

POCKET PET CARE



Guinea Pig Diet

Guinea Pigs are herbivores and what they eat has a big effect on how healthy they are. They require a large proportion of fibre in their diet and should eat constantly and never be fasted. You will need to feed your guinea pigs twice daily, in the morning and in the evening. Adult guinea pigs should have access to good quality grass hay at all times. It's great for the digestive system, and will also satisfy your pet's need to gnaw. Alfalfa and Lucerne hay is generally not recommended, as it can lead to obesity. Pellets are typically limited to help prevent obesity as well. Pet parents can offer fresh, clean greens to their guinea pigs daily diet.

We recommend offering small amounts of washed fresh fruit and vegetables to your guinea pigs every day, but shouldn't make up more than 10% of your guinea pig's diet. Try grapes, cucumbers, corn, peas, carrots and pears. Half a handful of veggies and a slice of fresh fruit per pig is plenty. Always make sure to clean up any leftover fresh food before it spoils. Handfuls of grass are also beneficial for your guinea pigs health; they can never have too much of it!

Unlike other animals, guinea pigs cannot manufacture Vitamin C, so you'll need to ensure that your pets get enough of this essential nutrient every day. Some orange is a good idea, and a good supply of fresh leafy greens is best, along with foods such as kale, capsicums, dandelion greens and strawberries.

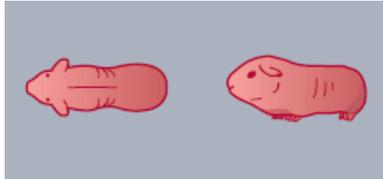
We do not recommend feeding your Guinea Pigs commercial pellets or mixed grain type diets. There is insufficient fibre, they are high in carbohydrates and can easily lead to obesity.

It can often be difficult to change your guinea pig's diet. It's a good idea to expose young guinea pigs to a wide variety of foods, so that they will be more accepting of any changes in diet when they're older.

Guinea pigs will also need a bottle with fresh, clean water to drink. The water should be changed daily, and the bottle should be thoroughly cleaned with hot, soapy water once a week to prevent algae formation.

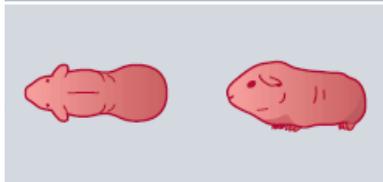


Guinea Pig Body Condition Score Chart



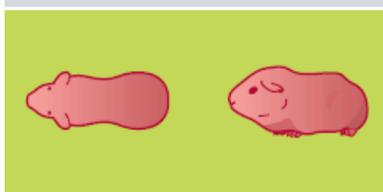
1. VERY THIN – more than 20% below ideal body weight

Each individual rib can be felt easily. Hips and spine are prominent and visible and can be felt with the slightest touch. Under abdominal curve can be seen. Spine appears hunched.



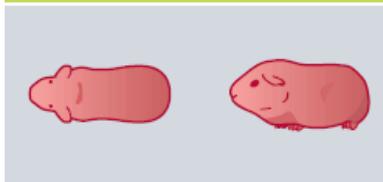
2. THIN – between 10%-20% below ideal body weight

Each rib is easily felt but isn't prominent. Hips and spine are easily felt without much pressure. Less of an abdominal curve can be seen.



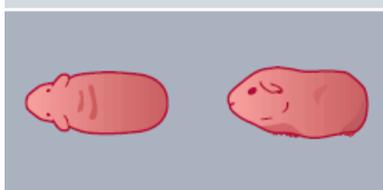
3. IDEAL

Ribs are not prominent and cannot be felt individually. Hips and spine are not visible but can be felt. No abdominal curve. Chest narrower than hind end.



4. OVERWEIGHT – 10% - 15% above ideal body weight

Ribs are harder to distinguish. Hips and spine are difficult to feel. Feet not always visible.



5. OBESE – 15% - 20% above ideal body weight

Ribs, hips and spine cannot be felt or can be felt a little with mild pressure. No body shape can be distinguished. Underbelly touching the floor when guinea pig is in standing position, feet cannot be seen.