

 2-5 years

 8-12 inches; 1-3 lbs

 Beginner

 65-75° F

 Pellets, Hay & Vegetables



Guinea pigs can make wonderful pets, and bring years of joy to your family if you have the proper set up and necessary needs. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

CAGE SET UP

Guinea pigs need a well-ventilated guinea pig cage, such as the Super Pet “My First Home” cage. For more than one guinea pig, you will need a larger cage set up.

BEDDING

If you have a wire cage, hardwood shavings or Care Fresh bedding will work well. We do not suggest that you use horse pellet bedding, as guinea pigs have a difficult time walking/running on it. And as always, NEVER use cedar shavings. It negatively affects the respiratory tracts in small animals.

TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, between 65-75 degrees°F, is ideal for guinea pigs. They are from a colder climate, and can overheat fairly rapidly.

FOOD

Give your guinea pig fresh pellets, hay, and water daily. Their diets should consist of 1/4 - 1/2 cup per day of pelleted guinea pig food that is vitamin C fortified. Timothy and alfalfa hay should be given liberally. It is not a good idea to give young guinea pigs too many treats too often. They can be difficult to digest for a young animal, and should only be given sparingly to older guinea pigs.

HANDLING

Guinea pigs' have fragile spines. Smaller guinea pigs jump quickly, and should be handled with care. Never put your guinea pig in a rolling ball or on a wheel, as it can cause life threatening damage to their spine.

CAGE CLEANING

Guinea pigs will often use one corner of their cage as an area to defecate. Make sure you keep their cage clean at all times, as dirty bedding can cause illness in small animals.

ACCESSORIES AND CHEW TOYS

Guinea pigs must chew consistently to keep their teeth at a reasonable length. If you do not give them ample chew toys and a supply of wooden chews, they may chew on their cage. Offer your pet a variety of chew options, such as grass mats, Critter Pops, lava chews, apple wood, willow twig chews, and even orange slices occasionally.

****Note:** Guinea Pigs are social animals, and may be kept together when they are young. It is not uncommon for them to become territorial as they get older, and more than one cage may be necessary. If you have a male and female guinea pig, they WILL breed.