



housing

Guinea pigs are smart and curious little creatures who love having lots of space to explore and jump around. There are a lot of cages on the market for guinea pigs, so there are a few key things to know. Guinea pigs are not particularly agile creatures, and due to their body shape, struggle to climb, which means guinea pigs need much more horizontal floor space than vertical space. It is unlikely your guinea pig will utilize any vertical space given to it. Your best bet is to pick a large cage with lots of flat floor space, and bigger is always better! They love to have places to hide out, so make sure you have given them comfortable hiding places. Fleece is a great bedding material, as it is soft, moisture wicking and easy to wash. Paper based bedding like Carefresh can work well too, but wood chip beddings can cause respiratory issues, even if they are marketed towards guinea pigs.

diet

Timothy hay is the most important part of a guinea pig's diet. Hay should be available to them at all times. Guinea pigs also need 1/2-1 cup of leafy greens daily. Spinach, kale, romaine or greenleaf lettuce, chard, parsley, collard or carrot greens, and bok choy are all acceptable leafy greens for them to munch on. Guinea pigs can also have a small amount of fruit as a treat, but be careful, they can get overweight too! Carrots and bell peppers are heavy in sugar too, so only feed them as a small treat. Guinea pigs can also have 1/8 cup of food pellets once a day. Please make sure you purchase a food pellet that does not have dried fruit, nuts or seed mixed in, as these are not as nutritious or healthy for guinea pigs. Look for plain, green or brown pellets! Pellets are the leading cause of obesity in guinea pigs, so if your pig begins looking a little too round, speak to your veterinarian about switching to a hay and vegetable diet.

litter box

Make sure to start with an appropriately sized litter box. Guinea pigs must be able to sit and turn around comfortably in their litter boxes, so corner boxes are often too small. Kitten litter boxes are amazing for guinea pigs! Fill your box with a paper or wood based litter or pellet and cover with a layer of fresh hay. Guinea pigs are not often able to be litter trained, but if their litter box is large, filled with tasty hay and comfortable, your guinea pigs may spend more time in it which will keep their mess more contained.

enrichment

Guinea pigs are curious creatures and love a challenge or a new experience! It is important to give your pigs toys, they love wooden chew toys, and hay or straw toys. Food puzzle toys can work great for guinea pigs, try feeding your pig's pellets in a treat ball! Hide small treats in your pig's litter box or in a crumpled up blanket and watch them find it.

health

Yearly vet visits are never a bad idea for guinea pigs. Dental health and gut health are the most important things to keep an eye on for guinea pigs. Guinea pigs should be eating and pooping all day long, so if they are not, a vet visit is in order. Drooling and eye watering can be signs of dental problems, which need veterinary attention. Critical Care is a wonderful product to keep on hand to help them with a lack of appetite.