

# Guinea Pig Care Sheet

## 1. Housing:

Guinea pigs need a spacious cage that allows them to move around comfortably. A minimum cage size for one guinea pig is 7.5 square feet, but larger is always better.

Provide a solid bottom to the cage to prevent injury to their feet.

Line the cage with soft bedding, such as paper bedding or fleece liners, and change it regularly to maintain cleanliness.

## 2. Diet:

Offer a high-quality guinea pig pellet as the main component of their diet.

Look for pellets that contain vitamin C, as guinea pigs cannot synthesize it on their own.

Provide fresh, clean hay at all times. Hay is crucial for their digestive health.

Offer a variety of fresh vegetables daily, such as bell peppers, kale, spinach, carrots, and cucumbers. Avoid foods that are toxic to guinea pigs, like onions, garlic, and potatoes.

Provide a small amount of fresh fruits as treats, such as apples, strawberries, or melons.

Always ensure a fresh and clean water source. Use a water bottle with a sipper tube, and change the water daily.

## 3. Socialization:

Guinea pigs are social animals and should be kept in pairs or small groups. Avoid keeping them alone.

Spend time with your guinea pigs daily, providing them with gentle handling, petting, and interaction.

Supervise interactions with children and other pets to ensure the guinea pigs' safety.

## 4. Exercise:

Allow guinea pigs to have daily supervised playtime outside their cage in a safe and secure area.

Provide toys and tunnels for them to explore and interact with in their cage.

## 5. Health and Hygiene:

Schedule regular visits to a qualified exotic veterinarian for check-ups and vaccinations.

Monitor your guinea pig's weight, appetite, and behavior for any signs of illness.

Trim their nails regularly to prevent overgrowth.

Check their teeth periodically for signs of malocclusion.

Keep their living area clean by spot-cleaning daily and performing a full cage clean-out at least once a week.

#### 6. Environmental Considerations:

Guinea pigs are sensitive to temperature extremes. Keep them in a draft-free area with temperatures ranging from 65-75°F (18-24°C).

Protect them from direct sunlight and ensure adequate ventilation.

Avoid placing the cage in noisy or stressful areas.

Remember, guinea pigs require commitment and care for their well-being.

Providing them with a proper and enriched environment will ensure they live happy and healthy lives.