

Pet Care of a Guinea Pig

Guinea pigs are small mammals with short legs and no tail. They originally come from South America.



Diet

Guinea pigs need to eat food like hay to give them fibre. This helps them digest their food.

Guinea pigs should have vegetables and some types of fruit every day but only in small amounts.

Lemons and limes can make them ill so remember not to give them those fruits.

Environment

Guinea pigs need a large area like a hutch so that they have room to explore.

They should have a safe, warm, dry area where they are away from other pets.

The temperature must be comfortable. If it gets too hot, they can get heat stroke.

Guinea pigs must be in a quiet place. Noises make them scared.



Did You Know?

Guinea pigs are active for up to 20 hours a day!



Did You Know?

Guinea pigs cannot climb or dig but do like to go down tunnels!



Did You Know?

Their teeth grow all the time so they need to chew hay. This wears their teeth down.

Guinea Pig Behaviour

Guinea pigs need lots of exercise. They like to run through tubes and pipes.

They are prey animals so get scared. When this happens, they will freeze and be totally still.

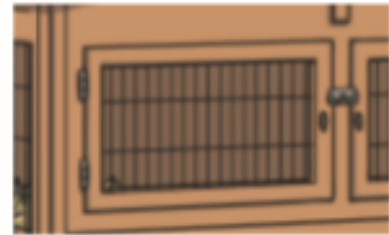
They can see all around themselves, so they can see when they might need to escape!

Guinea pigs need to live in pairs or small groups. They get very unhappy if they are on their own.

They need to get used to being picked up so they need to be with adults and children.

Dangers to Guinea Pigs

- Grass that has been cut by the lawnmower can make them ill.
- Bedding that can be pulled apart can cause problems for guinea pigs. They might eat it which is very dangerous.
- Other animals can frighten guinea pigs. Keep them away.



Guinea Pig Signs of Stress:

- overgrooming;
- chewing the bars of the cage;
- drinking a lot of water.

Take your guinea pig to a vet if it is showing these signs.

Questions

1. Where do guinea pigs come from?

2. What do guinea pigs need to eat?

3. What sort of hutch do guinea pigs need to live in and why?

4. What could happen if a guinea pig gets too warm?

5. Give one example of something guinea pigs like to do?

6. What part of them grows all the time?

7. What do guinea pigs do when they are scared?

8. Name one thing a guinea pig might do if they are stressed?

9. What can make guinea pigs upset?

10. Describe what sort of bedding a guinea pig needs.
