



## WWW.GUINEALYNX.INFO

Learn all you can before bringing a new pet into your home!

### Did you Know?

Guinea pigs can live 5 to 7 years or more.  
Males are boars, females are sows, and babies are pups.  
Sows can get pregnant as young as 4 weeks old.  
Boars are sexually mature at 3½ weeks of age.  
Pregnancy is risky and complications are common.  
Cavy is the proper name for a guinea pig.

### Looking for a Guinea Pig? Choose to Adopt!

**DAILY DIET** -- Plain high quality guinea pig pellets, unlimited high quality grass hay, fresh cold water, Vitamin C, a cup or so of fresh vegetables (like romaine, a small piece of carrot, green pepper, fresh clean grass) **AVOID: mixes or treats containing nuts, seeds, dried fruit, sugars, or dyed pieces. No dairy or meat products (cavies are herbivores). No rabbit pellets. No multivitamins.**

**HOUSING** -- **Bigger is better!** Build a spacious cage of wire cubes and Coroplast sheets. Avoid cages too small with wire bottoms and shelves. See [www.cavycages.com](http://www.cavycages.com)

**BEDDING** -- Use paper products like *CareFRESH*®, kiln-dried pine or aspen shavings. Frequent changing (every 3 or 4 days) will prevent odors and promote good health. **AVOID: Cedar (can contribute to respiratory problems), sawdust, corncob bedding, and clay cat litter.**

**SIGNS OF ILLNESS:** refusal to eat or drink; lethargy; labored breathing; wheezing; sneezing; crusty eyes; dull and/or receding eyes; rough or puffed up coat; hunched posture; diarrhea; blood in urine; limping; loss of balance; head tilt; excessive scratching; or hair loss. Be observant!

When a cavy is ill, it can go downhill very quickly. Prompt, competent veterinary care is crucial to saving the life of an ill cavy. Most bacterial infections can be cured in the early stages with a course of cavy-safe antibiotics. Don't be afraid to call your vet if you have any concerns.

**WARNING: Penicillin-based drugs like amoxicillin are deadly.**



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