



An Introduction to your Guinea Pig

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a guinea pig. To help you keep your guinea pig happy and healthy we have produced this fact sheet. If you should have any further questions, do not hesitate to give us a call at the farm.



Accommodation

A large hutch raised from the ground will keep the damp and any predators at bay. The hutch should be placed in a sheltered area away from direct sunlight or harsh winds. The hutch will need two sections - one covered in a thick layer of shavings and one which needs to be full of straw or hay for sleeping. The hutch needs to be cleared of droppings daily and totally cleaned and disinfected on a weekly basis. In the winter, it is best to move your guinea pig's hutch into a ventilated shed or garage. If this is not possible, cover the hutch with a tarpaulin and add extra bedding. A purpose built pen which can be placed in shady places in the garden will allow your guinea pig access to grass and exercise.



Feeding

Feed your guinea pig on the specially prepared dry guinea pig food available from the farm or any pet shop. In addition, fresh fruit and vegetables and a handful of hay will provide all the necessary vitamins. Clean, fresh water must be given either in a bowl or bottle.

General Care

Guinea pigs naturally live in large groups, so will need a companion. If you do not want to breed your guinea pigs, two girls or two boys are ideal. Sometimes a rabbit will live happily with a guinea pig. Your guinea pig would prefer this to being on its own.

Your guinea pig will need regular gentle handling to keep it tame and friendly. Regular gentle brushing will help to keep your guinea pig's coat in good condition - especially if it has long hair.

Assuming they are well looked after, guinea pigs will live up to 8 years or more and will reward you with years of fun.



