

Potential health problems

Overgrown teeth

Guinea pigs can suffer with overgrown teeth that may have to be clipped by a veterinary surgeon. Always make sure there is plenty of gnawing material available.

Vitamin C deficiency

Guinea pigs cannot store vitamin C so a good supply is essential. Fruit and vegetables offered regularly and a complete guinea pig mix contain ample amounts. Lack of vitamin C can cause: scurvy skin (dry flaky skin) and stiffness in the back leg joints. If this occurs they may need to be checked by a veterinary surgeon.

Parasites

Guinea pigs can get mites and lice in their fur, there are small animal mite sprays to treat this.

Weekly health check

- | Is underneath the tail clean?
- | Do they have all their toes and nails? Are they clean and not overgrown?
- | Do the legs move freely with no staggering or stiffness?
- | Are the teeth present? Are they straight and not overgrown?
- | Is the nose clean with no discharge?
- | Are the eyes bright and clear?
- | Stroke the ears; are they smooth and clean?
- | Is the fur clean with no bald patches or parasites?
- | Blow in the fur; the skin should be healthy not red, dry or flaky.
- | Feel the body. Is it fat enough? It should not feel bloated or bony.
- | Listen to the chest. Is the breathing almost silent with no wheezing?

If you answered no to any of the above your pets may require veterinary attention.

The information in this leaflet is intended as a guide only, as animals have individual requirements and temperaments.

My new Guinea Pigs

My pets are called

I feed my pets on

Shopping List

It's a good idea to get as many of the following items as possible when you buy your pet. It's a big initial payout but small animals are usually very cheap to keep.

- ★ Hutch or cage
- Run
- ★ Woodchips
- ★ Straw
- Litter scoop
- ★ Disinfectant
- ★ Water bottle
- ★ Food bowl
- ★ Complete guinea pig mix
- ★ Hay and hayrack
- ★ Wood gnaw
- Treats
- Salt lick
- Toys
- Brush or comb
- Nail clippers
- Book

★ **ESSENTIAL PURCHASES.**
WE CANNOT LET YOU TAKE YOUR PET HOME UNLESS YOU HAVE THEM.

Important Contacts

Pets Corner

or call us freephone on **0800 1696098**

Vets



Find out all about us at:
pets corner.co.uk

All of our animals are guaranteed for 21 days. If you have any problems please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Careguide Guinea Pigs



Think twice!

A new pet can be a fantastic companion, but sometimes the novelty can wear off (some pets live for a very long time). You may find that regular cleaning, feeding and handling becomes a time consuming chore.

Please try to handle and play with your pet as often as possible, you will find that you will be rewarded with a much happier and friendlier pet.

If you are not 100% sure that you or your children will be able to give your pet the attention that it needs then please think twice.

We only purchase animals from breeders who we feel meet our exacting standards. These are our Star Breeders!



You must be over 16 years old or have a letter from a parent or guardian before you can purchase a pet from Pets Corner.

If your journey home from our store will be longer than 20 minutes please tell us, so we can give your pet a more comfortable carry-box.

*We cannot guarantee that any type of animal will live happily together. You may have to separate them.

Sex and health guarantee terms and conditions.

Pets Corner guarantees the health of your pet for 21 days from point of purchase. If your animal falls ill in this period and your vet firmly believes that the illness or injury was contracted prior to purchase we will cover the cost of your vet's fees. The guarantee does not cover: i) injury caused by neglect, another animal or mishandling, ii) stress related illnesses caused by change of environment. We guarantee the sex of all mammals when stated. Some birds cannot be sexed by appearance, but when possible we will guarantee their sex. This does not affect your statutory rights.

Guinea pigs can make excellent pets. They can be very active with great personalities. If raised and handled properly they'll be your friends for life. Here are a few tips to get your pets started in their new home.

They are sociable animals and should live with their own species, but they can live with small breeds of rabbit. They will usually mix at any age although it is best to introduce them before they are fully grown (5 months). If mixing sexes you should neuter one of them.

Guinea pigs are crepuscular which means that they are awake on and off throughout the day and night, and they have a life expectancy of 5 to 6 years.

Do

Check their food and water twice a day, making sure you clean any poo and woodchips out of their food bowl.

Clean their home thoroughly at least once a week with **petsafe disinfectant**. Make sure you clean everything your pets touch. A home with two pets may need cleaning twice a week. Use a **litter scoop** to make this easier.

Allow your pets to settle in for 24 hours before handling them for the first time. Play with your guinea pigs as often as possible. Just be gentle and stay close to the floor. A member of staff will show you how. **Exercise is essential, let them have a supervised run around as often as possible, indoors or out - depending on the weather.**

They can live indoors or out as long as they are out of direct sunlight and draughts. **If housing outside they must be acclimatised to the cold between 1st May to 31st October or they won't survive the winter.** You may only keep them in a shed or garage in the coldest months, ensure there is daylight and adequate ventilation.

Grooming is important to remove moulting hair, it's also a good bonding experience. Use a brush for short hair and a wide tooth comb for long hair. **Their nails may need clipping every 3 months to prevent them from getting overgrown and painful.**

Don't

Do not feed LETTUCE or AVOCADO as these can be harmful. You can give them small amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables every other day.

Do not keep them near televisions or stereos as these can produce high frequency sounds that will irritate them.

Do not use aerosol cans near them as they can produce toxic fumes.

Although a few toys are a good idea, please don't overcrowd their home with them.

What they'll need:

Hutch or cage: Guinea pigs need a lot of room. The minimum suggested home size for 2 guinea pigs is about 120cm x 45cm x 40cm. It must have a separate enclosed sleeping area so that they can hide away and sleep in peace.

Run: If you have a garden it is advisable to use a run to exercise your guinea pigs, but you should never leave them unsupervised. Make sure it is situated in a shady area.

Woodchips: Use plenty of woodchips in the bottom of their home, this will soak up urine and protect their feet.

Straw: Should be used as bedding because it is a better insulator than hay and will keep them warm during the winter months.

Water bottle: Make sure your pets can reach the spout, and refill it daily to monitor their drinking.

Food bowl: Stainless steel or ceramic are best, as they are hygienic and can't be chewed.

Food: Guinea pigs are herbivores and should be fed a complete guinea pig mix. **It is vital that animals are weaned gradually onto any new food.**

Hay: Is an essential part of your guinea pigs' diet. Put it in a hay rack to keep it clean.

Wood gnaws: Like all rodents your pets' teeth grow continuously, gnaws are essential to keep their teeth trim.

Treats: Feed treats every now and then, but not too often.

Toys: To stop your pets getting bored while you're away toys are vital to keep them active.

Health check them weekly with the guide overleaf.