



PETS TO GO

A PET STORE YOU CAN TRUST

WWW.PETSTOGO.NET

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Caring for your Rabbit or Guinea Pig

Rabbits and Guinea Pigs make excellent house pets. They can be housetrained. Rabbits do best when allowed to live indoors. Be sure that you know the proper care for a rabbit or guinea pig before you purchase a pet and a cage.

Cage:

It is very important to choose the proper cage for your pet. If you are going to have an indoor house rabbit it is still important that the rabbit has a home. There will be times when your bunny would like to have a "home". The cage is protection for the house bunny. Choose a cage that is easy to clean, safe and will accommodate your pet when it reaches its full size. Safe caging is important for all animals but specifically guinea pigs must have an open bottom cage, otherwise they are at risk of injuring or breaking a leg. It is easy to underestimate the full-grown size of your rabbit since they are so small as babies, but they grow quickly. One of our pet care advisors will be able to help you choose the appropriate size and style of cage for your pet.

Bedding:

We can recommend several brands of litter. Quality litters are highly absorbent and dust free. Quality pet bedding also has superior odor control in comparison to wood chips or paper. In addition to odor control quality pet bedding is safe for your pet. Pine shavings are not recommended because they are extremely dusty and can cause respiratory problems when your pet inhales the dust. Cedar shavings are also inappropriate, because of the strong oils in cedar and the constantly inhalation of the toxic oils respiratory damage can occur. Cedar is a liquid repellent as well, which deters absorption. It is important for your bunnies' health that he/she has a clean cage. We have many litters that are also excellent in litter boxes if you wish to box train your bunny.

Feeding:

The primary diet of a bunny or guinea pig should be clean fresh pellets. Rabbits do best on a high quality rabbit diet and guinea pigs must be fed guinea pig pellets which are supplemented. Adult bunnies should not consume a large amount of pellets, a cup a day of pellets is just enough for an adult rabbit. We allow our baby bunnies to free feed but when they are not eating their pellets they are grazing on high quality hays such as Brome, Timothy or Oat hays. Alfalfa is fine for young rabbits but as rabbits mature they have lower calcium requirements. We recommend Timothy, Brome or Oat hay. Brome is great for younger bunnies and guinea pigs but as they mature they should be on lower protein hay such as Timothy or Oat hay. It is difficult to find palatable hays, however, Pets To Go carries an excellent source of hays from the Midwest which our bunnies and guinea pigs love. In addition to Timothy hay we have Timothy pellets available which are great for over weight or older bunnies and guinea pigs or just to maintain a well-rounded pet. Rabbits and guinea pigs also need a variety of vegetables. Be careful with vegetables that are high in water content such as iceberg lettuce or celery. Too much of a good thing can lead to intestinal distress. If you would like to know more about nutrition for your rabbit or guinea pig please ask one of our pet care advisors for assistance.

Training:

Rabbits, guinea pigs and other rodents have open rooted teeth, which means their teeth never stop growing. Because rabbits and guinea pigs have open rooted teeth they need to chew which means your house rabbit or guinea pig will need to be trained to not chew household items such as wires and furniture. Try to move chords up out of your rabbits reach. You can also run wires through PVC pipe to protect them and your rabbit. Rabbits and guinea pigs can be trained to only chew on their toys, but this takes time and patience. There are many dangers indoors and outdoors so supervision is very important at all times.

Choosing a pet:

It is important that you choose your pet rabbit carefully. If you want to buy a baby make sure that it is from healthy stock. We offer wonderful socialized rabbits at Pets To Go. There are also an abundance of rabbits at various shelters. These rabbits usually will need a bit of socialization but can make excellent pets. The House Rabbit Society also conducts a rabbit rescue group and has re-socialized rabbits available. It is extremely important that you have your rabbit spayed or neutered. The incidence of uterine cancer in rabbits is very high. Male rabbits can also spray urine to mark their territory. Both sexes make better pets when they are spayed or neutered. We can recommend local veterinarians that can perform this simple surgery.

This care sheet should serve only as an introduction to rabbit and guinea pig care. If you have any further questions please contact us.