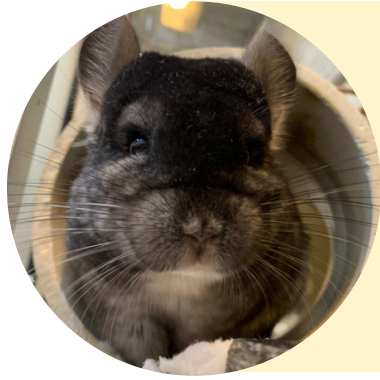




Long-tailed Chinchila

Chinchilla lanigera



Lenny

I was born on September 17th, 2016.

Unlike my friend and roommate George, I am an educational ambassador animal. You can meet me on programs! My coat is blackish grey, and I was born with only 3 legs. Don't worry! I still get around just fine!

George

I was born November 22, 2016.

I am a little more shy than my friend and roommate, Lenny, so I let my keepers know that I didn't want to be an ambassador animal! You can tell me apart from Lenny because I have a light gray coat with pink ears.



LONG TAILED CHINCHILLAS AT A GLANCE



- Chinchillas have very dense fur. The ventral side is usually bluish, pearl, or brownish gray, and the belly is yellowish-white. Their tails are furry with coarse hairs on the dorsal surface.



- Chinchilla teeth are dark orange from the iron, phosphorus, and calcium in their tooth enamel. The orange the teeth, the healthier they are!



- Chinchillas have large, black eyes with a vertical split pupil, vestigial cheek pouches, and incisors with colored enamel. Both the forefoot and hindfoot have four digits with stiff bristles surrounding the weak claws.



Male and Female:
10-20 in long
1-2 lbs.

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
10 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
20+ years

WHERE ARE LONG TAILED CHINCHILLA NATIVE HABITATS?



Long-Tailed Chinchillas live in the mountains of northern Chile. Found in the barren, arid areas of mountains at elevations of 9,800-16,000 feet. These animals den in crevices and holes among the rocks.

Chinchilla Behaviors

SLEEPING

Chinchillas are nocturnal, meaning they sleep during the day, and are active at night.

We like to sleep in our hides during the day, but will jump around and play at night!



BATHING

Due to their dense fur, chinchillas can't get wet.

Instead, they clean themselves with dust baths from volcanic ash. The dust absorbs moisture, natural oils, dirt, and other debris.

Our keepers give us dust baths for enrichment!



BODILY FUNCTION

Chinchillas do not sweat, instead they thermoregulate by releasing heat from their hands and feet.

If its too hot outside, we do not go on educational programs for our safety.



DEFENSE

Chinchillas can avoid predation by spraying urine or releasing their fur if something tries to grab them.

Defense mechanisms are really important for small animals, like the chinchillas, to escape larger animals.

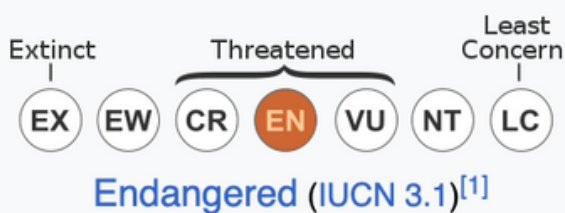


- Chinchillas live in burrows or rocky crevasses in the mountains. They can jump up to 6 feet.
- Chinchillas reside in large colonies of hundreds of individuals. Females are dominant and aggressive toward one another.
- Caecotrophy is the process used by a chinchilla to digest its food twice.
- Red blood cells in chinchillas can hold more oxygen than other rodents. This is due to their natural living conditions at high altitudes.

Chinchilla Conservation

Chinchillas are very important to their habitat. They control the insect population, aerate the soil, and feed off many different plant species.

Long Tailed Chinchillas are currently listed as **Endangered** due to collection for the pet trade, poaching, and habitat destruction.



How can we help?

Chinchillas are threatened by poaching and the pet trade. Do not buy products from endangered animals, like furs, skins, claws, or tusks. When purchasing a pet chinchilla, ensure that it is captive-bred from domesticated animals. Only acquire a pet that is from a reputable breeder/distributor to ensure that you are not buying an illegally wild-caught and/or imported animal.