



## Species Fact Sheet



### MAMMALS

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

## Chinchilla

*Chinchilla lanigera*

Peoria Zoo Exhibit

Education Programs

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

**Habitat:** Barren, rocky, mountainous areas

**Range:** Northern Chile within the Andes Mountains

**Activity Cycle:** Nocturnal-sleep during the day and active at night

**Size:** They weigh between 1-1.5 pounds and can grow up to 10 inches long

**Social Structure:** In the wild they live in colonies of up to 100

**Distinguishing Features:** They come in many different colors, from dark gray to brown. They have a thick fur coat that protects them from parasites and predators. Females give birth to 1-4 young. Newborns have hair, teeth, and open eyes at birth.

**Diet:** Roots, grasses, grains, bark, fruits, bulbs, leaves, stalks, seeds, and nuts

**Life Span:** 15-20 years in captivity, 8-10 years in the wild

### Did you know?

***Each follicle in the Chinchilla's coat has up to 60 hairs, making their coats extremely soft.***