

# Guinea Pigs



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## Housing

Your guinea pig should acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F for risk of overheating. They should have 1-2" of bedding that is paper-based and designed to absorb waste. You should give your guinea pig a hideaway box for privacy, and if you have multiple guinea pigs, they should each have their own hideaway! They also love to have chew toys made of wood and other toys. Guinea pigs can be kept in same-sex pairs if they are raised together; otherwise, keep adult guinea pigs housed separately.



## Behavior

Guinea pigs are super vocal pets, and all of their sounds have different meanings! One super cute behavior they do is called "popcorning" in which they jump and twirl in the air to show they are very happy. Guinea pigs love to have a routine with similar times for playing, feeding, and resting each day. They are definitely active and friendly, but might need time to acclimate to new environments and to be socialized. Their teeth grow throughout their lives, and they need to chew on hay, mineral chews, and chew sticks to wear down their teeth and avoid dental problems!



## Handling

Guinea pigs can be very easy to handle pets when properly socialized! Long-haired guinea pigs should be brushed a few times a week to prevent tangles or hair ingestion. They like time outside of their habitats to socialize and exercise. Make sure to take care when you do hold your guinea pig as they can be easily injured if they fall or are dropped!



## Overview

Guinea pigs are social and vocal companion pets who require daily interaction with their families! They are found in Brazil, Peru, and Argentina in the wild and can also be called cavies. Guinea pigs are rodents, and there are more than 20 recognized breeds of guinea pigs in the world - some of them even being hairless!

Guinea pigs can live up to **8 years** with proper care, and grow to be around **8-10 inches long**. They need a minimum habitat size of **36"L x 30"W x 18"H** (approximately 7.5 square feet per guinea pig) and their enclosure should have a solid bottom to make sure their feet are comfortable and safe!

Guinea pigs are **herbivores** and should be fed a well-balanced diet of pellet food, timothy hay, and some fruits and veggies as treats! They should always have access to their timothy hay as well as fresh, clean water throughout the day.

Information from [petco.com](https://www.petco.com)