Holistic Pet Care
Exotic Animal Guide: Guinea Pigs

Basic Information:
- Lifespan: 4-8 years
- Weight: 1.5-2.6 lbs.
- Size: 8-11 inches long
- Herbivores

Habitat:
- Large pen/small animal cage with enough space to run around and exercise. Ensure enclosure is “escape-proof.”
- 1-2 inches of bedding (crumble paper/small animal bedding)
- Water bottle and feeding bowl
- Hay filled toys, cardboard boxes, bells and toy balls, hard chew toys.

Diet/Treats

Primary:
- Timothy hay and water at all times
- Vitamin C rich food pellets. 1/8th cup per day

Treats: offer once or twice a week
- Fresh vegetables: romaine lettuce, kale, cilantro, red/green peppers, broccoli, carrots, zucchini, sweet potato.
- Fresh fruits: small orange wedges, apple slices, thin slice banana, kiwi, strawberries.
Health

Positive Traits
✓ Active and social
✓ Eating/Drinking regularly
✓ Healthy fur and clear eyes
✓ Normal movement
✓ Squeaks and chirps regularly

Red Flags:
> Weight loss
> Hair loss
> Distressed breathing
> Lethargic
> Eye discharge
> Nasal discharge
> Overgrown teeth
> Skin lesions

Physical exams once a year
(no testing required)

Common Health Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>Symptom(s)</th>
<th>Course of Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Loose stool from poor diet, stress or parasites</td>
<td>Veterinarian visit, bring sample of loose stool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malocclusion</td>
<td>Overgrown teeth from poor chew toys</td>
<td>Veterinarian visit to have teeth trimmed and finding proper chew toys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mites/lice</td>
<td>Loss of hair, scratching</td>
<td>Veterinarian visit to determine type of mites and proper treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ringworm</td>
<td>Skin infection from fungus</td>
<td>Veterinarian visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scurvy</td>
<td>Vitamin C deficient from poor diet; watch for sore joints and bleeding</td>
<td>Veterinarian visit and change diet</td>
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