habitat & environment



Type — Spacious multi-level aviary



Substrate — Towels, DryBed®/VetBed®, Toftbo® mats, yoga mat or blanket. Plant-based bedding: Nulldor® (fir wood), hemp, recycled paper. Avoid cedar and pine.



Equipment

- Sand bath
- Jumping platforms
- Wooden hideouts
- Hay rack
- Heavy food bowl
- Water bottle or heavy water bowl



Technical parameters



Ambient

15–22 °C

Heatstroke >28 °C



Behaviour

The chinchilla is a gregarious, quiet, and stress-sensitive animal. It needs a calm routine, ample vertical space for jumping, hideouts, and a dust bath (special sand) several times per week for coat care. Notable trait: under stress or rough restraint it can exhibit “fur slip” (intentional release of fur clumps) to escape; avoid gripping firmly by the coat. It tolerates rough handling and sudden environmental changes poorly.



Social life — Gregarious. The chinchilla should live as a compatible pair/group; introduce slowly on neutral ground. Neutering may help reduce conflict in mixed housing. Avoid housing with other species (different needs/risks). Use calm handling to prevent fur slip.



Activity cycle — Crepuscular/nocturnal. The chinchilla needs quiet during the day and evening activity: daily safe exercise, suitable chew items (untreated wood/appropriate mineral block), and platforms for climbing. Keep a cool environment (ideally 15–20 °C); avoid heat. Handle gently after dust baths (coat more fragile, fur slip risk).



Enrichment

- Daily sand bath (1 hr)
- Daily out-of-cage time (30 min min)
- Climbing structures

Nutrition

Strict herbivore. 80% high-quality dry, woody hay. Recommended brand: Oxbow (Chinchilla range).

Daily base

Hay

Grass hay, first cut, coarse stems

Vegetables & greens

Dried vegetables and flowers (1 handful/day). Avoid fresh greens.

Sage

Oregano

Thyme

Basil

Mint

Camomile

Anise

Tarragon

Burnet

Hyssop

Catnip

Horehound

Pellets & supplements

<20 g/kg/day. NO seed mixes.

Pellets

Brands: Oxbow, Supreme Science, Beaphar, Versele Laga

★ Treats (occasional)

Avoid anything sugar-rich.

Rose Buds

Thistle Leaves

Dandelion Root

TO AVOID

Soy

Avocado

White Cabbage

Onion

Sorrel

Garlic

Potato

Peels

Bread

Sweets

Chocolate

Cereal Bars

Health & prevention

Preventive medicine

Annual dental and weight check. Deworming if allowed outdoors.

Vaccination

None

Surgery & neutering

Castration (male) or spaying (female, not generally recommended).

WARNING SIGNS

- Dental malocclusion
- Diarrhoea
- Apathy
- Obesity

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.

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