

# GUINEA PIGS

Guinea pigs (*Cavia Porcellus*) are an ideal pet for families!

*When guinea pigs sense their owner is nearby they will squeak to get their attention!*

Guinea pigs are generally a hardy rodent & make an excellent first pet! They originate from South America & are also known as 'çavies' with the Latin porcellus being short for 'little pig'.

You need to pay some attention to their dietary requirements & in most cases, disease prevention is far more successful than the disease treatment. Guinea pigs are strict herbivores that require specific amounts of calcium, phosphorus, magnesium & potassium in their diet.

Our 'guinea pig & rabbit mix' is a specially formulated mix that contains these vitamins & minerals. Your guinea pig will require this each day as well as fresh water.



You can supplement feed your guinea pig with high fibre foods such as lettuce (in small amounts), carrots, broccoli, apple, capsicum, bread and fresh grass. Guinea pigs will also enjoy a salt lick to supplement their mineral intake.

Salt licks are designed to fit easily on the inside of your guinea pigs hutch. A vitamin C supplement should be included in your guinea pigs diet as this vitamin is unable to be stored in their body.

Scurvy is a disease caused by a long standing Vitamin C deficiency. It is a progressive condition & symptoms can be quite severe.

Guinea pigs can be kept inside or out. Most guinea pigs in Australia are housed outside in a guinea pig hutch. To help keep your pigs comfortable, their bedding area should contain clean straw.

There are numerous indoor hutches available should you decide to keep your guinea pig indoors.

Guinea pigs are social creatures & enjoy the company of other guinea pigs. We don't recommend keeping male & females together as they breed easily.

The size of your guinea pig is dependant on the breed of guinea pig you have. Our expert staff can advise you on this.

*A female guinea pig is called a sow, a male is a boar & babies are called pups!*



*The average lifespan of a guinea pig is 5-8 years.*

