

# THE GUINEA PIG GUIDE



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GUINEA PIG CARE





### Guinea Pigs - who are they?

Guinea pigs are small rodents who originally came from South America. They are popular pets across the world because of their curious nature and cute looks.

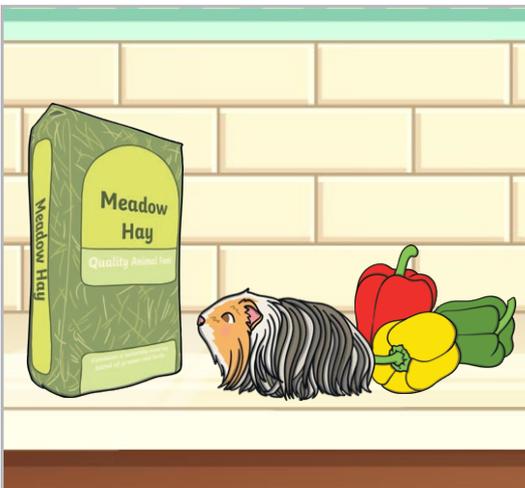
### How long do guinea pigs live?

Guinea pigs can live up to 8 years, so you can enjoy them a lot longer than other rodent companions.



### Did you know...?

The oldest guinea pig was 14 years old and was called Snowball.



### What do guinea pigs eat?

The most important part of a guinea pig's diet is high-quality hay, like timothy hay. It makes up 80% of their diet and helps trim their teeth. They also love burrowing into it, so putting big piles of hay into the cage is great for your pigs.

Guinea pigs also enjoy vegetables, including bell peppers, cucumbers, and carrots. You can give each pig a small handful of vegetables per day.

Some people feed their guinea pigs pellets, but this is not completely necessary for pigs with a balanced diet. They should have access to fresh, clean water at all times.

### Did you know...?

Guinea pigs can't create their own vitamin C, so they need to get it through their diet. You can feed your companion guinea pig some bell pepper every day as it contains lots of vitamin C.





### Where do guinea pigs live?

Guinea pigs love to run around and like to have a lot of space. For two guinea pigs, the minimum cage size is 10.5 sq. ft.

You can use fleece or wood shavings as bedding for your habitat, which needs to be cleaned every few days.



Guinea pigs like to hide, so lots of little houses and shelter are great.

### Did you know...?

Guinea pigs have poor depth perception, meaning they can't tell how far off the ground they are, so climbing is difficult for them. It's best to have only a single level in their run and to avoid steep ramps.

### How many guinea pigs should I get?

Guinea pigs are very social animals, so they like to be kept in pairs or larger groups of the same sex.



### Did you know...?

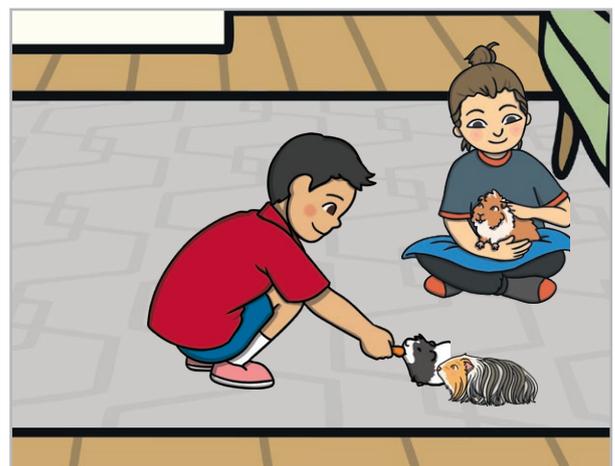
In Switzerland, it is illegal to keep a single guinea pig.

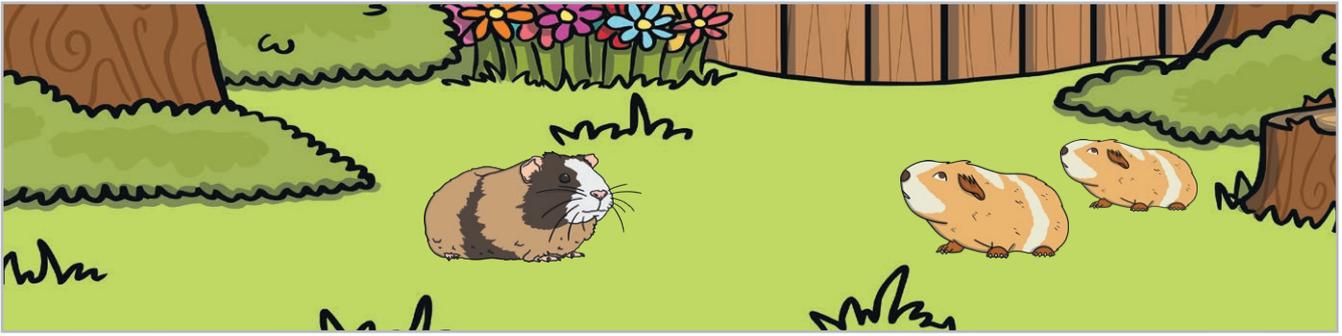
### Do I need to groom my guinea pig?

Guinea pigs' nails grow, just like our own, so they need to be trimmed every couple of weeks.

Long-haired guinea pigs will need to be groomed every other day, and have their hair cut.

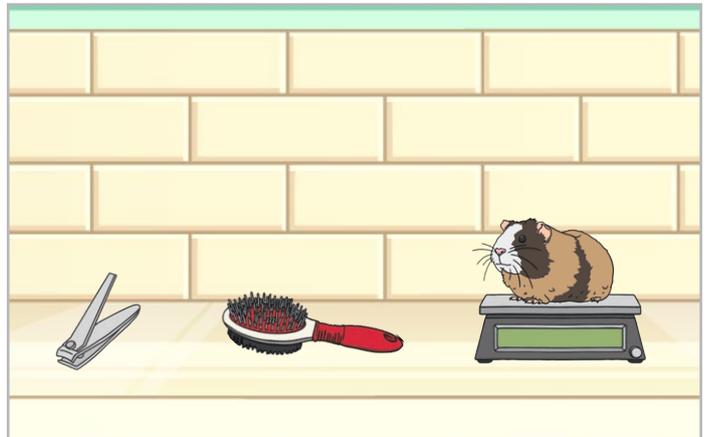
You can also weigh your pigs at the same time, to keep track of any weight gain or loss.





**Did you know...?**

Guinea pigs are very clean animals, so they don't need baths unless their vet suggests they do for medical reasons.



**How often does my guinea pig need to visit the vet?**

Guinea pigs should visit their vet at least once a year for a thorough check. They do not need routine vaccinations, but regular wellness checks are important.

The little rodents are exotic pets, so it is important to find a vet that specialises in exotic animals.

There are very few pet insurances for guinea pigs, and it is helpful to check they cover common health issues, like dental issues.

Vet visits and procedures can be expensive, often costing several hundred pounds, so if your guinea pig isn't insured, you can grow a guinea pig vet fund, and discuss payment plans with your vet.

If your guinea pig's behaviour changes, or they lose their appetite, make sure to contact your vet immediately.





# DAILY CARE CHECKLIST

...FED THE GUINEA PIGS

...CHANGED THEIR WATER

...CHECKED THEIR NAILS

...SPOT-CLEANED THEIR HABITAT

...CHECKED THEIR WEIGHT

