

CARING FOR GUINEA PIGS

- **Water**

- Please make sure that the water bottle has plenty of water and that it is secure. Please tap the dripper daily to make sure it is working and water comes out ok.

- **Food**

- 80% of a guinea pig's diet should be hay – ensure the hay feeder is always full so the guinea pigs can eat whenever they are hungry.
- We provide pellets which can be used as a supplement. This has a high fat content and too much will make the guinea pigs obese. 1/3 cup per day is plenty
- Please supplement this dry food with fresh fruit and veg. See list at the end suitable for guinea pigs. Ensure any uneaten food is removed

- **Cleaning**

- How often you will need to change the paper and straw will depend on which guinea pigs you have. Please clean when dirty which is usually every 3 or 4 days.
- Feeding sweet, watery fruits and vegetables will mean the enclosure will need to be cleaned more often.
- Ensure there is 2-3 layers of newspaper underneath the bedding hay.

- **Handling**

- Adults only are to pick up the animal, supporting the body. Guinea pigs can feel insecure when carried and may wriggle causing the claws to scratch, so make sure they feel supported. Children may pat while an adult holds or they may have the animal in their lap on a towel.

- Do not let the children poke it in the face.
- Do not let the children walk around with the animal, only adults to carry.
- Keep the cage in a secure area out of the wind, rain or direct sunlight. Call if you have any questions.
- Guinea pigs must be checked everyday

FEEDING LIST

Food found in the garden

Thistles
Wire-weed
Dandelion
Chickweed
Plantain (young plants)
Dock (young plants)
Parsley
Sunflower stalks and leaves
Leaves – grapevine, almond, apricot or plum
Kikuyu grass
Couch grass

Vegetables

Lettuce
Endive
Celery and leaves
Spinach
Silver beet
Corn (including husks and silk)
Parsnips
Carrots & carrot tops
Pumpkin
Beetroot
Tomato
Cucumber
Marrow
Zucchini
Choko
Capsicum (green, red or yellow)
Beans
Peas

Fruit (in moderation as will increase urine output)

Apple
Pear
Plum
Nectarine
Peach
Apricot
Strawberry
Banana
Orange or mandarins
Watermelon/rockmelon/honeydew
Pineapple

Treats

Cabbage
Cauliflower (including leaves and stalks)
Broccoli
Brussel sprouts
Turnip
Kohlrabi

DO NOT FEED

Rhubarb (including leave and stems)
Radishes
Potatoes or potato tops
Onions
Onion grass
Bulb plants of any type
Buttercups
Oxalis or sour-sobs
Deadly nightshade