This page was edited and added to the care sheet 2/23/17

* Chinchillas need to have pellets, hay, and water always available.
* Leave your chinchillas in the cage for the first two weeks, do not take them out to play or hold.
* Establish a routine! Chins love to know what to expect throughout the day. Try to feed, interact with, and dust them at the same times each day. You will see that they will wait at the front of the cage when they expect something good to happen, like treats, food, dust, or your attention. ☺
* Your chins might hide and be antisocial with you and/or their cagemates for the first two weeks, this is normal behavior while they are adjusting to their new home. Be consistent with your behavior and schedule so that they will learn to trust you.
* Give your chins 1 mini shredded wheat each day. If your chins have soft droppings, give them one every 12 hours, and only feed hay. Babies get ½ a biscuit.
* Train your chinchillas that they will receive their shredded wheat in a specific location. This will be helpful later if you need to train them to return to the cage after playtime.
* *Do not give your chins any treats* *other than the mini shredded wheat*.
* Check that the temperature in their area does not go above 70 degrees, and that they are not exposed to sunlight or drafts.
* Mounting and chasing are normal dominance and play behaviors, but separate chins if they are pulling fur or injuring each other. Call me if you find tufts of fur or blood in the cage, see bite marks, or violent behavior.
* Your chins may make warning calls when they sense that something is different or frightening, and warn the others with a loud “eeeep eeep eeep eeep eeep” sound. Sometimes chins will even do this in their sleep! After the chins are used to your home they will only make warning calls when they see, smell, or hear something strange. Some chins will make a warning call when a new person visits the home.
* Chinchillas need a dust bath a minimum of twice weekly. After they have each dusted remove the dust bath from the cage.
* Call, text, facebook, or email Marianne with any questions! (207) 626-0130

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