



GUINEA PIGS

WHAT ARE GUINEA PIGS

Guinea pigs are rodents; they are not related to pigs. They originate from the Andes, South America. It is believed that Guinea Pigs (also known as cavies) were domesticated as early as 5000BC. At first, they were considered a food source in South America and are still eaten in many Countries like Chile. In the UK, many people keep them as pets.



A HEALTHY GUINEA PIG DIET!

Guinea pigs are herbivores and can't produce their own Vitamin C. As a result of this, the owner will need to provide their guinea pigs with fresh fruit, veg and grass. Fresh hay and vegetables should make up the bulk of your guinea pig's diet.

HOW TO CLEAN A GUINEA PIG HABITAT!



Guinea pigs need a clean habitat to live. You should clean the cage around three times a week. Use a washcloth and some antibacterial spray to wipe down the habitat and a dustpan and brush to clean the poops. You will also need to lay a blanket/ fleece on the floor of the cage and wash it regularly.

A HEALTHY GUINEA PIG HABITAT!

Every guinea pig needs a healthy place to live. To do this, you will need to add some chew toys to wear down their teeth, so that they don't become overgrown. Also, you will need a hidey house per guinea pig in case they get in a fight. You will need some water bottles/ water bowls in their habitat to protect them from dehydration.

HOW TO KEEP A GUINEA PIG HAPPY!

Every guinea pig needs to be social. Due to this, you will need at least two guinea pigs to fulfill their social needs. Also, you will need to play with them to prevent boredom- you will need to cuddle them regularly to build trust between you and your guinea pig.

DID YOU KNOW?

They like to chat to each other. They communicate using several noises, including a 'wheek-wheek' call – a sign of excitement or to find a friend; a low 'purring' sound, which they make when they are feeling happy. They also make short 'putt-putt' noises when they are exploring new surroundings.

They scent mark their stuff. Guinea pigs scent mark by rubbing their chin or cheeks across things, which helps keep their home smelling familiar. This is why it's important to make sure that you put some of the old bedding back into their habitat after cleaning it. They also drag their bottoms across the ground to leave scent as messages, which are only understood by other guinea pigs.

FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldSAkBbBFwE&t=37s>



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What do guinea pigs eat?
2. What do guinea pigs need to stay happy?
3. Where do guinea pigs originate from?
4. How many times a week should you clean their habitat?
5. What noise do guinea pigs make when they are happy?