

Before you bring home your new cherished pet, be sure to make sure it has everything it needs to be happy and well. Below are basic guides & tips for your convenience and use.

BASIC SUPPLY LIST

- cage or hut or pen /home with a smooth bottom
- pet-carrier
- dish for food
- water bottle
- bedding/litter
- hay rack
- timothy hay, orchard grass, or oat grass
- brush
- nail trimmers
- safe chew item
- separate small hut/house/box to hide & sleep in

BASIC TIPS

- keep your guinea pig away from cats and dogs
- provide them with daily floor play time
- remove stale food daily
- provide fresh water daily
- to minimize the risk of respiratory disease maintain the temperature at 65-75 degrees
- because guinea pigs are active, provide ample space to move about (living quarters at least 18 inches wide, 14 inches high, and 25 inches deep)
- no aquariums (poor ventilation) and no mesh or wire-floor cages (hurt guinea pigs' tender feet)
- they chew on things in the cage due to their constant growing teeth so purchase as much nontoxic items as possible
- do not use sawdust, cedar chips, or fabrics for nesting/bedding instead provide plenty of high-quality hay for nesting and snacking
- provide a gnawing log (such as an untreated fruit tree branch), tunnels for crawling & platforms for climbing
- heavy food bowl resistant to tipping and gnawing and a water bottle with a sipper tube
- fruits are treats to guinea pigs (be sure to remove the seeds, which are toxic)
- ask your assisting veterinarian about vitamin supplements
- guinea pigs are happiest so keep two or more together of the same sex

HOW TO HOLD YOUR GUINEA PIG (make sure the entire body is supported)

- slowly place one hand under the chest just behind the front legs
- gently cup your other hand under his hindquarters
- be sure to have a firm but gentle grip on the animal and lift
- immediately pull him close to your chest or lap so he feels safe and doesn't toss & turn

WHAT TO FEED YOUR GUINEA PIG (a variety is best)

- each guinea pig will require about one cup of vegetables per day and it is best to divide the veggie meal into two servings
- hay should be the majority daily diet
- commercial guinea pig food, formulated especially for the species of your guinea pig
- they need lot of vitamin C (consider a powered supplement)
- grass, between a handful to several handfuls, more in the warmer months
- green pepper, 1/8 to 1/4 of whole pepper
- romaine lettuce, one or two large leaves
- tomato, wedge of large tomato or small roma tomato
- fresh veggies such as kale, broccoli leaves, and radish greens
- **Occasional vegetables:**
 - broccoli leaves (small) and peeled broccoli stem
 - chinese cabbage (pak-choi), one leaf
 - corn silks and husks when in season
 - parsley, one or more sprigs
 - forages like chickweed, dandelions, and young clover
- **Fruit** (a couple fruits per day from this list):
 - apple, thin wedge, no seeds
 - apricot, dried, a couple raisin-sized pieces
 - banana, 1/4" round slice
 - blueberries, several
 - cantaloupe, 1" X 2" piece with washed rind
 - grapes or raisins (not both), one or two
 - orange, one slice
 - strawberries
 - watermelon, 1" X 2" piece with washed rind

DO NOT FEED THEM:

- potato skins and eyes - very high in oxalic acid
- too many carrots
- iceberg lettuce
- cabbage
- broccoli
- brussels sprouts
- cauliflower

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR GUINEA PIG & ITS HOME

- to stay clean and tangle-free, long-haired breeds require frequent brushing and combing

- once a month clip nails on feet
- every 2-4 days scrub and disinfect the cage, then let it dry before lining the floor with fresh bedding and replacing the cage furnishings
- the water bottle and sipper tube must be cleaned daily to prevent buildup of food, algae, and bacteria

BASIC GROOMING:

- trim nails
- trim hair
- brush coat
- bath only every few months; AVOID water in ears
- clean ears every other week