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Guinea Pig Care

Your guinea pig should never go without eating. If your pet hasn't eaten for at least 12 hours, take it to a guinea pig-savvy veterinarian immediately.

Guinea Pigs must have Vitamin C added to their diet! Green bell pepper, parsley, and citrus fruits are excellent sources of Vitamin C that can be fed daily.

Regular vet visits are a must! If your guinea pig is not examined routinely, health problems will be very difficult to detect before they are very serious or even deadly. We recommend full exams at least every 6 months. Yearly blood work is also very helpful in determining the internal health condition of your pet.

Common guinea pig health problems: overgrown teeth, upper respiratory infections, and pneumonia. They can catch pneumonia from humans.

Clip nails monthly. If a guinea pig's nails are not clipped monthly, they become overgrown and may snag on carpet or cage material causing the nail to tear, break, and bleed.

Guinea pigs overheat easily! Temperatures above 85° are not safe for you pet.

Guinea pigs do not need a very large living area. The cage should be big enough to hold food and water, tubes or tunnels to explore, and a box for hiding. The cage should be wire with a solid plastic floor. Clean the cage at least twice weekly to prevent ammonia buildup.

You should only use Carefresh, Yesterday's News, shredded newspaper (no shiny ads), or timothy hay for bedding. Cedar, pine, and aspen litters should never be used as they contain natural dust and oils that irritate the skin, nose, and eyes, and can cause liver disease.

Guinea pigs are prey animals. If you take your guinea pig play outside, remember that it is prey to numerous species such as hawks, owls, cats, and coyotes. Keep your pet safe and build a guinea pig enclosure or don't leave it outside unsupervised.

Spay your pig! Altering your guinea pig increases her life expectancy and betters her overall health. Spaying eliminates your pet's chances of uterine infections, ovarian cysts, and cancer of the uterus or ovaries.. It also helps prevent breast cancer.

If you want to breed your pig, do so before 8 months of age. If you breed your guinea pig after that age, she will develop dystocia (difficult birth). Pelvic structures fuse after 8 months of age which makes giving birth difficult and often requires a c-section.

We recommend adoption. There are numerous guinea pigs in shelters such as the AZ Humane Society, and there are even guinea pig rescues. Ask a staff member for a rescue list today!

Dr. Rowena D'Monte • Dr. William Langhofer • Dr. Samantha Lieberman • Dr. Joseph Lockhart • Dr. Daniel Fonza
Dr. Jill Kirschenbaum • Dr. Kimberly Wangen • Dr. Erin Greenwood