**Hay**
Fresh, high quality grass hay should make up at least 70% of your guinea pig’s diet and should always be available. Health benefits of hay include:

- Hay provides long strand fiber that supports digestive health in herbivores.
- Guinea pigs’ teeth never stop growing. Hay provides essential wear for dental health.
- Eating multiple varieties of hay daily provides enrichment and prevents picky eating.

**Fortified food**
Providing a daily recommended amount of a high-fiber, age-appropriate fortified food with stabilized vitamin C provides your guinea pig with essential vitamins and minerals not provided by hay.

**Guineas**
Fresh greens are an important part of your guinea pig’s daily diet. Greens help keep your pet hydrated and are a healthy source of vitamins and minerals as well as enrichment.

**Treats**
Treats (including fruits) are great for building the bond between you and your pet but should only be offered in moderation. All Oxbow treats are designed to be as wholesome as they are delicious.
With proper nutrition and care, guinea pigs may live five or more years.

**Housing your guinea pig**
As prey animals by nature, all guinea pigs need a safe place to spend time and avoid stress. Here are some tips to help create the ideal living space for your guinea pig:

- Choose a spacious, well-constructed habitat with a solid floor and set it up near household activities but away from windows and heating and cooling ducts.
- Outfit your guinea pig’s habitat with essentials such as multiple hideouts, a litterbox with litter and bedding, a variety of natural chews, grass hay, a food bowl, and two sources of fresh, clean water.
- Add an attachable play yard to create more space for your guinea pig to play and explore.
- No habitat is large enough to meet your pet’s exercise and enrichment needs. Provide as much supervised time outside of the habitat as possible each day.

**Your guinea pig’s health**
You should visit a qualified exotics veterinarian at least once a year for checkups on your pet’s diet, behavior, and health.

- Be prepared for your pet’s visits by making a list of any questions or concerns you may have ahead of time and bringing examples of your pet’s nutrition, habitat, and husbandry-related items.
- Ask your veterinarian to recommend an appropriate age to have your guinea pig spayed or neutered; this will increase the chances of a longer, healthier life for your pet.
- Many guinea pig health problems are preventable with proper diet and care.

**Enriching your pet’s world**
All guinea pigs are wired to engage in a set of core instinctual behaviors each day. These behaviors include chewing, playing, hiding, and exploring. Intentionally encouraging these behaviors in healthy ways is called enrichment.

- Support chewing, hiding, playing, and exploring each day to support your guinea pig’s mental and physical health.
- Providing daily enrichment is a fun, interactive way to build your bond with your guinea pig.
- Offer a variety of natural chews, places for rest and relaxation, and engagement and exercise accessories.
- Oxbow’s Enriched Life accessories are designed to help make enrichment fun, easy, and safe!

**Supplies for your guinea pig**

- **Fortified age-specific food**: one of Oxbow’s three premium formulas for guinea pigs under 6 months of age, one of Oxbow’s five premium formulas for adults, or Oxbow’s Essentials Senior Guinea Pig Food.
- **Two or more varieties of Oxbow’s hays**
- **Oxbow treats** for healthy bonding and enrichment
- **Water bottle, no-tip water dish, and no-tip food bowl**
- **Multiple Enriched Life natural chews and accessories**
- **Large play yard** for safe exercise outside the habitat
- **Large habitat** with solid, non-slip flooring
- **Multiple hiding spaces**
- **Litter box** with Oxbow’s Eco-straw litter
- **Bedding material**, such as Oxbow’s Pure Comfort. Avoid aromatic cedar and pine shavings that may contain resin and could irritate your pet’s lungs and skin.
- **Natural Science supplements** as needed.

**REASONS TO CONTACT YOUR VET:**

- Loose, soft, or lack of stool
- Small, dry, or infrequent stools
- Blood in the urine
- Sneezing or trouble breathing
- Overgrown teeth
- Sores on the feet
- Observed difficulty with chewing
- Bald patches in the fur
- Abnormal eating or drinking
- Hunching in a corner or lack of activity (lethargy)

For more information about guinea pig care and behavior, visit www.oxbowanimalhealth.com

---

**FIND A QUALIFIED EXOTICS VETERINARIAN NEAR YOU:**

**OXBOW ANIMAL HEALTH**

www.oxbowanimalhealth.com

info@oxbowanimalhealth.com  @oxbowanimalhealth  facebook.com/OxbowPet  pinterest.com/oxbowpet  youtube.com/oxbowanimalhealth