

Guinea Pig (Cavy) Articles

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Kinds of Guinea Pigs

By [Nicholas Kemp](#)

Guinea pigs come in several different coat types and lots of different colors and markings. This hasn't always been the case. Over the years breeders have produced many beautiful varieties of guinea pig.

Currently, there are 13 breeds of domesticated cavies recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association. The various breeds differ mainly in the appearance of their coats. Coats can range from smooth and short haired, rough-haired, with the fur sticking up in fluffy rosettes all over the body to simply long-haired. Guinea pig colors are arranged in groups. Within each group, there are individual colors. Here are a few examples of popular color groups.

The Agouti Pattern: The hair shaft of an agouti-colored guinea pig has several bands of color. Two or more alternating light and dark rings determine the color of agouti.

The Marked Pattern: Pigs with the marked pattern are unusually white with patterns of another color throughout their entire bodies.

The Self Pattern: This term is used to describe solid-colored piggies, those who are uniform in color through the entire body.

The Solid Pattern: This is similar to the self pattern, except that it may include agouti and other mixed-color fur, as long as this fur doesn't create a pattern or marking

There are many more patterns - Beige, Black, Blue, Brindle, Chocolate, Cream and even Dalmation

When you choose a piggie remember that the ones with a smooth or a rosetted coat are the easiest to keep clean and well groomed. The fur of long-haired guinea pigs needs brushing and clean everyday. Long-haired piggie really shouldn't be your first choice if you are adopting or buying for the first time. A long-haired pig needs lots of daily care and attention as the hair needs to be brushed and styled everyday. So, unless you have plenty of time to groom your new pig, it is best not to buy a long-haired one at first.

If you would like to learn more about [guinea pigs](#) visit this [guinea pig care](#) blog.

Nicholas Kemp is an online educator and speaks and read fluent Japanese. After living in Japan for 10 years he returned to Australia and started his own online business. He teaches Japanese with the help of his Japanese wife and has produced several multimedia rich products he help people read and speak Japanese.

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Gerty Guinea Pig Food Review

By [Jake M. Jones](#)

Gerty Guinea Pig Food is one of the highest rated cavy foods on the market. But is it really worth the hype? And is it right for your piggy? Read this review and find out...

First of all, Gerty guinea pig food is a complete food, meaning it has all the right nutrients in it. This includes an extra-dose of vitamin C which is a vital supplement to your cavies. Most guinea pigs have been found to love Gerty because its taste has been developed over time to appeal to piggies more. So basically, Gerty guinea pig food simply follows a recipe much superior to other foods, both by way of nutrition and taste.

The chief ingredients of Gerty guinea pig food include vegetables and vegetable extracts, a variety of plant seeds, sugars, essential vitamins, minerals, fats and protein.

This healthy mix can certainly be fed to any guinea pig, baby or adult but the seeds contained in the food can cause baby pigs to turn away. Even grown-up cavies sometimes leave the seeds in the bowl. Also, the food includes alfalfa, which due to its high calcium content, can be unsuitable to some pigs, especially older ones.

Apart from the high nutritional value, Gerty guinea pig food also makes for great exercise for your pigs. The food is hard and firm, making it necessary for your pigs to bite, chew and gnaw through it. As cavies naturally like doing this, your pigs will definitely love Gerty's if only for the fun of eating it!

But all pigs are different and yours may not find Gerty's so likable. To find out if the food is suitable for your little one, I suggest that instead of buying a whole bag, get a sample of it to try on your piggy. You can acquire samples either by directly contacting the company (phone, email etc) or someone who uses it already. You can join forums on the internet dedicated to guinea pig care, where people would be happy to share a sample with you.

Gerty guinea pig food usually comes in 1.5 kg, 3 kg and 15 kg bags. The largest bag is not recommended unless you have a whole family of guinea pigs. Otherwise, it can last really long and lose its nutritional value over time. Also, when you buy, it's absolutely essential that you check for the brand logo and seal because a number of imitation products are being sold on the market under the Gerty label, so be cautious.

Overall, Gerty guinea pig food is a great product with plenty of variety, balanced nutrition and a taste that most piggies relish. It can be a bit more expensive than some of the other foods available but if you're into giving your cavies the best, this is certainly the one for you.

Did you know that many guinea pig owners are taking terrible care of their pet without even knowing it? To find out if you're taking good care of your pig, head over to [Guinea-Pigs-Care.com](#) and check out the Guinea Pig Care Bible. It is a massive collection of tried and trusted information on guinea pig care, and instantly provides answers to all your guinea pig questions. [Click here](#) to check it out now.

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Best Cavy Care Tips to Keep Your Cavy Healthy and Happy For Years

By [Joshua Cuccia](#)

There are around thirteen different breeds of Cavy. Some are long haired, some are short, and one of the first to consider with Cavy care, is the necessity for washing.

The long haired breeds of Cavy are going to need more attention in this area, than the short haired breeds. For a shampoo you may use a specially formulated kitten shampoo, freely available from quality pet stores, and naturally your vet. Use this kind of shampoo to avoid any probability of drying out their skin.

When you have bathed your Cavy, confirm she or he is completely dried before returning to the hutch. Cavy care also needs regular clipping of the toenails.

Like their teeth, the toenails are always growing so you must keep a watch on the length and trim when mandatory. Don't clip the nail too short, and the most impressive results can be done by trying the standard nail clipping tool, ensuring not to chop into the fast (the living part of the nail). If you do happen to cut into this area, you can stop the bleeding employing a styptic pencil.

Brushing your guinea pig is another task that you are going to need to do. The ultimate brush to use for this is the standard metal greyhound brush, which penetrates simply to the base of most fur coats. Daily brushing always helps to remove any loose hair, which lessens losing.

Regarding medical and or consultant care as your Cavy grows, search out a vet who focuses on exotic animals. This way you make sure that any cavy care you want, that's outside your own level of expertise, is being handled by someone with the right information about your pet.

The vet can check for bugs, show you the most effective way to do stuff like nail trimming and grooming, and it's a good spot to ask any questions you could have. If you're paying for a wellness check, employ the expense and time productively by asking the vet anything you want or need to understand about providing great cavy care.

There are a couple of things that you should generally be looking for. If your cavy shows any appearances of any of these, you should see your vet as fast as possible. Difficulty breathing, refusal to drink or eat, listlessness, puffing and sneezing, crusty eyes, rough coat, hunched posture, blood in urine, limping, baldness, and/or scratching, and any other unnatural behaviour that might be a concern to you.

Acting quickly can be the difference between your cavy being diagnosed and cured, and the choice, and no-one wants to consider the alternative! Ensure that when and if your cavy does

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need veterinary assistance for any bacterial sort of infections, the vet doesn't prescribe or use Penicillin based medicine. If you're undecided about a particular drug or drugs, raise questions, and expect a reason BEFORE permitting it to be given to your pet.

Joshua Cuccia is a guinea pig expert. Do You Want To Quickly and Easily Have the Perfect Guinea Pigs: Healthy, Happy, and Thriving For Years to Come? Discover more information about [Cavy Care](#), visit <http://www.guineapigcarerevealed.com>.

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Is a Cavy the Right Pet For You?

By [Joshua Cuccia](#)

Otherwise known as a Guinea pig, a Cavy is an ideal pet for just about anybody. Is a Cavy the right pet for you? Well I believe you will be the judge of that.

If you live on a tropical desert island with little shelter and only salt water, then probably not! However if you love the idea of a small, loving and affectionate pet, that loves temperatures less than 25 degrees Celsius, and eats cheaply, then you could do worse than the cute and cuddly Cavy. Children love them, older folks love them, and I am sure if you give them a chance, you will adore them too.

To wonder is a Cavy the right pet for you, means you are thinking about the implications of having any kind of pet.

A Cavy will eat a mixed diet of hay, vegetables, fruit, grass and pellets. It'll stay well out of the way of any danger, hiding in its dark space till any threat disappears. It is a non-confrontational animal that would rather sky dive than face off with a wayward mouse on steroids!

It drinks water, and if you have it in an outside hutch with a wire surround covering, it'll even mow your lawn. A Cavy will adore you, almost unconditionally. It'll look to you for protection when it is out of its enclosure, and it will occupy itself by sleeping and eating when in its enclosure. It'll have a soft coat of fur, lovable small ears, and it'll generally be clean, although some of that responsibility will be yours.

Are you still asking is a Cavy the right pet for you, then consider this. There is no walking a Guinea Pig. You won't find yourself being dragged from the couch by the leg of your trousers, to take him (or her) outside to catch a frisbee. There'll be no drenching with soapy water when you wash him.

You won't have to tolerate fighting animals, unless you have him roaming the backyard and he is spotted by next doors dog! (That could get nasty.)

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Apart from regular preventative visits to the vet for check ups there shouldn't be any major costs for treatments. At the present there are no community Guinea Pig training camps, so that may not be an early morning obligation either.

All in all, if you are looking for a pet that will for the most part take care of itself, but will be there when you need somebody to talk to, then I don't believe you need to ask is the cavy the right pet for you. Just go out and get one!

I believe you will quickly realize that it was one of your best decisions, and I know that the tiny Guinea Pig you select will be extremely grateful to you for giving him a loving and caring family. And hey, your young ones will absolutely adore the new family addition.

Joshua Cuccia is a guinea pig expert. Do You Want To Quickly and Easily Have the Perfect Guinea Pigs: Healthy, Happy, and Thriving For Years to Come?
Discover more information about [Cavy Pet](#), visit <http://www.guineapigcarerevealed.com>.

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Cavy Cages - How to Build a Cubes and Coroplast Cage

By [Robert M. Matthews](#)

Finding cavy cages in the pet store or department store that are large enough to give your guinea pigs a healthy and comfortable environment is not an easy task. Almost all manufactured rodent cages fall short when it comes to providing enough space for a full-grown adult cavy. It is for this reason that many people these days are turning to do-it-yourself guinea pig cage projects to provide adequate housing for their pets.

In past years, most home made guinea pig enclosures were built of wood and chicken wire. Today the most popular home-built guinea pig cage is built from much more modern technology. I am speaking, of course, about the C&C or cubes and Coroplast cage.

The C&C cage gets its name from the materials which are used in its construction. The word "cubes" refers to the metal grids which are normally utilized to build storage cubes. In C&C cavy cages these grids are used to construct the cage enclosure itself. Coroplast is a corrugated plastic sheet material and is used to construct the litter bins.

Step one is to design the cage. The simplest and most economical design resembles a corral. It is simply a grid fence built around the perimeter of a Coroplast litter bin. If you use your imagination, you can design very complex cages with these simple building blocks. Many people build multi-story structures with various custom innovative features.

The second step is to purchase building materials. When choosing grids, make sure the spacing between grid wires is no greater than 1.5-inches. In 14-inch grids, this translates to a grid pattern of nine grids on each side.

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Caution: some popular storage cube kits contain 14-inch grids that have an eight-by-eight pattern. These grids are not suitable for cavy cages. Guinea pig rescue organizations have identified these eight-by-eight grids as being strangulation hazards. If in doubt - remember - the openings must be 1.5 inches or less.

Coroplast can usually found at your local sign shop. They may be willing to cut it to size for little or no charge. Be sure to let them know that you are using it for a guinea pig cage. If they know you are not a competitor, they may quote a better price.

The next step is to cut the Coroplast to size. A razor knife or boxcutter can be used for this purpose. You will have to learn how to do two kinds of cuts. When cutting the plastic to size, you will need to cut all the way through. Wherever you need the plastic to bend or fold - e.g. forming walls - you will need to score the plastic sheet. This means that you will cut only partially through the sheet. The object will be to cut only the top surface of the sheet leaving the bottom wall untouched. If done correctly, you will be able to fold the plastic at the score line.

After that, we assemble the grids together. If you have bought grids in the form of a storage cube kit, then plastic snap on connectors will have been included. Most people use these connectors to construct their cavy cages. We prefer to use cable ties to connect the grids together. Although cable ties take a little more effort to apply, we feel that they create a far stronger cage.

The final step is to place the Coroplast bin in the grid enclosure, add bedding or fleece and transfer your guinea pigs into their new home.

If you are a true do-it-yourself purist, you will want to design and build your cage from scratch. However, most people just want the biggest, safest and most economical cage for their money - with the minimum number of hassles and complications. For these people, a C&C guinea pig cage kit purchased from a reputable online supplier is the best solution. Many innovative and spacious C&C cavy cages are available online in kit form. Just be sure to choose a reputable seller with a good reputation.

Why not visit [BlueStoneCommerce](#) today? They are a highly recommended C&C cage seller. And more importantly - they are guinea pig owners. All of their cages are designed with both the guinea pig and guinea pig owner in mind. For more information on Coroplast, CLICK HERE--> [Cavy Cages](#) - Some Facts About Coroplast

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Robert_M._Matthews

Are You a Cavy Slave?

By [Gwen Garrett](#)

A Cavy Slave is an affectionate term that guinea pig lovers often refer to themselves as. It means that your piggy has you wrapped around their little paws and you just adore them. Cavy is another term for a guinea pig. The scientific term, to be exact. Most piggy lovers

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adopted this term because the name guinea pig does not make much sense to the animal. As, the piggy is neither a pig nor is he from New Guinea. The truth is that no one knows exactly where the name came from but piggy lovers everywhere use the term cavy with love and adoration.

So, are you a cavy slave?

Do you, feed your little fellow the appropriate amount of vitamin C every day with his favorite fruits and veggies?

Do you have a special little bed for him to sleep upon when its lights out?

Maybe you even made his cage for him to ensure it was big and cozy enough?

Is your piggy the first one you run to when you come home from work, or school, everyday?

Or perhaps you've got a section of your yard protected so that he can run free, under your supervision of course.

How many piggies do you have?

Do you want another?

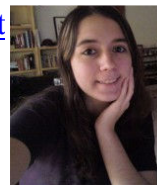
Do you cuddle your piggies everyday because you can't resist?

Do you take pictures of them to boast about later?

Do you wish you could take them with you wherever you go?

So after asking yourself all of these questions; Are you a cavy slave?

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Gwen_Garrett



Providing Food For Your Cavy

By [Louise Lacy](#)

Your guinea pig's wellbeing depends on what food he/she consumes so it is essential to offer a varied diet with a diverse range of fruit and vegetables on a daily basis.

Diet

There are many fruit and vegetables that guinea pigs can eat. There are also numerous wild plants that guineas can munch on. Like us they have a preference for what they prefer when it comes to food.

Do not supply your guinea pigs with anything that you wouldn't eat yourself. Green vegetables ought to be provided daily. Lettuce must only be offered as a treat as it has no nutritional worth. Spinach is high in oxalic acid which fed in excess can disturb the digestive system.

Cavies require 10mg of vitamin C per day. I have discovered that providing each of my cavies with 1/8th of a green pepper per day then that is enough for a daily intake. Do note that

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red pepper is higher in vitamin C but it is also higher in sugars which are why green peppers are always best to feed on a daily basis.

Get rid of any decaying vegetables after a couple of hours or so. Leaving them in the cage/hutch is a frequent cause of diarrhoea in your guinea pigs.

Fruit

As fruit holds a lot of sugars and acids it is best to feed as a treat, say once or twice a week. Honeydew melon and pears are loved by many guinea pigs. Tomatoes can be fed more frequently. Do be cautious with citrus fruits as they can cause tenderness to the mouth area.

Forages from the wild

Grass is much loved by guinea pigs; however never feed grass trimmings from a lawnmower. This is due to the fact that other wild plants such as buttercups may be mixed into the ordinary grass; contaminating it. Alternatively you can purchase dried grass from any high-quality pet shop or horse feed shop.

While dried food isn't massively important it offers 5% of the guinea pigs diet. Many people feed pellets as this prevents select feeding. At present I am using muesli as none of my cavies select feed. When changing over to any brand mix a little bit of new dried with a little bit of old dried. Do the change over gradually to avert any instability in the digestive system.

As always unlimited hay must be offered. I find twice daily is sufficient. I offer one handful for every cavy.

It is always wise to establish a feeding routine and follow the set times each day. Work out a routine around your own timetable and your guinea pigs will come to be familiar with when it is feeding time for them.

<http://www.popcornpastures.com>

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Louise_Lacy

Quick Pet Guinea Pig Care Guide! Simple Tips For A Healthy Cavy!

By [Michael Porteous](#)

Guinea pig's also known as Cavies are one of the gentlest, loving, clean and adorable pets you can care for. These timid creatures have grown in popularity over the last few years but not as much is known about pet guinea pig care as cats or dogs or fish which are more prominent. Luckily guinea pigs are not too difficult to look after, they are clean, do not smell like mice and do not bite like ferrets. Here are a few simple tips to care for your guinea pig!

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Housing

It is best to keep your guinea pig in a decent size cage, four to six square feet of floor space for each guinea pig is good but slightly smaller will suffice. Make sure the floor is solid not wire cage like the walls however as this can hurt their feet, also guinea pigs cannot jump or climb very well also so you do not need a roof to their enclosure as long as it is about 18 inches high. Make sure your enclosure also has a place for your pet to hide in if it wants; in the wild it was defenseless against predators so when it feels threatened it needs a place to feel secure in.

Bedding

A bed of shredded newspaper or wood shavings is ideal for your guinea pig. Beware however of wood shavings with a lot of aroma such as some types of pine as this can cause some healthy issues. Make sure you change the bedding at least once a week.

Food

For good Guinea pig care you should have a large and steady supply of water as they tend to drink a lot. Water in a dish is fine but can often get messy as bits of bedding may get into it and they might tip it accidentally and wet themselves and their cage. Most experts recommend a feeding tube attached to a bottle, these can be purchased at most pet stores and have a device that stops the water leaking out so the guinea pig can drink without making a mess.

Guinea pigs are also very susceptible to a lack of vitamin C and while their food pellets are infused with the vitamin older tablets lose their potency. You can add Vitamin C supplements to the drinking water however to keep their supply up.

While guinea pig pellets should be the main part of your pet's diet you can also feed them other fresher food like turnips, spinach, hay and kale. Do not however feed your pig fruits and sweets as this upsets their digestive system.

Diseases

A sick guinea pig will suffer from hair loss and crusty or inflamed eyes, nose and ears. These symptoms are caused often by a lack of vitamin C but also from diseases they can pick up from guinea pig colonies at pet stores, while the usual cure for diseases like these is anti-biotics, guinea pigs are known to react very badly to such treatment.

Other things to check are flaky skin and ticks and fleas, when purchasing your guinea pig make sure you check for all these things so you choose a healthy pig that can live up to 8 years if cared for well!

Physical care

Long haired varieties of guinea pigs need regular brushing, combs used for Persian cats are good for this. Make sure your long haired pig is free from items getting caught up in their hair, this breed needs much more attention.

You should also clip the nails of your pig once a month, a normal nail clipper is good for this.

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A Guinea pigs teeth are also always growing and they need something wooden in their pen for them to chew on so they do not overgrow.

You should now know the basics of good pet guinea pig care and will have a happy healthy little pet that will delight you for many years to come!

Do you need a comprehensive guide to guinea pig care to keep your little friend happy and healthy?

The Comprehensive Cavy Guide is a wonderful e-book with great life saving tips for your cavy, a brilliant breeding guide and many tips to help you understand your guinea pig better!

This e-book comes with many free bonus e-books for a limited time only!

Do you owe it to your little buddy to keep him safe and well cared for?

If so click here! <http://smallandnfurry.blogspot.com/2007/10/comprehensive-cavy-guide.html>

Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Michael Porteous](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Michael_Porteous)

Guinea Pigs - A Cavy Q&A

By [Robert M. Matthews](#)

The guinea pig is one of the most popular pets in North America. In spite of this, there are many facts about this little creature that are not commonly known by most people. Please join me as I attempt to explore (sometimes successfully) some facts regarding the history and characteristics of this cuddly little beast.

Author's note: No pigs were harmed in the writing of this article.

Q: How much do cavies weigh at birth?

A: Guinea pigs (also known as cavies) only weigh in at around three ounces at birth.

Q: When cavies are born, do they hold them up by their legs and spank them like human babies?

A: No! Absolutely not. (See author's note above).

Q: How large do they get to be when they grow up? Do they weigh more than a sweet potato? They're kind of shaped like a sweet potato.

A: The average adult boar (male) weighs around three pounds. The smaller adult sow (female) averages only about two pounds. I don't know how much the average adult sweet potato weighs.

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Q: What is the difference between a sweet potato and a yam?

A: This one deserves a two-part answer: 1) Neither one is a mammal and 2) remember, we're talking about guinea pigs!

Q: How big do cavies get? How long is the average adult cavy?

A: As adults, this little member of the rodent family averages about 9 - 14 inches in length. (At least as long as most adult sweet potatoes).

Q: How long do cavies live? How long would that be in dog years?

A: On average, this little rodent has a life expectancy of about five to seven years. I don't know how long that would be in dog years - but I can tell you from experience; in husband years, it's about seven minutes.

Q: How come dog years are a measurement of time whereas light years are a measurement of distance?

A: Yams and sweet potatoes are both angiosperms. However, yams are from the Dioscoreaceae family whereas sweet potatoes are botanically unrelated and are from the Convolvulacea family...

Q: What do you call baby cavies? Piglets? Piggies? Kittens? Sprouts? Futons?

A: Nope, oddly enough, although adult males are called boars and females are called sows; baby guinea pigs are not called piglets (or futons). They're called pups. So, if our dog gave birth to pups, I'm sure it would really confuse our guinea pig because...

(our dog is a male).

Q: What is a group of cavies called? A pack? Flock? Covey of cavies? Gaggle of guineas? A pride of pigs?

A: Wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong... and... wrong. A group of guinea pigs is called a herd.

Q: Herd of guinea pigs?

A: Of course I've heard of guinea pigs! (Rimshot).

Q: What's a henway?

A: Not fallin for that one.

A: How come a cavy's eyes are on the sides of its head instead of in the front like ours? Doesn't that make it harder to wear glasses?

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Q: In the wild, this little animal is a prey animal - that is, they get eaten. Their eyes are on the sides of their heads in order to widen their field of vision and allow them to better detect predators. Also, most cavies wear contact lenses because - glasses on a guinea pig? That's just silly.

We here at Blue Stone Commerce are pet owners as well as pet cage sellers. Please Visit Our Website at <http://www.BlueStoneCages.com> for lots more information, tips and entertaining tales of guinea pigs and guinea pig cages. You will also find links to all of our online Cage Stores and Guinea Pig Care guides. While there, be sure to Claim Your FREE BONUS GIFT available on the front page.

Follow Us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/guineapig9>

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Robert_M._Matthews

Guinea Pig Trivia - A Quiz About Our Cavy Friends

By [Robert M. Matthews](#)

Just how much do you know about the guinea pig? Take this short test of cavy knowledge to find out.

1. What are baby guinea pigs called?
 - a. Puppies
 - b. Guppies
 - c. Sprouts
 - d. Forest Gump
2. Cavies need to be given supplements of which vitamin?
 - a. Vitamin A
 - b. Vitamin B
 - c. Vitamin C
 - d. Flintstones chewables
3. Which of these animals is the most closely related to the guinea pig?
 - a. Rabbit
 - b. Penguin
 - c. Beaver
 - d. Forest Gump
4. Where do cavies originally come from?

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- a. Africa
- b. South America
- c. K-Mart
- d. Their moms

5. When these little rodents spring into the air, it is called...

- a. Percolating
- b. Tiddly Winking
- c. Popcorning
- d. Springing into the air

And now for the answers:

1. Oddly enough, baby guineas are called *puppies*. You might expect them to be called piglets in order to keep the pig reference consistent - because adult male cavies are called boars and female guineas are called sows.

2. Your little pets must be given daily *vitamin C* supplements because they, like humans, lack a particular enzyme needed to manufacture this vitamin in their bodies.

3. The *beaver* is most closely related to these little critters. (Forest Gump is most closely related to the summer sausage.)

4. Cavies are originally from the Andean region of *South America* which consists of modern day Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Tribal peoples raised them as food. (I hear they had a guinea pig meat loaf that was to *die* for. It was great smothered in cavy gravy.)

5. When your happy pigs spring into the air, it is called *popcorning*. Those of you who answered *springing into the air* get extra credit for your tremendous grasp of the obvious.

We here at Blue Stone Commerce are pet owners as well as pet cage sellers. Please Visit Our Website at <http://www.BlueStoneCages.com> for lots more information, tips and entertaining tales of guinea pigs and guinea pig cages. You will also find links to all of our online Cage Stores and Guinea Pig Care guides. While there, be sure to Claim Your FREE BONUS GIFT available on the front page.

Follow Us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/guineapig9>.

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