



Vetafarm's Pet Guinea Pig Care Guide

Guinea pigs are curious, social animals that thrive on a balanced diet, a safe environment, and regular health care.

↓ Getting Started

Nutrition & Feeding

A balanced diet is essential for keeping your guinea pig healthy and energetic. Provide a high-quality, age-appropriate pellet daily alongside unlimited long-strand hay to ensure complete nutrition. Guinea pigs are susceptible to vitamin C deficiencies that can lead to serious health issues. Feeding a diet with guaranteed vitamin C levels or supplementing is essential.



Pellets for Life Stages

Feeding a formulated, extruded pellet ensures your pet receives consistent vitamins and minerals in every bite.

Choose an age-appropriate option - such as **Cavy Origins Junior, Adult or Senior** - to meet nutritional requirements from growth through to senior years.



The Importance of Hay

Hay is the most critical component of a guinea pig's diet, supporting both digestive function & dental health.

Lucerne (Alfalfa) Hay

Ideal for young, growing guinea pigs due to its higher protein and calcium content.

Grass Hays (e.g. Fescue)

Best for adult and senior guinea pigs, offering lower protein and calcium levels suited to their changing needs.

Healthy Treats

Offering healthy treats such as fruits, vegetables and **Vetafarm's Deli Stix** or **Origins Chews** adds variety and provides safe chewing enrichment.

Treats can also help build trust and strengthen the bond between you and your guinea pig.



Young, pregnant or nursing guinea pigs, or those with special needs should have access to unlimited pellets and hay.

Housing & Enrichment

Guinea pigs require the company of their own kind and should be housed in pairs or groups. Knowing your guinea pig's sex is important, as they can reach sexual maturity as early as 8 weeks of age. Accidental breeding can happen quickly and may lead to serious health complications. Proper sexing and separation is crucial early.

Indoor Guinea Pigs

A large, well-ventilated enclosure with soft, absorbent bedding, a hideout, and sturdy bowls for food and water.

Outdoor Guinea Pigs

A secure, weatherproof hutch with a covered run that's sheltered from wind, rain, and extreme temperatures.

Always provide fresh hay, water, and clean bedding, and ensure they have daily social time and enrichment for happy, healthy lives.

Guinea pigs love to explore and stay busy, so providing different toys, textures and tastes keeps them happy and healthy. Hideouts, tunnels, chew toys and foraging mats encourage natural behaviours and help prevent boredom.

General Wellbeing

Vitamin C

Guinea pigs can't make their own vitamin C, so they must get it from their diet every day. Without enough, they can develop scurvy, a condition that causes weakness, poor appetite, joint pain, and rough fur.

Dental Growth

A guinea pig's teeth are continually growing, chewing long strand hay keeps teeth healthy and sufficiently worn to prevent dental issues throughout life.

Urinary Stones

Guinea pigs on diets high in calcium or given insufficient water may develop urinary stones. If not identified early, urinary stones may grow and require surgery to remove.

Vetafarm's Pet Guinea Pig Checklist



Nutrition & Feeding

- ☐ **Quality Pellets***
Such as Vetafarm's Cavy Origins
- ☐ **High-Quality Hay**
Such as Vetafarm's Mini Bales
- ☐ **Fruits & Veggies**
- ☐ **Healthy Treats**
Such as Vetafarm's Deli Stix

* If choosing not to feed a complete pellet (e.g. fruit & veggie mix, chaff mix or low-quality pellet), adding a vitamin C supplement such as **Vetafarm's Vita C Tablets** is essential.

Health & Hygiene

- ☐ **Pest Control**
Such as Vetafarm's Insect & Mite Spray
- ☐ **Dry Bathing Powder**
Such as Vetafarm's Dusting & Bathing Powder
- ☐ **Shampoo**
Such as Vetafarm's Fluffy Bath Shampoo
- ☐ **Grooming Brush**
- ☐ **Nail Clippers**

Home & Environment

- ☐ **Spacious Pen / Enclosure / Hutch**
- ☐ **Litter Box with Paper-Based Litter**
Ensure a paper-based litter is used for safety
- ☐ **Food Bowl**
- ☐ **Safe Chew Toys & Tunnels**
- ☐ **Bedding Material**
Straw is a great option as there is no health risk if consumed
- ☐ **Secure Hiding Place / Shelter**
- ☐ **Water Bottle / Bowl**
- ☐ **Animal-Safe Disinfectant**
Such as Vetafarm's Hutch Clean



Discover our Origins Small Animal Range