

# Caring for your Guinea Pig

**beaphar**

Guinea pigs are sociable, chatty animals that originate from the Andes in South America. Although naturally shy, they can be tamed quite easily and very rarely bite, making them an ideal first pet for young children. Living between 4-8 years, guinea pigs are a wonderful family pet, which can be kept either indoors or outdoors.

## FIVE WELFARE NEEDS

### Being a responsible guinea pig owner:

As an owner, it's your responsibility to provide your pet with the following so they live a fulfilled, happy and healthy life:



Companionship



Behaviour



Nutrition



Healthcare



Housing & environment



### Friends for life

In the wild, guinea pigs live in small groups, so it's recommended that pet guinea pigs are housed in same-sex pairs. As sociable animals, this means they always have someone to play with and keep them company. But just because your guinea pigs have each other, that doesn't mean they don't need your company too.

Grooming and playing with your guinea pigs is a great way to bond with them, and get them used to being handled. This will also make it easier for you to give them a health check.



### Your guinea pigs' perfect home

Guinea pigs are active for up to 20 hours per day, so need lots of space. They should be able to run around, reach up onto their hind legs without touching the top of the enclosure, and stretch out completely when lying down.

They also need a toilet area and spaces to hide. Toilet areas need cleaning daily, particularly in the summer when guinea pigs can be more at risk of fly strike. Guinea pig homes should be cleaned and disinfected, and bedding changed once a week.



### Your guinea pigs' behavioural needs

Your guinea pigs' home should include a secure, enclosed area to rest and sleep, and a living area for exercise and play. Within the living area include lots of tunnels, cardboard boxes, toys and activities to keep your guinea pigs amused and allow them to exhibit their natural behaviour.

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## Feeding a healthy diet

Your guinea pigs' diet should consist mainly of hay; this helps maintain good digestion and keeps their teeth worn down. Hay should be available every day, alongside a small amount of pellets and greens/leafy vegetables. Treats, including fruit, can be given in moderation.

Guinea pigs cannot produce their own Vitamin C, so it needs to be included in their diet. Leafy greens are a great source of Vitamin C, and it's included in most commercial guinea pig foods. It's important to give your guinea pigs the correct amount of food for their age and weight to help avoid obesity. Pelleted foods are recommended over muesli-style food; this helps avoid selective feeding. Always keep fresh drinking water available.



## Looking after your guinea pigs' health

Giving your guinea pigs a daily health check allows you to spot any problems quickly. Guinea pigs should visit the vet for a check-up at least once a year so their weight, teeth, claws and overall health can be checked.

Guinea pigs are often prone to mites and ringworm, which make them feel itchy and uncomfortable. Some ringworms and mites are zoonotic (they can pass from animals to people), so it's important to wash your hands thoroughly after handling your pets. If you suspect an infestation all guinea pigs in the hutch need treating, even if they show no symptoms, and the environment needs thoroughly disinfecting and treating with a suitable insecticide too. Speak to your vet if you need further guidance.

## Beaphar Anti-Parasite Spot On for rabbits, guinea-pigs, ferrets and rats

- Kills lice, fleas, mites and roundworms for up to 4 weeks
- Vet strength medicine

## Guinea Pig Products



### Beaphar Deep Clean Disinfectant for Small Animal Housing

- Long-lasting protection, kills bacteria and viruses
- Ideal for hutches, cages and litter trays

### Beaphar Cage Fresh Granules

- Contains friendly microbes that break down odours
- Ideal for hutches, cages and litter trays



### Beaphar CARE+® Guinea Pig

- Nutritionally balanced, pellet food
- With added vitamins, including Vitamin C, and prebiotics

### Beaphar Dental Easy Treat

- Supports the natural wearing of teeth
- With a high fibre content and added vitamins



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Use medicines responsibly ([noah.co.uk](https://noah.co.uk))

FIVE  
MUST  
HAVES