



pets in the classroom



CARE SHEET

GUINEA PIGS

Housing

Guinea pigs prefer to live with the companionship of another guinea pig and can be housed together with the same gender. Their home needs to have a solid floor that is large enough to hold a water bottle, food dish, a hiding area, and space for exercising. Oftentimes, a multi-level cage is best since guinea pigs can be very active and need plenty of room to run around.

Environment

Guinea pigs do not need extra heating or cooling elements in their cages but should be placed in a safe place out of direct sunlight. Since guinea pigs are most active during the day and are quite social creatures by nature, they can be exercised outside of their cage in an exercise pen tucked into a corner of a room to prevent escapes. Be sure to look out for hazards that your pet can chew on such as electrical cords or wires. Guinea pigs should also not be allowed to play with other pets such as dogs and cats in order to prevent injury.

Care

Since they are social animals, guinea pigs need daily interaction and can develop intense and affection relationships for their pet parents. Oftentimes, guinea pigs will even whistle to signal their happiness! To provide proper care for a guinea pig, their cage should contain lots of clean aspen, pine, or recycled paper for bedding. The bedding should be spot cleaned weekly and completely changed each month. Guinea pigs teeth never stop growing and to promote healthy teeth, guinea pigs need plenty of treat sticks and chews at all times to keep their teeth at an acceptable level. Fresh water should also be provided daily in addition to supplementing their pellet diet with timothy hay, fresh fruits and vegetables, and vitamin C.