

Hello Cavy Friend!

Here are some tips to care for your guinea pigs, and your C&C Cage.

Please do not put the Coroplast directly on a hardwood floor. Moisture from the air and/or wood can get trapped and can cause sweating –the cage is not leaking urine.

Place the cage on a towel or carpet instead of directly on wood surface.

NOTE: Our grids openings are safe for adult guinea pigs. If you have babies or small/young Guinea pigs, it's recommended to baby-proof. You can accomplish this with extra coroplast or with our Pig-a-Boo windows to block the grids above the coroplast walls temporarily until they are older.

At least one guinea pig friend of the same sex is recommended.

With proper care and nutrition guinea pigs can live up to 10 years, though the average is 4-8 years.

BASIC NEEDS

- * Large Cage (**as large as possible**, no wire floor, no aquariums) with room to run, and good ventilation
- * 2 water bottles, 1 food bowl, medium ceramic or attachable to cage
- * Pigloo or wooden hiding house per guinea pig plus one extra for them to share.
- * Bag of bedding, Aspen or Carefresh (No cedar!) or Kiln-dried Pine.
Fleece is another common cost-effective bedding product.
- * Large bag of green Timothy hay. (Alfalfa for babies up to 6 months old) It's recommended to use a hayrack to keep it off the ground. Unlimited amount – just keep refilling it.
- * Plain Guinea Pig pellets (no seeds, nuts, or colored treats)
- * Primarily green leafy (vegetables Romaine lettuce, cilantro, chard, carrot...) *SEE DIET PARAGRAPH
- * Small piece of fruit (cantaloupe, kiwi, orange...)

General Regular exercise outside the cage is essential to your guinea pig's health and is great fun for the whole family. An area set off with grids you can fold away is best. Most guinea pigs love being petted once they are on your lap, but can be skittish when you try and pick them up, it's normal if they try and hide. You can try coaxing them with a lettuce leaf or piece of fruit. Please supervise children when handling guinea pigs because they can be easily injured and may nip if not treated kindly

NOTE: EXERCISE WHEELS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR GUINEA PIGS

Housing Guinea pigs should be kept indoors, safe from predators and climate extremes with as large a cage as possible---and daily floor time for exercise. You. The cage is best in a room where your pets can enjoy your company, out of drafts and direct sunlight. A temperature range of 65-75 degrees is ideal. Guinea pigs need a house or igloo to rest in, one per guinea pig, and even a third to share.

Floor time Cover the floor with fleece or an old blanket that you can wash and let them have time each day to run and explore.

Cleaning the Cage No need to lift the coroplast base out of the cage. Leave it in place. Scoop out bedding with small hand broom and dust pan into a bag for disposal (or remove fleece). Spray with a solution of ½ vinegar and ½ water (straight vinegar works on stubborn spots) wipe clean and dry.

Guinea Pig's Diet

A healthy adult guinea pig diet is based on quality grass hay. Timothy hay and guinea pig pellets without seeds, nuts or colored treats should be both available at all times. Babies under 6 months and pregnant sows need alfalfa hay. A constant supply of hay provides fiber to keep the teeth and digestive system healthy.

Guinea pigs must have adequate Vitamin C in their diet, but do not put Vitamin C in the water. It should come from produce with a high Vitamin C content, such as parsley, Romaine lettuce, bell peppers and dandelions, with a piece of carrot added occasionally. One cup per day per guinea pig.

Look for plain pellets containing vitamin C date stamped to ensure freshness and potency. Remember to fill their water bottles daily with fresh plain water.

Just keep in mind the following (Sourced from: guinealynx.com/diet.html)

- Variety Modest amounts of a variety of vegetables (and a few fruits) are best
- Feed primarily green leafy vegetables(Romaine lettuce, cilantro, chard)
- Don't give too many carrots -- at most, only a small carrot every other day or so
- Avoid cruciferous vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower as they may cause gas
- Cut up celery in small pieces so the strings don't cause problems

Fertility / Vet Care

Male guinea pigs can be sexually mature at three weeks old. It can be extremely dangerous for a sow to deliver babies, and can often result in death. Make absolutely sure of your pet's sex and keep males and females separate at all times to prevent unwanted babies. Due to the health risks and pet overpopulation problem, breeding pet guinea pigs is strongly discouraged. Male guinea pigs should be neutered if a male and female are kept together, but only by a veterinarian experienced in performing this procedure.

Find a veterinarian specializing in exotic animals and experienced in treating guinea pigs before you have an emergency. Guinea pigs often hide signs of illness, so by the time you notice something is wrong the illness is usually well-advanced. If you notice your guinea pigs not eating or drinking, sneezing, wheezing, crusty eyes, fluffed up fur, diarrhea, blood in urine, tilted head, excessive scratching or hair loss, please seek vet care immediately.