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Chinchillas are in the rodent family. This means they are cousins to mice, rats, squirrels, and guineapigs.



Chinchillas are shy yet friendly creatures with soft fur and big ears. They are clean animals and very lovable.



Chinchillas used to be found in al areas of Chile, Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia, but widespread over-hunting has led to them becoming nearly extinct.

The species is listed as critically endangered, as of 2016.



Chinchillas are mostly nocturnal, preferring to come out at night, like cats and many other rodents.

Their fur is very soft and valued for the fur trade which was almost deadly for the species.



The fur industry nearly brought Chinchillas to extinction, but now it is responsible for their increasing numbers.



While there are only around 10,000 Chinchillas left in the wild, while there are around 80,000 Chinchillas in farms.



Many animal rights organisations complain about conditions and killing methods in chinchilla farms.



Chinchillas can make great pets, they are friendly and clean. But they need dental care, a special diet, and an environment that is not too hot.



Chinchillas are omnivores but mostly enjoy a vegetable diet. For feeding pet chinchillas a pellet diet specific to the species is best.



Chinchillas don't bath in water, they bath in dust!

Chinchillas thick fur doesn't agree with water and they should not get wet.

The End



Share this book to help create more awareness of these beautiful gentle creatures.

Looking for more resources about Chinchillas?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinchilla

https://www.livescience.com/28131-chinchillas.html

http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/4651/0

http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/4652/0

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/chinchilla_laniger

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About the Author

Danielle Bruckert

Danielle is a New Zealander living abroad, who now calls Africa home. Her chosen career is as a professional pilot, she has worked in a variety of aviation capacities from instruction to airline flying, and is the author of several aviation text books.

Danielle started writing children's books as a creative outlet from the stress of her 'day job' and as a break from the sometimes monotonous work required for her professional writing. She began with the Mac and Dipper series, aimed at 5-10 year olds, inspired by two of her own dogs. After having a child of her own, she suddenly found she had a muse, an eager resource for test reading, and, by benefit of her age, an honest critic all in one. It was fun and rewarding to write creative stories which matched her children's learning curve. A series of 'junior' books aimed at 2-5 year old children followed. Her children are older now, but she still loves this genre. "It's that magic age- when magic is still real: dreams run free, and nothing is considered impossible," she says.

Danielle passion for children's literature and the role it plays in improved literacy standards led to the creation of the Free Kids Books website. All of Danielle's own books are available at www.freekidsbooks.org for free download and may be used free of charge for non-commercial purposes.

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