

# GUINEAPIG INFORMATION LEAFLET

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Guineapigs make lovely pets, small and gentle natured, they are inquisitive, very vocal. All our guineapigs are sourced from local reputable breeders.

We do not believe in sourcing guineapigs from farms as they are often overbred; which can be a contributing factor to health problems.

## DIET

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Water must be made available fresh at all times.

Guinea pigs are fed on a mix of gertie guinea which contains alf-alfa and cereals containing vitamins and minerals.

Hay is a beneficial fibre to help promote digestion and dental health and is an important part of their diet.

A salt wheel should be made available to improve your guineapigs metabolism.

Fresh greens are an essential part of a guineapigs diet.

### Safe greens

Asparagus, banana, basil, brussel sprouts, cauliflower leaves, celery, kale, parsley, savoy cabbage and spinach.

## HOUSING

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Guineapigs will live indoors or outdoors, but are sensitive to temperature. Over the winter you will need to move your guineapigs inside e.g a shed , and keep them out of the hot sun in summer.

Your hutch must be at least five times the length of your guineapigs, but the more space the better.

Outdoor guineapigs should be cleaned at least two times a week and a warm bed of chopped straw given to sleep in.

If you have an Indoor guineapig ensure wires are out of the way to prevent injury on your guineapigs outings. Again indoor cages should provide adequate space and should be cleaned regularly.

Small animal pellets can be used to reduce odour or a litter tray.

It is ideal to use small/animal disinfectant to kill bacteria and viruses as it contains no harmful chemicals which may harm your pet.

## COMPANIONSHIP

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Guineapigs love company and ideally should be kept in same sexed pairs, Guineapigs are not solitary animals and do not like being kept individually.

## NEUTERING

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Vets recommend neutering guineapigs living in mixed pairs to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Also neutering can help to prevent fighting between boars.

## MITES

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The most common problem in guineapigs is mites. A special spot on solution can be purchased to prevent mites embedding themselves.

## GROOMING

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Guineapigs moult so it is advisable to brush your guineapig regularly which also creates a bond between guineapig and handler.

If your guineapig has long hair it is advisable to groom daily to remove matts.

It is important to keep your guineapigs nails trim, as left to over grow nails may cause discomfort and even grow up into foot.

## EXERCISE AND PLAY

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All guineapigs need daily exercise and access to a run where they can eat, hide in tunnels and play.

It is important to ensure your guineapig has access to water and shelter.

## HANDLING

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Leave your guineapigs in their new surroundings for at least 24 hours to let them settle in.

You can easily scare guineapigs so crouch down and talk to them softly, it is best to let them come to you by offering your hand to sniff. You should then be able to stroke your guineapig and then slowly lift your guineapig supporting their weight by putting your other hand under their bottom. Hold them either on your lap or close to your chest.

## BOARDING

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We offer a small animal boarding service at fiveways pets.

£2 A DAY 1 ANIMAL IN A HUTCH  
£3.50 A DAY 2 ANIMALS IN A HUTCH

FIVEWAYS PETS  
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