



## GUINEA PIGS ARE GREAT!

Learn all you can before bringing a new pet into your home!

### Did you Know?

Guinea pigs can live 5 to 7 years or more.  
Males are boars, females are sows, and babies are pups.  
Sows can get pregnant as young as 4 weeks old.  
Boars are sexually mature at 3½ weeks of age.  
Pregnancy is risky and complications are common.  
Cavy is the proper name for a guinea pig.

**Looking for a Guinea Pig? Choose to Adopt!**

**DAILY DIET** -- Plain high quality guinea pig pellets, unlimited high quality grass hay, fresh cold water, Vitamin C, a cup or so of fresh vegetables (like romaine, a small piece of carrot, green pepper, fresh clean grass)  
*AVOID: mixes or treats containing nuts, seeds, dried fruit, sugars, or dyed pieces. No dairy or meat products (cavies are herbivores). No rabbit pellets. No multivitamins.*

**HOUSING** -- **Bigger is better!** Build a spacious cage of wire cubes and Coroplast sheets. Avoid cages too small with wire bottoms and shelves. See [www.cavycages.com](http://www.cavycages.com)

**BEDDING** -- Use paper products like *CareFRESH®*, kiln-dried pine or aspen shavings. Frequent changing (every 3 or 4 days) will prevent odors and promote good health.  
*AVOID: Cedar (can contribute to respiratory problems), sawdust, corncob bedding, and clay cat litter.*

**SIGNS OF ILLNESS:** refusal to eat or drink; lethargy; labored breathing; wheezing; sneezing; crusty eyes; dull and/or receding eyes; rough or puffed up coat; hunched posture; diarrhea; blood in urine; limping; loss of balance; head tilt; excessive scratching; or hair loss. Be observant!

When a cavy is ill, it can go downhill very quickly. Prompt, competent veterinary care is crucial to saving its life. Most bacterial infections can be cured in the early stages with a course of cavy-safe antibiotics. Don't be afraid to call your vet if you have any concerns.

**WARNING: Penicillin-based drugs like amoxicillin are deadly.**  
Learn about cavy care at [www.guinealynx.info](http://www.guinealynx.info)



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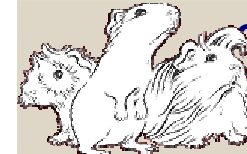
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