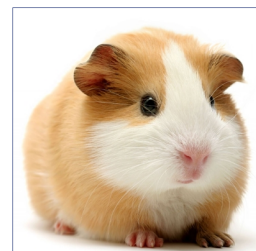


Guinea Pig / Domestic Guinea Pig

Scientific Name: *Cavia Porcellus*

Brief Description:



Guinea Pigs are not native to Guinea, nor are they biologically related to pigs, and the origin of the name is still unclear. We do know however, that they originated from the Andes of South America and that they are intelligent, affectionate and social animals that require, to some extent, interaction with humans or other Guinea Pigs. Chewing appears to be the Guinea Pig's favorite hobby, so make sure you have plenty in the cage to keep your pig happy. Guinea Pigs are known to whistle on the owner's approach, much like a dog bark's when its owner returns home.

Average Size: The average size of a full-grown Guinea Pig is eight-to-twelve inches.

Average Life Span: The average life-span of a Guinea Pig is up to eight years.

Feeding:

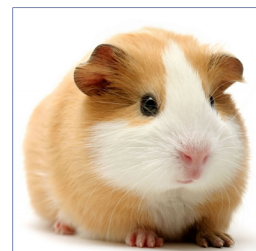
- Guinea Pig's thrive on a steady diet of hay, lots and lots of fresh hay.
- Fill your pet's bowl with fresh hay.
- Every other day, provide your Guinea Pig with kale, zucchini, collard greens or shredded carrots.
- Once per week treat your Guinea Pig with a fresh snack such as mango, papaya or banana.

Guinea Pig / Domestic Guinea Pig

Scientific Name: *Cavia Porcellus*

Feeding: (con't)

- Twice a week, let them nibble on alfalfa or raisins.
- A healthy diet consist of twenty percent vegetables and five percent fruit.
- Your Guinea Pig will require a vitamin C, daily supplement.
- Excess food should not sit on the bowl for more than a few hours.
- Clean food and water containers daily.



Housing:

- Guinea Pigs acclimate well to average household temperatures.
- Be cautious of extreme temperature changes.
- Habitat should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area.
- Habitat should be at least four-times the size of the Guinea Pig.
 - o Always provide the largest habitat possible.
- Enclosure should be escape proof with a solid surface.
- Guinea Pig's enjoy tunnels and hide outs.
- Indoor play yards are ideal for Guinea Pigs.
- Provide one-to-two inches of bedding in the habitat
 - o Bedding can include shavings, pelleted or recycled products.
 - o Cedar-based bedding may cause harm and is not suggested.
- Different types of small animals should not be housed together.

Petware House

Guinea Pig / Domestic Guinea Pig

Scientific Name: *Cavia Porcellus*

Maintenance:

- Remove wet spots on a daily basis.
- Bedding to be replaced weekly or more often if needed.
- Wash all items in the habitat, rinse, and allow to dry before returning.



Temperatures:

- Stable room temperatures is adequate. No special requirements.

Humidity:

- No special requirements.

Lighting:

- Use room lighting as needed. Guinea pigs are most active during dusk and dawn.

Petware
House

Guinea Pig / Domestic Guinea Pig

Scientific Name: *Cavia Porcellus*

Water and Accessories:

- Guinea Pigs should be provided with a sipper bottle, hung from the side of their cage.
- Provide fresh, de-chlorinated water on a daily basis.
- Guinea Pigs need small toys to play with.
- Keep a food bowl and chew stick as well.



Reproductive:

- Guinea Pigs can breed year round, and may have up to five litters per year.
- Guinea Pigs can reach maturity at three-to-five weeks of age.
- Gestation is fifty-nine to seventy-two days.
- Guinea Pigs may have anywhere from one to six
- Guinea Pigs can have anywhere from one-to-six litters per year, with the average of three.
- New born pups are born with hair and are mobile.
- Begin feeding them from a pellet diet immediately.

Notes and Comments:

Guinea Pigs are most active during the day and prefer to be handled on the floor. When excited, guinea pigs may repeatedly perform little hops in the air. Guinea pigs can learn complex paths to food, and can accurately remember a learned path for months.

Guinea Pig / Domestic Guinea Pig

Scientific Name: *Cavia Porcellus*

Notes and Comments: (con't)

If handled correctly early in their life, guinea pigs become amenable to being picked up and carried, and seldom bite or scratch. They are timid explorers and often hesitate to attempt an escape from their cage even when an opportunity presents itself.

Guinea Pigs may be housed together. Males have a tendency to be dominant at times with other males. Guinea Pigs will get along with Rabbits as well, but remember that a rabbit and a guinea pig do require different diets.

