Chinchillas are small, furry animals that came from the cold Andes Mountains in South America. Their thick fur is designed to keep them very warm, but cannot get wet or the hairs may fall out. Instead, chinchillas must bathe by rolling around in a special dust called “silica dust” and then shaking it off along with any dirt. Chinchillas are normally solitary animals and can live up to 10 years in captivity.

Cockatoos are beautifully colored, warm-climate birds that can easily reach 60 years in captivity. They require great amounts of care and socialization in order to live a long and healthy life. Their diet consists of a specialized seed mixture that can be supplemented with fruits and vegetables. Cockatoos that are improperly cared for will often become depressed and pluck out their feathers.

Labradors, called labs for short, are social and typically friendly canines that weigh an average of 70 pounds. They are all-weather animals that socialize well with humans and fellow canines. Labs can be fed a dry or moist dog food that is specially designed for their age, weight, and lifestyle. When properly cared for, a lab will live between 12 and 14 years.

Boas include many different species, one of which is the common boa. These tropical snakes can live to be more than 20 years old and may reach lengths of 12–15 feet! Adult common boas are fed mice every one to two weeks that are appropriate for the size of the snake (big snake = big mice). Common boas are typically housed separately from one another.

Tabby cats are domesticated felines that may be fed dry or moist food that is specially designed for their age, weight, and lifestyle. They usually weigh 10 pounds. Tabby cats can be housed alone or with other cats. When they are well cared for, tabby cats may live to be 20 years of age. Care should be taken when any cat is placed outside of your home as they are natural hunters and may hunt native birds, rodents, and insects.