



# All Creatures Animal Hospital

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## **Chinchillas As Pets**

**Average Lifespan: 8-15 years**

### **Diet**

- Chinchilla food will provide essential nutrients and high fiber.
- Grass hay must be available at all times.
- Fresh and dried fruits and vegetables can supplement your chinchilla's diet.
- Diet changes should be made gradually to not upset your pet's stomach.

### **Grooming/Bathing**

- Dust baths must be accessible at least every 3 days.
- It is not suggested to give your chinchilla a bath with water.

### **Housing Recommendations**

- Taller structures are better. Chinchillas like to jump from level to level.
- Places to hide must be provided for comfort.
- Use caging with a solid bottom so your pet does not get caught in metal grating.
- Chinchillas do better in cooler, arid climates so they should not be housed outside.

### **Annual Exam Recommendations**

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet.
- We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian check the general health of your pet.
- Teeth must be checked for dental disease at each exam.

### **Common Medical Conditions**

- Dental disease is common as teeth constantly grow. Watch for loss of appetite and increased drooling.
- Heat stroke can occur if kept in rooms above 80°F. Panting, lethargy and high body temperature are signs to watch for.
- Respiratory diseases, such as pneumonia can occur along with trouble breathing and sneezing.
- Enteritis causes GI dysfunction with loss of appetite, diarrhea, and/or lethargy.