

# Guinea Pigs are Great!



Here's what the guinea pigs say:

## Feed me hay!

Hay keeps my teeth from overgrowing. Unlike hamsters and gerbils, I don't need wood blocks for my teeth, just a constant supply of grass hay. Every guinea pig should have great grass hay available 24-7. If I'm really young, you can give me a little alfalfa too.

## No cedar bedding!

Cedar releases aromatic oils that injure my lungs. Pine can be a problem too if it is strong smelling. If you use pine, make sure you air it out before you use it and don't use bedding that smells like pine cleaner. Aspen or Carefresh are good choices. Absorbent towels topped with a fleece blanket make a comfy home too; just toss them in the wash!

## I love tasty green veggies!

Give me at least a cup of veggies every day. Romaine lettuce, parsley, kale, endive and red peppers are some of my favorites. I need vitamin C to stay healthy. The darker the greens the more nutritious so skip the iceberg lettuce.

## No vitamin drops in my water!

They make my water taste bad so I might not drink as much as I need. And the vitamin C fades away so quickly in water. Give me fresh veggies like parsley, kale and red pepper so I get my vitamin C naturally.

## I want a friend!

We'll run and play together and keep each other company while you're away at school or work. So many of us need homes. Please adopt a guinea pig from your local rescue or shelter!

## No seeds!

The husks get stuck in my teeth and seeds are too rich and oily. Skip the seeds and colored bits. Bring home plain pellets made especially for me instead! Store them in a dark dry place so the vitamin C stays potent longer.

## I love to run around!

I might be timid at first, but if you take me out to play in a safe place every day, I'll be running laps and jumping for joy.

## Give me a big cage!

Big cages are so easy to build. I can exercise when I want and get away from my pal if we are having a tiff. Big cages don't get smelly as fast either. I need at least 7.5 square feet. If I have a buddy, I'll need even more space. See [CavyCages.com](http://CavyCages.com) for great cage ideas and build it yourself for under \$30.

## I need a special vet!

Most regular vets don't treat guinea pigs so find an exotics vet. They know what kind of problems I may have and can prescribe safe medications. Did you know that some antibiotics like Amoxicillin could kill me? See [www.GuineaLynx.info](http://www.GuineaLynx.info) for a list of safe and dangerous medications! And please see a vet ASAP if you notice anything wrong with me. We go downhill very quickly without treatment.

## I don't want to be pregnant!

Don't house me with an intact mate or somebody's going to end up pregnant. Pregnancies are very risky for guinea pigs so if you love me, you'll be sure this doesn't happen. We girls can get pregnant as early as 3 1/2 weeks of age and males can be dads at 3 1/2 weeks. Separating pups at 3 weeks of age helps prevent unwanted pregnancies. A vet can help you tell who is who.