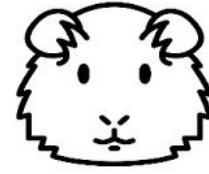




## Holistic Pet Care

### 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 fun 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**

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