

Guinea Pigs

FACTSHEET

All animals need the following five things to be happy and healthy: a comfortable home, suitable diet, companionship, normal behaviour and vet care.

Find out how you can care for guinea pigs by using the information below.



HOME

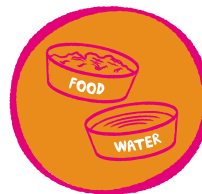
Animals need a comfortable home with enough space to exercise.

Although guinea pigs are small creatures, they need plenty of space to run



around. Giving them an indoor or outdoor home which is around 1.5m long and 60cm deep and a lovely big run in the garden will make sure they have all the space they need.

If you can, why not give them their own shed to live in with a lovely outdoor run?



DIET

Animals need a healthy diet and access to fresh water at all times.

A healthy guinea pig diet needs to be made up of soft, green, sweet smelling hay; safe, fresh plants and vegetables and healthy brown guinea pig nuggets.

They should have fresh water every day.



COMPANIONSHIP

Some animals need friends of their own kind, some would rather live by themselves.

Guinea pigs are lovable animals who need to have guinea pig friends but also enjoy spending time with their people. In the wild guinea pigs live in herds and as pets like to live in pairs or small groups.



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NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animals need exciting things to do and space to behave normally.

Guinea pigs love having plenty of areas to hide in and run through – try cardboard boxes, plastic cat carriers lined with newspaper and hay, plastic or wooden tunnels or even a cosy fleece cat bed to snuggle in.

Guinea pigs need to be able to gnaw on things to keep their teeth in good shape so try offering apple tree or willow twig prunings, as they love to chew all the bark off.



VET CARE

Animals need to be kept healthy and see the vet if they are sick or injured.

Guinea pigs can suffer from colds and chills and also mites so it is important that an adult gives your guinea pigs a quick health check every week and that you look for any changes in their behavior each day. If you are at all worried it is really important that you take them to see a guinea pig friendly vet as soon as you can.



WHY NOT MAKE?

...your guinea pigs a tasty homemade treat?

Fill paper bags with **hay** & freshly picked **safe plants***

No guinea pig can resist a rustling paper bag!

You can also stuff **toilet roll tubes** with **forage hay** as a treat.

* Find a list here:
www.woodgreen.org.uk/pet_advice/563_feeding_your_guinea_pig.