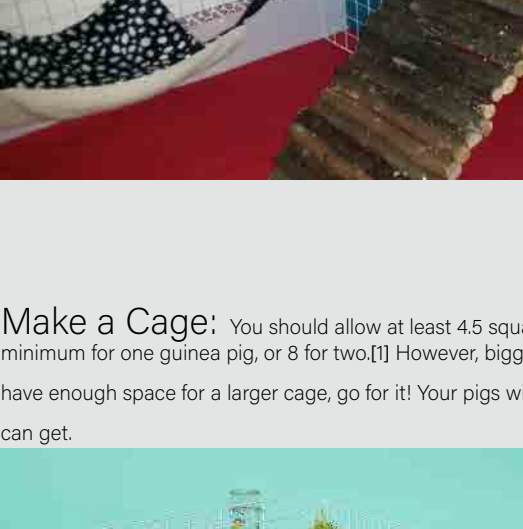


How to Take Care of a Guinea Pig

Guinea pigs are smaller pets, but they require plenty of space, time, effort, and human interaction. If you are willing to give your guinea pig a good home with proper food, attention, living space, grooming, and veterinary care, you will be rewarded with a happy, healthy, cute, and fun guinea pig

Short Video about Guinea Pig Care



To care for your guinea pig, replace the water in its cage with fresh water every day. Try to make sure there's always hay available since guinea pigs are grazers. You should also feed your guinea pig leafy green vegetables, like lettuce or kale. If you can, give your guinea pig time outside of its cage at least once a day, and spend time talking to it and petting it several times a day. Finally, maintain your guinea pig's home by spot cleaning periodically and removing everything in its cage to do a thorough cleaning at least once a week. For more from our Veterinary reviewer on caring for your guinea pig, including how to keep it clean and healthy, keep reading!

Part 1: Setting Up for Your Guinea Pig



Refrain from a lid if the walls of the cage are at least 12"-14" high: A lid isn't necessary for high built pens. However, it is better to have one in case something is thrown into the cage. The lid might block it.



Use caution with multi-level cages: A fall from higher than 6" can injure guinea pigs' feet or legs, and elderly guinea pigs should only be kept in flat cages. Keep in mind that your piggy may not be able to climb ramps.



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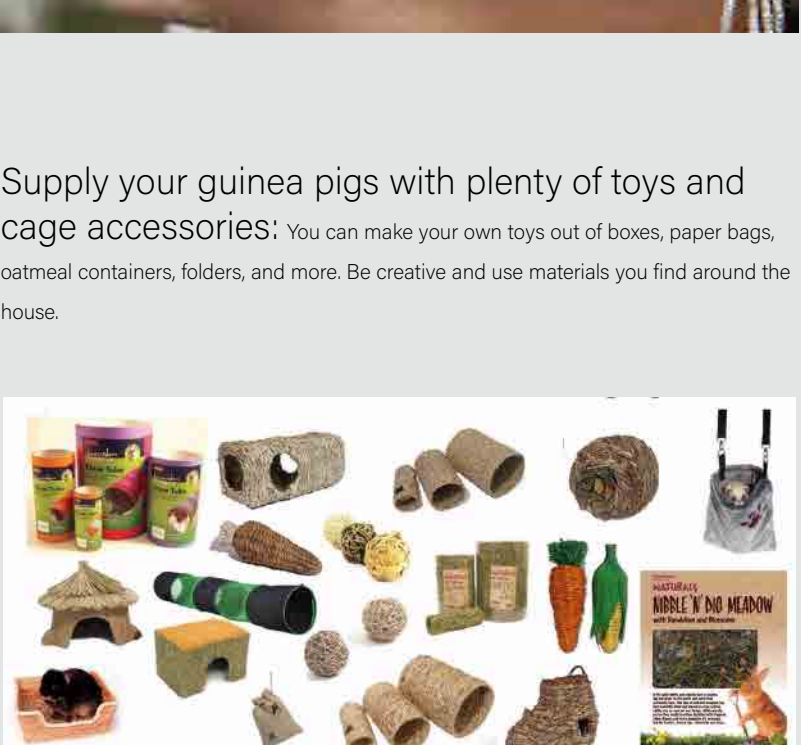
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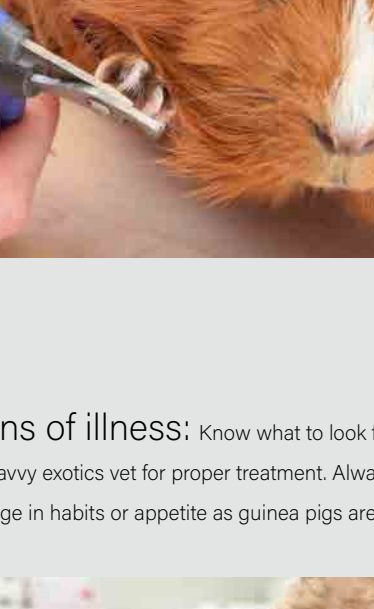
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Make sure to adopt two or more guinea pigs: Guinea pigs need company because they are herd animals. Try to make sure they are siblings, otherwise they will probably fight. Keep in mind that male and female piggies will mate. Spend some time with your pets every day. Keeping a sociable animal alone can lead it to become depressed. You can also put together two females, two neutered males or two males who have never been separated.



Part 2: Feeding and watering

Provide plenty of water: One of the most important elements of caring for any pet is providing it with fresh, clean water at all times. You can use a bowl or a bottle.



Make hay available to your guinea pigs constantly: Guinea pigs are grazing animals, so they need something to graze on (such as timothy or orchard grass) at all times, or their digestive tracts can shut down. But, they can also poke their eyes out on it, so make sure to pat down the hay so no pointed or sharp pieces stick out!

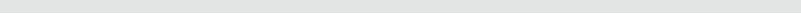


Feed your guinea pigs fresh vegetables daily: Green leafy vegetables should make up about 20% of your guinea pigs' diet. Be careful about vegetables that contain a lot of phosphorous, calcium and Vitamin A as too many of these can cause stomach upsets and diarrhea, which can be fatal. It is useful to get a list of safe fruits and vegetables from a trustworthy guinea pig website or your local vet.



Part 3: Exercising and Socializing Your Guinea

Give your guinea pigs some floor time each day: Let them loose in an enclosed space but be sure that no one steps on them. You can do so by setting up a pen in a room (an area with easily-cleaned floors) or outside if it isn't too hot or cold.



Supply your guinea pigs with plenty of toys and cage accessories: You can make your own toys out of boxes, paper bags, oatmeal containers, folders, and more. Be creative and use materials you find around the house.

Part 4: Keeping Your Guinea Pig Clean and Healthy Pig

Trim your guinea pigs' toenails every few weeks: If they have dark toenails, shine a flashlight behind the nail so you can see where the quicks are. If you clip too close to the blood vessel, the toenail may start to bleed. Use styptic powder or cornstarch to stop bleeding.

Watch for signs of illness: Know what to look for in an ill pig.[12] Take your guinea pigs to a savvy exotics vet for proper treatment. Always be on the lookout for even the slightest change in habits or appetite as guinea pigs are extremely good at hiding any illness.

Keep guinea pigs away from rabbits: Rabbits naturally carry a bacteria that can make guinea pigs very ill, and rabbits are bigger, stronger animals. Even a playful kick from a rabbit could kill a guinea pig

Weigh your guinea pig weekly: A weight fluctuation of up to two ounces is normal but more than that can mean serious dental or other health problems that require the attention of a skilled veterinarian. A digital kitchen scale works best for this

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Short Video about Guinea Pig Care



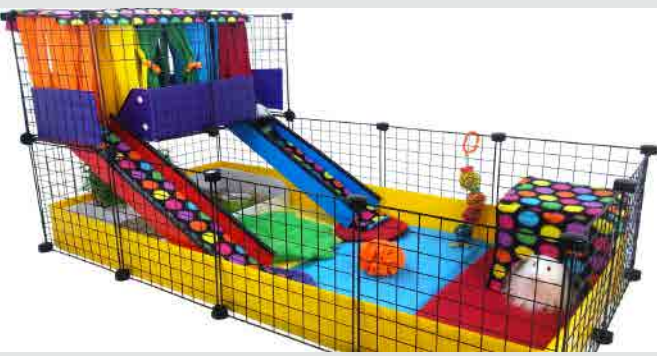
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Part 1: Setting Up for Your Guinea Pig



Make a Cage: You should allow at least 4.5 square feet of cage space as a minimum for one guinea pig, or 8 for two.[1] However, bigger is always better -- if you have enough space for a larger cage, go for it! Your pigs will appreciate all the space they can get.

Refrain from a lid if the walls of the cage are at least 12"-14" high: A lid isn't necessary for high built pens. However, it is better to have one in case something is thrown into the cage. The lid might block it.



Use caution with multi-level cages: A fall from higher than 6" can injure guinea pigs' feet or legs, and elderly guinea pigs should only be kept in flat cages. Keep in mind that your piggy may not be able to climb ramps.

Find a good location for the cage: A place where the family frequents several times a day for extended periods of time is the best location. A living room, bedroom, or hallway is the best choice because there is frequent traffic. Your guinea pigs should get used to their humans.



Guinea Pigs are Sensitive to Temperature: Many veterinarians recommend keeping them indoors, which has the additional advantage of allowing for more interaction. However, some experts do suggest exposing guinea pigs to sunlight regularly.

Make sure to adopt two or more guinea pigs: Guinea pigs need company because they are herd animals. Try to make sure they are siblings, otherwise they will probably fight. Keep in mind that male and female piggies will mate. Spend some time with your pets every day. Keeping a sociable animal alone can lead it to become depressed. You can also put together two females, two neutered males or two males who have never been separated.



Provide plenty of water: One of the most important elements of caring for any pet is providing it with fresh, clean water at all times. You can use a bowl or a bottle.

Part 2: Feeding and watering

Make hay available to your guinea pigs constantly: Guinea pigs are grazing animals, so they need something to graze on (such as timothy or orchard grass) at all times, or their digestive tracts can shut down. But, they can also poke their eyes out on it, so make sure to pat down the hay so no pointed or sharp pieces stick out!



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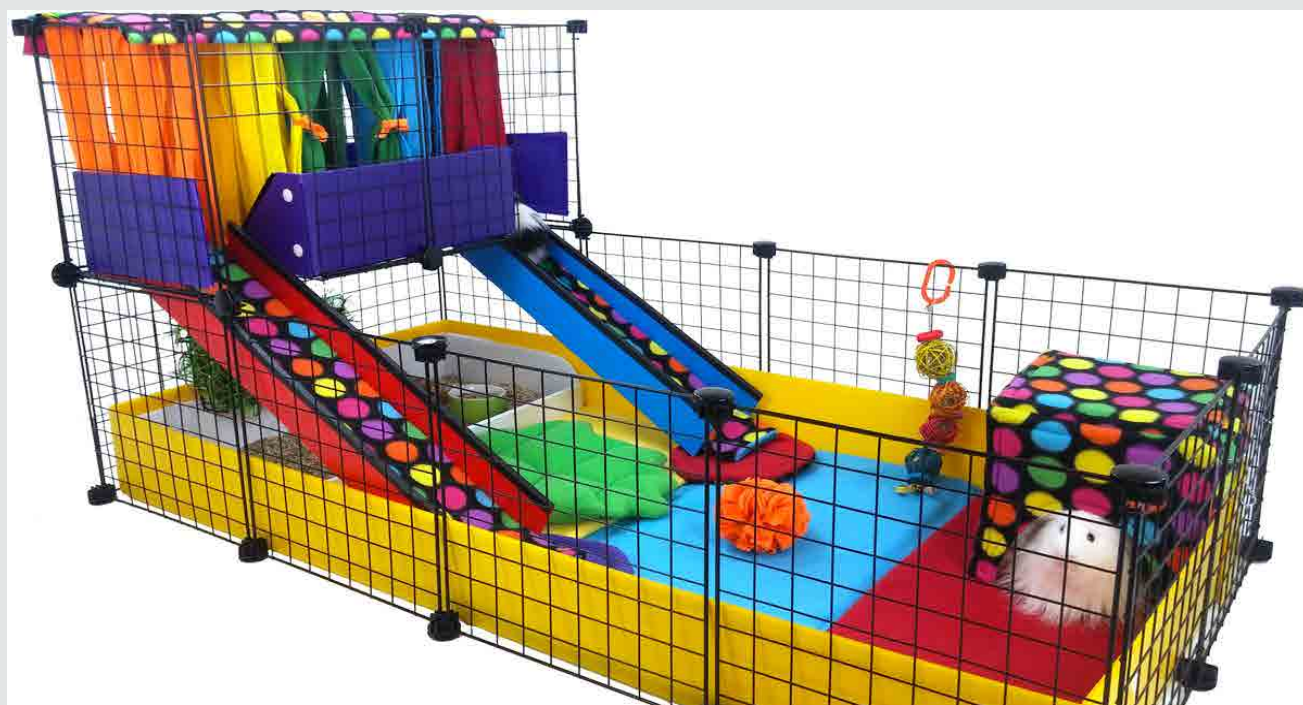
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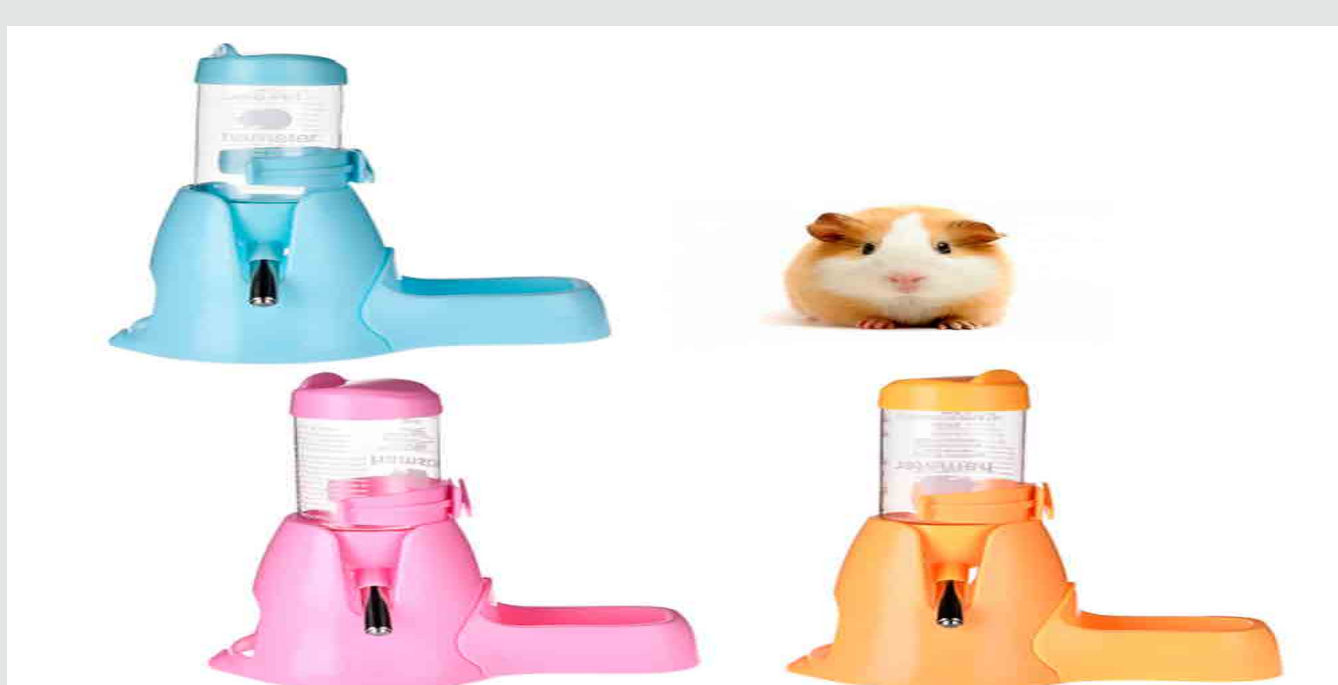
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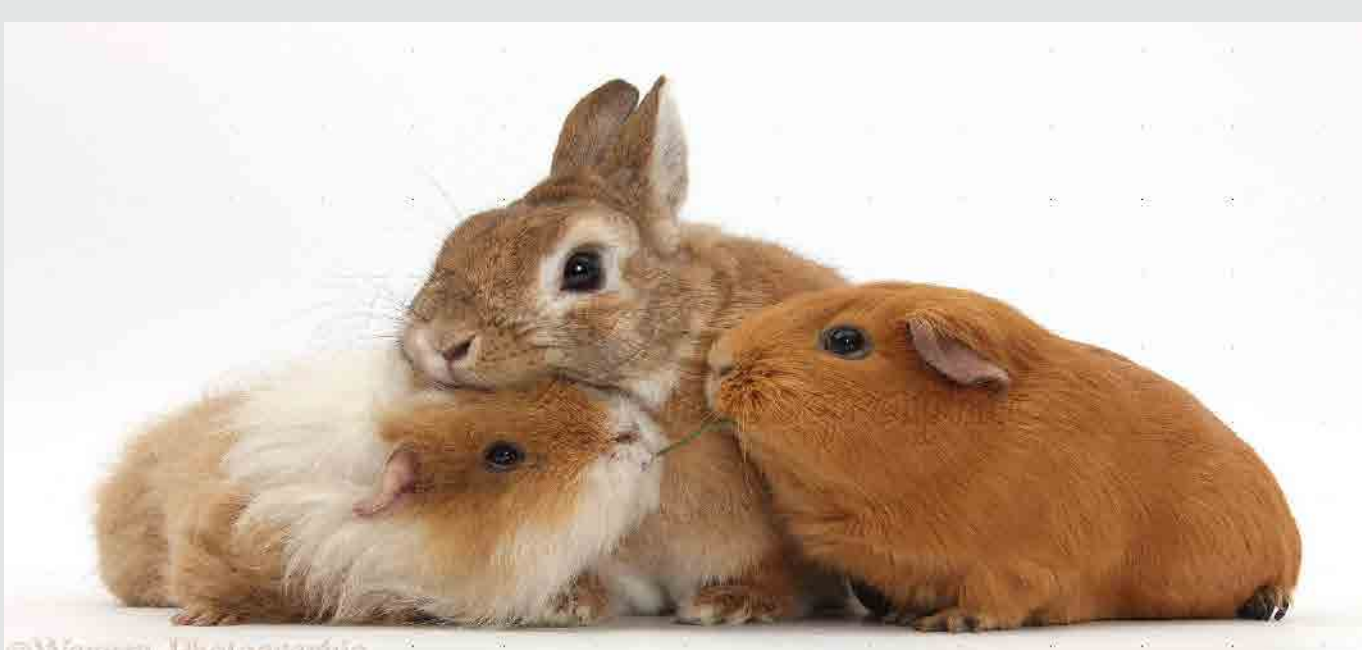
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