



**PET SUPPLIES "PLUS"**

Your pet's favorite store.

# GUINEA PIG

*Cavia porcellus*

**ORIGIN:** Guinea pigs are native to South America. However, your guinea pig was born in captivity in the USA. Guinea pigs make great pets because they are docile, rarely bite and are very sociable. You can teach your pig to do tricks with many repetitions and food reward. Your guinea pig will communicate by many short small squeaks.

**LIFESPAN:** 5-7 years

**SIZE:** Guinea pigs reach an average adult length of 8 to 12 inches and may weigh up to 2 pounds.

**GESTATION:** Pregnancy cycle is 64-72 days. The babies take 3-4 weeks for weaning. Females can reproduce at 2 months of age. To avoid babies, it is best to keep 2 young pigs of the same sex together.

**CAGING:** Guinea pigs will thrive in a variety of commercially available cages with the following basic requirements: solid flooring (not wire), secure lid, protection from heat, cold, and drafts, and hiding area. A cage with 2 square feet of floor space is large enough for one guinea pig. For each additional guinea pig that is kept, the cage should be 1 square foot larger.

**TEMPERATURE:** Guinea pigs should be kept between 65°F and 80°F. Guinea pigs are more tolerant of cold temperatures than heat. The cage should be placed in a location that is free from drafts and direct sunlight.

**SUBSTRATE:** Guinea pigs can be successfully kept on a variety of substrates including pine shavings, pelleted or processed bedding.

**DIET:** Guinea pigs will thrive on a variety of commercially available pelleted foods. The most important consideration is vitamin C since guinea pigs are very susceptible to scurvy which can cause hair loss, decrease in weight or appetite. Be sure the commercial diet contains 1 to 3 grams of vitamin C per kilogram. In addition, the guinea pig diet can be supplemented with hay, vegetables, and occasionally fruit. Guinea pigs must have access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times. A water bowl or sipper bottle can be used. The latter is typically cleaner and easier to maintain.

## RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Secure cage
- Water dish or bottle
- Ceramic food bowl
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about your guinea pig
- Nest box
- Vitamin C fortified pelleted food
- Wooden chew toys
- Hay

## SMALL ANIMAL & BIRD REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

Congratulations on your new pet and thank you for shopping at Pet Supplies "Plus" where we strive to sell the best quality pets possible. Please contact the Pet Supplies "Plus" where the animal was purchased with any questions or concerns about your new pet.

- Pet Supplies "Plus" guarantees the health of all animals for 7 days. Please bring in the animal along with the original sales receipt should any problems arise within the seven day period.
- Due to many different variables Pet supplies "Plus" does not guarantee the sex of any animal.
- Pet supplies "Plus" does not assume responsibility for any veterinary care or medications.
- Please practice proper hygiene whenever handling animals.

***Thank you for your purchase. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.***

**Qty # \_\_\_\_\_ PLU # \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_ Store # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Employee \_\_\_\_\_**

**NOTE:** The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to your animal.