GUINEA PIG CARE GUIDE

Housing

Guinea pigs need a safe, well-ventilated enclosure with plenty of room to move, hide and explore. Avoid wire flooring, as it can hurt their feet. Use safe bedding and clean the enclosure regularly to help prevent odour, skin issues and illness.

Companionship

Guinea pigs are social animals and are happiest with another guinea pig friend. Same-sex pairs or properly introduced groups are often best to avoid unwanted breeding.

Handling

Guinea pigs can be gentle, friendly pets, but they are prey animals and may be nervous at first. Handle them calmly, support their whole body, and supervise children closely.

Diet

Guinea pigs need a high fibre diet to support healthy digestion and help wear down their constantly growing teeth. Their diet should consist mainly of quality feeding hay, supported by a smaller amount of guinea pig pellets and fresh vegetables. Guinea pigs cannot produce their own Vitamin C, so we recommend Vetafarm Cavy Origins, which contains stabilised Vitamin C for daily nutritional support.

A good guide is: **75% Oaten Hay**, **20% Pellets**, **5% Fresh Vegetables and Treats**

Fresh Vegetables and Treats Guide (5% of total diet)

Feed Daily	Offer 1-2 Times Per Week	Avoid Feeding
Capsicum	Apple	Bread
Parsley	Carrot	Potato
Rocket	Strawberry	Seed Mixes
Kale	Banana	Chocolate
Celery Leaves	Lucerne Hay	Onion
Broccoli Leaves	Commercial Treats	Avocado
Organic Flower Leaves	Fennel	Garlic

Fresh Water

Fresh, clean water should be available at all times. Check bottles daily to make sure they are working properly and have not become blocked. We recommend placing a small water bowl underneath your drink bottle. This provides access to open water while also catching bottle drips and helping keep the enclosure dry.

Enrichment

Provide tunnels, hides, and chew-safe toys to encourage natural behaviours and help keep your guinea pigs mentally stimulated. Guinea pigs also benefit from changing enrichment items regularly, as this helps prevent boredom and encourages exploration. They enjoy time outside their enclosure in a safe, supervised area where they can safely exercise and forage.

Quick Reminder

Hay should be available all day, every day, ideally offered in multiple areas of the enclosure to encourage natural foraging. Pellets are an important supplement, but they should never replace hay. Guinea pigs are highly social animals and usually do best with a guinea pig companion.