
Desexing

Guinea pigs are not prolific breeders like rabbits but nevertheless, if you are not careful, you may find yourself swamped with babies!

Desexing your Guinea Pig is recommended. It ensures a calm temperament and reduces the likelihood of some serious diseases.

Guinea Pigs can start breeding at 6-8 weeks of age and may be desexed at 5-6mths of age. A female Guinea pig should have her first litter before 6 months of age as after this age the pelvic bones become fused and can cause problems during labour.

Dental & Nail Care

Dental care for Guinea Pigs is super important & usually depends on what type of food you feed them. Dental problems can occur due to inaccurate types of feed, genetics or trauma. You should make sure that they are receiving the right types of foods to prevent dental problems.

Guinea pigs should be checked regularly for overgrown claws and teeth. Both can be trimmed by a veterinary surgeon if necessary. Too much scratching results from skin problems and is often caused by lice or mites. Your veterinary surgeon can provide suitable treatment.

Heat Stress

Guinea Pigs are not greatly suited to the Australian climate. It is essential that you keep them cool throughout the hot days & warm during the cold winters.

Here are some tips to help you Guinea Pig through summer:

- Keep your Guinea pig inside
- Provide shaded areas / shelter
- A good ventilated area
- Plenty of drinking water
- You can mist them with water
- Place them on cool surfaces e.g. tiles
- Ice blocks / frozen treats

If your Guinea Pig is looking unwell during summer it is best to take them to visit the vet.

**OPENING HOURS AT ORANGE VET-
ERINARY HOSPITAL**
MONDAY—FRIDAY
8.30AM-5.30PM
SATURDAY:
8.30AM-12PM
EMERGENCY HOURS 24/7 ON:
63618388

Caring For Your Guinea Pig



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Congratulations!

Your new Guinea Pig will be a lot of fun & will become an important member of your household. With this comes a big responsibility for their health & wellbeing. Good housing, lots of affection & plenty of appropriate play & attention are vital for your rabbits progression to a healthy & enjoyable family pet. Here's some basic tips for helping with your Guinea Pigs health.

Where Do Guinea Pigs Come From?

Guinea pigs are native to South America. The common guinea pig was first domesticated as early as 5000 BC for food by tribes in the Andean region of South America. Today they are found world-wide & make great pocket pets! They are social animals & they thrive on companionship from other Guinea pigs.

Lifespan

Guinea pigs can live between 4-5 years of age & they can weigh anywhere between 0.7-1.2kg, depending on the breed. It is essential that your Guinea Pigs gets all the necessary care that is needed for their breed, age & sex.



Diet

Guinea pigs require a plentiful ongoing source of fresh hay, clean water and an optional plain pellet.

Guinea pigs require one cup of vegetables a day. This can include; lettuce, capsicum, coriander, carrots, tomatoes, celery, parsley, green beans, zucchini or cucumber. Fruits can be distributed once or twice per week. This can include; oranges, blueberries & apple. But remember that fruits are high in sugars and if given regularly may contribute to obesity related issues. Always provide vegetables that include a good source of vitamin C.



Like humans guinea pigs cannot manufacture their own ascorbic acid vitamin C & require this to be supplemented in their diet. Guinea pigs require 20-30mg of Vitamin C daily to ensure they remain at optimum health. You can use a supplement such as; Vetafarm Furry Friends Vita-C supplement.



Vaccinations

There are no current vaccinations for Guinea Pigs within Australia as there are no known potentially dangerous diseases to them.



Worming

Guinea pigs can come into contact with intestinal worms in their environment, so it is vital to keep them up to date with their worming schedule. Guinea pigs can contract worms from cat & dog faeces, so it is essential that if your own a cat or dog that your Guinea Pig does not have access to eating it. Prevention is far better than treatment for worms, so it is best to regularly de-worm them with a treatment such as Revolution, Advocate or Profender.

