

Guinea Pigs Fact Sheet

Nutrition +

Hay/grass ad lib
Fresh vegetables
Controlled amounts of guinea pig pelleted food
(vitamin C is a daily dietary requirement for guinea pigs)

Housing 🏠

Best kept in groups as these are social animals
Best not kept with rabbits due to differing dietary requirements, potential compatibility issues and respiratory disease transmission
Access to protected outdoor run and shelter from adverse weather
If breeding, best having first litter before the sow is one year of age, as there is a much higher risk of problems during labour

Healthcare +

Vaccinations

None available

Worming

Not routinely done, problems are rare

Overgrown nails

Nails will often need regular trimming if not wearing down

Overgrown teeth

Similar to rabbits. Signs include weight loss, decreased appetite, excessive salivation causing a wet chin. Often associated with inadequate chewing of grass/hay and an excess of other foods, leading to obesity and digestive problems. This problem is usually recurrent and with long term management often necessary.

Skin problems

- Scabs/sores usually associated with mites
- Baldness and excess scurf-usually associated with ringworm (fungal skin infection)
- Sore hocks (back feet-ankle area) due to hard surfaces and obesity

Respiratory disease

Laboured breathing/pneumonia often caused by bacteria

Urinary tract infections

Signs usually associated with discomfort when urinating

Vitamin C deficiency-

Weakness of legs, weight loss, excessive salivation

Surgery +

Castration to reduce any aggressiveness and stop breeding (Spaying females is not routinely performed)

