



The 5 Welfare Needs of Guinea Pigs



Guinea Pigs are really active animals, so they need to be kept entertained! They need plenty of time outside their hutch in a safe exercise area, where they can stretch their legs and explore. Fill their enclosure with toys, tunnels and hides to give them plenty to do and keep their minds busy!



Guinea Pigs are really sociable animals and shouldn't live alone. They need to live in pairs or small groups, just as they would in the wild. It's important to find the right friend for them to live with, so if you're not sure, ask a local rehoming centre or your vet for advice.



Guinea Pigs are herbivores (they eat plants). There are a few special things to remember when it comes to feeding your guinea pig: they can't produce their own Vitamin C, so they need that in their diet, and they need plenty of fibre to grind their teeth down (their teeth don't stop growing!). The ideal daily diet for a guinea pig is: 1) At least their body size in hay or grass 2) A cup of fresh greens 3) A tablespoon of complete pellets (not muesli-type food).

Diet



Guinea Pigs need a large hutch (with a comfy, cosy bedroom) and constant access to a spacious exercise area for them to explore. They can live indoors or outdoors, but make sure the temperature isn't too hot or too cold for them. If they spend most of their time outdoors, it's a good idea to consider bringing them inside over winter, even into a car-free garage or shed, to keep them warm.



It's a good idea to perform a little health check on your guinea pigs every day. Are their eyes bright and clean? Does their coat look healthy? Check around their back end - is that nice and clean too? Monitor things like their eating and drinking, and if you're at all worried or your guinea pigs just don't seem quite right, call your vet.

