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PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Litter Training Your Rabbit or Guinea Pig

Rabbits and Guinea Pigs are no longer the cage dwellers they used to be. These social, little pets should have at least four hours of play time outside of their cage every day. What some people may not know is that you can train your rabbit or guinea pig to use a litter box. This takes time, patience and assistance. Here are a few suggestions on litter training your small animal.

Where do I put the litter box?

Rabbits and guinea pigs are generally clean animals and will choose one or two corners in which to do their “business”. This is where you should put the litter box. To aid in training, keep your rabbit or guinea pig’s roaming area small while they learn to use this one spot. In the future, if you have a very large roaming area, you may need to introduce another litter box.

What do I use for litter?

Organic cat litter, such as pellets made of hay, wheat grass or paper, is best. Avoid cedar chips or cedar pellets or any type of clumping litters, as these can cause serious health problems.

How do I clean the litter box?

Once your small animal uses its litter box constantly, it will need to be emptied every one to two days. At least one to two times per week you should clean it with a 10% bleach solution. After bleaching, make sure to rinse the litter box several times and dry it thoroughly.

Who is a good candidate for litter training?

Younger animals have shorter attention spans and it may take a few months for them to be completely trained. An older rabbit or guinea pig can also learn to start using a litter box even if it has never done so before. Neutered rabbits or guinea pigs are easier to litter train because the onset of sexual maturity causes males to mark their territory by spraying.

How do I train my pet?

You need to pay very close attention to your small animal during play time. Consistency is key! If he lifts his tail or starts to urinate or defecate outside the box, tell them “No” in a stern voice, and place them in the litter box. If they do use it, praise them with lots of pats, happy words and even a treat. Remember: this must be done constantly as these animals are habituary.

Extra Tips

“Accidents” are a normal part of the litter training process. If your pet has an accident outside their cage, soak up the urine with a Kleenex and put it in the litter box. Or if the urine is in shavings in the cage, move the wet shavings to the litter box. This puts the smell of urine into the litter box. You can also pick up their droppings and put them in the litter box so they associate stool with that area too.

If your small animal does eliminate elsewhere, make sure to clean the area well with a special enzyme cleaner or a strong vinegar solution. This will ensure the smell elsewhere does not confuse them.

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet’s health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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