

WE LIVE WITH A CHINCHILLA

10:00:00

10:00:07 Today we'll make acquaintance with a funny little creature, chinchilla. It's a rodent native to the Andes mountains in South America. It is a nocturnal animal, dozing in the daytime, so morning and evening are the best hours in its company. The cage should be large and sufficiently high, because chinchillas are very mobile animals. Aspen shavings or sawdust make good bedding. Chinchillas need things to gnaw on. Gnawing wears down their teeth, which is necessary, because rodent teeth never stop growing. The cage should be equipped with a wooden nest box, preferably on a shelf.

10:00:52 Barney is waking up.

10:00:56 –When I wake up it's time for some exercise. What! The door is closed!

10:01:04 Chinchillas can open the cage door if it's not locked.

10:01:10 – Wait a moment! I think there was no lock on the upper door. I knew it!

10:01:20: Chinchillas are busy animals and like to run around free. They can learn small tricks, if you know how to teach. Chinchillas are endlessly funny creatures – their jump and leaps overshadow those of other rodents. Chinchillas are uncommonly long-lived for small rodents; they can live up to 20 years and usually at least 14. In nature, chinchillas live in colonies and thus they are very social animals. The older they grow the gentler and the more affectionate they become. Chinchillas need company, and if you only have one, you should use a lot of time playing with it.

10:02:27 A dust bath box is very important for chinchillas. It removes the oil and dirt that gathers in their thick fur.

10:02:38 – Yeah, I like to take a bath many times a week, it's so fun.

10:02:45 You can also brush the coat. Chinchillas must never be washed. If they accidentally get wet, they must be dried with a hair dryer, for example.

10:03:02 A piece of crisp bread is a good treat.

- 10:03:13 When a chinchilla is let out of its cage, all important things should be protected or it will destroy them. Like all rodents, chinchillas like to taste everything. Electrical wires and sockets should be covered.
- 10:03:46 The best way is to provide it with safe things to gnaw on.
- 10:03:57 – Better take a rest not to get a heatstroke.
- 10:04:04 – Hey, Barney fell asleep, it's our turn!
- 10:04:08 Mimmy and Ida are nimble chinchilla kids.
– Let's play hide-and-seek. I'll start counting. One, two, three...
- 10:04:30 Where did she go? OK, the tub can take two.
- 10:04:41 Chinchillas love crisp bread.
- 10:04:48 On rare occasions they get a raisin.
- 10:05:07 Chinchillas are easy to feed: Chinchilla pellets, dry hay and water are all they need. Their stomach cannot take any fresh food. They drink very little, but water should always be available.
- 10:05:39 The End