



GUINEA PIGS

Guinea Pigs (Cavies) can be kept indoors or in the garden. Although nervous by nature, they can become used to being handled as long as it is done with care.

DIET

Guinea Pigs need a mix of rabbit meal and rabbit pellets, plus daily green food, hay and a constant supply of fresh water. A water bottle is recommended as these prevent the guinea pigs from fouling the water. Suitable green foods are cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and grasses. Carrots and apples can be fed but never rhubarb. Guinea Pigs may bite. The reason for this is that they require salt in their diet and they can taste the salt on your skin. Providing a salt block will prevent biting. Wash greens well to get rid of insecticide. Wet greens may cause diarrhoea. Bread (preferably brown) and milk are readily accepted.

HOUSING

A wooden outdoor hutch or a critter cage for indoors should be provided. The floor should have a removable tray to make cleaning easier. Guinea Pigs require plenty of bedding and nesting material, such as hay. During the day exercise your pet on the lawn inside a pen. Water should be given from a bottle and food from an appropriate hopper or bowl.

GENERAL CARE

Check the hutch or cage daily. Remove wet hay, bedding material, wilted green food and droppings. Change water and provide fresh food. Weekly you should empty the cage or hutch completely and clean it. Dirty areas can be washed with hot water and use a small animal hutch cleaner spray. Rinse and dry carefully afterwards as detergent and

disinfectants can be harmful to your pet's feet. Thoroughly wash the water bottle and feeding bowl. Check that the hay is not mouldy before putting it in the cage. Remove any thistles and don't use the remains at the bottom of the bag. Never let your guinea pig get damp or be in a draught or strong sunlight. Longhaired guinea pigs will require some grooming. Small animal shampoo is available so that you can give your guinea pig a bath regularly. We have a wide-range of accessories for guinea pigs. Please ask us if you have any questions or problems. If necessary we will put you in touch with a vet. The best way to learn handy hints is to buy a book on guinea pig keeping.

WORMING & VITAMINS

You should worm your guinea pig every three months with a small animal wormer. Also you can provide your guinea pig with small animal vitamin supplement. It's important to change drinking water and clean the container daily when administering vitamin supplement.

Things you might need:

- **Food Dish**
- **Small Animal Wormer**
- **Water Bottle**
- **Hay**
- **Salt Lick**
- **Small Animal Wormer**
- **Hutch**
- **Brush**
- **Small Animal Cleaner**
- **Lead & Harness**
- **Pet City Rabbit Meal**
- **Pet City Rabbit Pellets**

This leaflet is just a basic guide. To find out more about your pet, ask Pet City about suitable books.

