

## Habitat Needs

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### Housing

- Minimum cage size for 1-2 guinea pig is 7.5 square feet (30" X 36").
- Glass cages do not provide enough ventilation.
- Make sure your pet has a solid place to stand not just a wire bottom. An entirely wire bottom can damage your pet's feet.
- Cages should have ramps and activity areas.
- Avoid pine or cedar bedding.
- Cage should be out of direct sunlight because pigs can suffer heat stroke.
- They need a place to hide.

### Habitat Placement

- Place your guinea pig's home away from drafts, an ideal temperature range is 65°F - 75°F. No special lighting is required, room lighting is sufficient with a 12-hour photo period.
- Guinea Pig's hearing is very sensitive; do not place them near loud activity.
- Guinea Pigs are also very timid and need to be placed in a quiet and calm location.

### Enrichment

- Hay is a good environmental enrichment for guinea pigs. They can hide and nest in it, as well as eat it.
- They are not very interested in chew toys, although they should be provided.
- They love tubes and hiding places.
- Cardboard boxes with holes cut out of them are a good and inexpensive hiding place. Be sure there are no staples in the box!
- Other good toys are see saws, solid floor ramps, run about balls, and PVC pipe.

## Nutrition

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### Staple Diet

- Feed your pig a pelleted food that contains 14%-20% protein and 14-16% fiber.
- Guinea pigs require vitamin C; like humans, they lack an enzyme necessary for the body to make vitamin C.
- Vitamin C is in pelleted foods such as all Kaytee Guinea Pig foods.
- Vitamin C can be supplemented by adding to water, or supplied by small amounts of fresh oranges or strawberries, etc. Keep the portions small to avoid diarrhea.
- Guinea pigs should have an unlimited supply of hay available daily to keep their digestive system regular.
- Hay satisfies the natural grazing instinct and the grazing motion between the upper & lower teeth help to keep the teeth ground down.



### Water

- Water can be supplied in a water bottle and should be changed daily.
- Check the valve on the water bottle daily to ensure it's working properly.

### Health

Illnesses that may affect your guinea pig

- Vitamin C deficiency
- Respiratory viruses
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Alopecia (hair loss due to parasitic infestation)
- Teeth overgrowth
- Obesity

### Extra Information

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- Guinea pigs are diurnal. They make chirping sounds and don't usually bite unless handled roughly or threatened.
- The lifespan of a guinea pig is about 5-8 years.
- Guinea pigs can be messy.
- Female Guinea Pigs pubic bones become fused together around 5-6 months of age; beyond this age pregnancy often ends in trauma for the mother. We highly recommend avoiding breeding entirely.

