

Guinea Pig Toys, Treats and Chews

Guinea pigs love to eat, especially sugary treats, but they also very easily gain weight.

Despite what your local pet stores say, treats with a lot of seeds and nuts are NOT good for guinea pigs. They contain too many carbohydrates, which can severely mess up a guinea pig's gastrointestinal tract. They will get diarrhea, and this can even lead to death. The best treats to give guinea pigs are leafy green veggies, which they love, and occasional fruits. You should always give organic fruits and vegetables, as pesticides are even more detrimental to their health than ours.

Below is a list of fruits you can give to guinea pigs in small amounts as occasional treats. Give only 1 level tablespoon per 1 kg (2.2 lb) of body weight daily. Do not forget to wash them first!

Peaches	Apricots
Strawberries	Oranges
Apples (NO seeds)	Lemons
Nectarines	Papayas
Plums	Pineapples
Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries	Grapes
Carrots	Green/Red Bell Peppers
Grapefruit	

Below is a list of safe chews for your guinea pig. It is very important that they have something to chew on, as their teeth grow continuously and need to be worn down. Toys are also important to prevent boredom, provide exercise and mental stimulation, and keep your guinea pig from destroying your home.

Straw and Hay Mats	Busy Bunny Toys (www.busybunny.com)
Timothy/Oat/Orchard Grass Hay	Toilet paper/paper towel rolls
Dried Cholla	Phone Books for shredding
Dried Gourds	Cat toys (roll or toss)
Mineral Licks	Napkins holders (wooden or ceramic)
Bermuda Grass	Wooden bird toys
Paper bags (for hiding)	Cardboard boxes

Bad for Guinea Pigs

The following is a list of foods your should NEVER give to a guinea pig. Also, keep all poisonous plants and chemicals out of reach.

Iceberg lettuce	Bananas	Cabbage
Cereal	Bread	Rice
Potatoes	Nuts/Seeds	Sugary foods
Radishes	Onions	Pickled Vegetables
Rhubarb	Wood with tarnish, sealant or paint on it	Meat

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Chocolate

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