



How To Convince Your Parents You Can... **Care For A Pet Chinchilla**



Amie Jane Leavitt



PUBLISHERS

Copyright © 2010 by Mitchell Lane Publishers. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Printed and bound in the United States of America.

Printing 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

A Robbie Reader/How to Convince Your Parents You Can...

Care for a Kitten	Care for a Pet Mouse
Care for a Pet Bunny	Care for a Pet Parrot
Care for a Pet Chameleon	Care for a Pet Racing Pigeon
Care for a Pet Chimpanzee	Care for a Pet Snake
Care for a Pet Chinchilla	Care for a Pet Sugar Glider
Care for a Pet Ferret	Care for a Pet Tarantula
Care for a Pet Guinea Pig	Care for a Pet Wolfdog
Care for a Pet Hamster	Care for a Potbellied Pig
Care for a Pet Hedgehog	Care for a Puppy
Care for a Pet Horse	Care for a Wild Chincoteague Pony

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Leavitt, Amie Jane.

Care for a pet chinchilla / by Amie Jane Leavitt.

p. cm. — (A robbie reader. How to convince your parents you can...)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58415-799-1 (library bound)

I. Chinchillas as pets—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

SF459.C48L43 2010

636.935'93—dc22

2009001121



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Amie Jane Leavitt is an accomplished author and photographer. She graduated from Brigham Young University as an education major and has since taught in both private and public schools. She is an adventurer who loves to travel in search of interesting story ideas and beautiful places to capture on film. She has written dozens of books for kids, including four others in this series for Mitchell Lane Publishers: *How to Convince Your Parents You Can Care for a Pet Mouse*, *Tarantula*, *Sugar Glider*, and *Chimpanzee*. She hopes that young readers will gain an appreciation for animals from all parts of the world after reading these books.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The facts on which this story is based have been thoroughly researched. Documentation of such research is listed on page 29. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein.

Special thanks to librarian Annette Draper at Wilson Elementary School in Payson, Utah, and to her pet chinchilla, Chili.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One	5
The Softest Fur on Earth	
Chapter Two	9
The Fluffy Rodents of the Andes	
Chapter Three	15
Will That Be One Chin or Two?	
Chapter Four	21
Caring for Your New Chinchilla	
Chapter Five	25
To Have or Not to Have?	
Find Out More	29
Books and Articles	29
Works Consulted	29
Web Addresses	30
Rescues	30
Glossary	31
Index	32

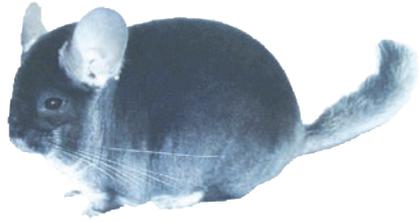
Words in **bold** type can be found in the glossary.





Chapter One

1



THE SOFTEST FUR ON EARTH

What has the tail of a squirrel, the ears of a mouse, the whiskers of a cat, and the body of a rabbit? Is it a squouse? Is it a cabbit? Nope, it's none of those things. It's a chinchilla!

Chinchillas are not typical pets, and that's exactly why many people like owning them. They like having something that other people do not. Many chinchilla owners like to impress their friends with the things their unusual pet can do. Chinchillas can jump high in the air like a rabbit and even fetch sticks like a dog. They can do stunts like open plastic jars of treats, do backflips over their toys, and perform tap dance routines with their tiny toenails clicking on tin shelves.

Chinchillas are part of a **unique** (yoo-NEEK) group of animals called exotic pets. These pets include many kinds of animals such as hedgehogs, ferrets, tarantulas, iguanas, flying squirrels, and sugar gliders. **Exotic** pets are not the typical pets, and they





Chinchillas are blue-gray to silver-gray. In the wild, this color helps them blend in with their surroundings. Animals that hunt them have trouble seeing them on the rocky ground.

usually come from another part of the world than where the owner lives. Chinchillas come from South America.

There are many reasons to keep a chinchilla as a pet. For one, chinchillas are soft and cuddly. They are so fluffy that they almost look like a big puffy cotton ball. Their fur is the softest and silkiest of any animal's on earth.

Chinchillas generally live for a very long time. If they are properly cared for, they can live as long as 20 years! Compare this with dogs, which usually live only 10 or 12 years, and cats, which live to a maximum





age of 15. For kids who want the same pet throughout their entire growing-up years, the chinchilla's life span is great news.

Another benefit of chinchillas is their sleep schedule. These furry friends are **crepuscular** (kreh-PUS-kyoo-lur), which means they typically wake up around sunset. While this may be a problem for very young children, it is ideal for a school-age kid. While you are in school during the daytime, your chinchilla will be snoozing. Then you can

come home, do your homework, and even eat dinner before your pet is awake and ready to play.

So, do you think you'd like a chinchilla? If so, there's a lot you need to learn about these animals before you can go out and buy one. Turn the page and let's explore the captivating world of chinchillas.



fun FACTS

Chinchillas are endangered animals. There are very few left in the wild. In the 1800s, people started hunting them for their soft, dense fur, which they'd use to make coats. Millions of chinchillas were killed during that time. They are now a protected animal in South America.



You've Just Finished your Free Sample

Enjoyed the preview?

Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>