



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Guinea Pig Care Guide

Guinea pigs are gentle, social pets that can make great companions for families. With proper care, they can live **5–8 years**.

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#### Housing

- **Cage:**
  - A spacious cage is important—at least **7.5 square feet** for one guinea pig. Bigger is better, especially if you have more than one.
  - Use a **solid-bottom cage** with **kiln-dried pine** or **paper bedding** (both available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid cedar or non-kiln-dried pine bedding.
- **Hiding Spots:**
  - Provide a **hideout** like a tunnel, igloo, or wooden hut where your guinea pig can feel safe.
- **Temperature:**
  - Keep your guinea pig's environment between **65–75°F**. Avoid drafts, extreme heat, and sudden temperature changes.

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#### Diet

- **Hay:** Unlimited **timothy hay** is essential for digestion and dental health.
- **Pellets:** Feed a high-quality **guinea pig pellet** daily (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- **Vitamin C:** Guinea pigs **cannot produce vitamin C**, so their diet must include it. Our guinea pig pellets contain added vitamin C. You can also offer vitamin C supplements if needed.
- **Fresh Vegetables:** Offer small amounts of guinea pig-safe veggies daily (ask our staff for recommendations). Avoid iceberg lettuce, onions, and potatoes.
- **Treats:** Feed only **guinea pig-safe treats** occasionally—avoid sugary or fatty human foods.

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#### Water

Provide **fresh water daily** in a water bottle or heavy bowl. Clean and refill every day.

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#### Enrichment

Guinea pigs are active and enjoy exploring. Provide:

- **Chew toys** made of safe wood
  - **Tunnels, hay-based chews, and hideouts**
  - **Playtime in a secure, enclosed area** daily
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## Grooming

- **Brushing:** Brush your guinea pig regularly, especially long-haired breeds, to prevent tangles.
  - **Nail Trimming:** Trim nails every few weeks using **small animal nail trimmers** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
  - **Bathing:** Guinea pigs rarely need baths. If needed, use a **small animal-safe shampoo**.
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## Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean daily to remove waste and soiled bedding.
  - Fully clean the cage and replace bedding **weekly** using a **small animal-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
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## Health & Social Needs

Guinea pigs are social animals and do best with a friend. Consider adopting a pair of guinea pigs.

Signs of a healthy guinea pig include:

- Bright, clear eyes
- Clean nose and ears
- Normal eating and drinking habits
- Healthy weight and alert behavior

If you notice signs of illness, such as lethargy, weight loss, or changes in appetite, seek veterinary care.

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## Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Spacious cage
- Kiln-dried pine or paper bedding
- Guinea pig pellets (with vitamin C)
- Timothy hay
- Water bottle or bowl
- Hideout
- Chew toys
- Nail trimmers
- Small animal-safe shampoo (if needed)

