

1: Guinea pig cage unit with modular components for lab animal research.

The guinea pig or domestic guinea pig (Cavia porcellus), also known as cavy or domestic cavy, is a species of rodent belonging to the family Caviidae and the genus Cavia.

Natural habitat A tri-colored guinea pig in his natural habitat C. Some species of cavy identified in the 20th century, such as C. They are social, living in the wild in small groups that consist of several females sows, a male boar, and the young which, in a break with the preceding porcine nomenclature, are called "pups" not "piglets". They move together in groups herds eating grass or other vegetation, and do not store food. Guinea pigs learn to recognize and bond with other individual pigs, and testing of boars shows their neuroendocrine stress response is significantly lowered in the presence of a bonded female when compared to the presence of unfamiliar females. However, the success of interspecies interaction depends on the individual animals. Domestic guinea pigs generally live in cages, although some owners of large numbers of guinea pigs dedicate entire rooms to their pets. Cages with solid or wire mesh floors are used, although wire mesh floors can cause injury and may be associated with an infection commonly known as bumblefoot ulcerative pododermatitis. Bedding made from red cedar Eastern or Western and pine, both softwoods, were commonly used in the past, but these materials are now believed to contain harmful phenols aromatic hydrocarbons and oils. Guinea pigs do not generally thrive when housed with other species. Housing guinea pigs with other rodents such as gerbils and hamsters may increase instances of respiratory and other infections, [64] and such rodents may act aggressively toward the guinea pig. Some published sources say that guinea pigs and rabbits complement each other well when sharing a cage. In geriatric boars or sows rarely in young ones, the muscles which allow the softer pellets to be expelled from the anus can become weak. This creates a condition known as "anal impaction", which prevents the animal from redigesting cecotropes even though harder pellets may pass through the impacted mass. Guinea pigs benefit from a diet of fresh grass hay, such as timothy hay, in addition to food pellets which are often based on timothy hay. Alfalfa hay is also a popular food choice and most guinea pigs will eat large amounts of alfalfa when offered it, [21] [75] though some controversy exists over offering alfalfa to adult guinea pigs. Some pet owners and veterinary organizations have advised that, as a legume rather than a grass hay, alfalfa consumed in large amounts may lead to obesity, as well as bladder stones from the excess calcium in all animals except for pregnant and very young guinea pigs. If guinea pigs do not ingest enough vitamin C, they can suffer from potentially fatal scurvy. A number of plants are poisonous to guinea pigs, including bracken, bryony, buttercup, charlock, deadly nightshade, foxglove, hellebore, hemlock, lily of the valley, mayweed, monkshood, privet, ragwort, rhubarb, speedwell, toadflax both *Linaria vulgaris* and *Linaria dalmatica*, and wild celery. A guinea pig may or may not eat poisonous material. Reproduction Pregnant sow one week before delivering three pups Males reach sexual maturity in 3-5 weeks, while females can be fertile as early as 4 weeks old, and can carry litters before they are adults. A sow can have as many as five litters in a year, but six is theoretically possible. Females can once again become pregnant 6-48 hours after giving birth, but it is not healthy for a female to be constantly pregnant. Litter size ranges from one to six, with three being the average; [90] the largest recorded litter size is This might take place if the original parents die or are for some reason separated from them. This behavior is common and is seen in many other animal species such as the elephant. Signs of toxemia include: The reason for potential calcification is a metabolic disease, like ochronosis. Female genitals are distinguished by a Y-shaped configuration formed from a vulvar flap. While male genitals may look similar, with the penis and anus forming a similar shape, the penis will protrude if pressure is applied to the surrounding hair. Health problems Common ailments in domestic guinea pigs include respiratory tract infections, diarrhea, scurvy vitamin C deficiency, typically characterized by sluggishness, abscesses due to infection often in the neck, due to hay embedded in the throat, or from external scratches, and infections by lice, mites, or fungus. Other causes of hair loss can be due to hormonal upsets caused by underlying medical conditions such as ovarian cysts. While it is normal for guinea pigs to sneeze periodically, frequent sneezing may be a symptom of pneumonia, especially in response to atmospheric changes. Pneumonia may also be accompanied by

torticollis and can be fatal. Treatment of disease is made more difficult by the extreme sensitivity guinea pigs have to most antibiotics, including penicillin, which kill off the intestinal flora and quickly bring on episodes of diarrhea and in some cases, death. Most commonly, the roan coloration of Abyssinian guinea pigs is associated with congenital eye disorders and problems with the digestive system. List of guinea pig breeds Handling, temperament and socialization If handled correctly early in life, guinea pigs become amenable to being picked up and carried, and seldom bite or scratch. In Switzerland, owning a single guinea pig is considered harmful to its well-being and forbidden by law. These varieties vary in hair and color composition. The most common varieties found in pet stores are the English shorthair also known as the American, which have a short, smooth coat, and the Abyssinian, whose coat is ruffled with cowlicks, or rosettes. Also popular among breeders are the Peruvian and the Sheltie or Silkie, both straight longhair breeds, and the Texel, a curly longhair. Grooming of guinea pigs is primarily accomplished using combs or brushes. Shorthair breeds are typically brushed weekly, while longhair breeds may require daily grooming. Allergies to guinea pigs Allergic symptoms, including rhinitis, conjunctivitis, and asthma, have been documented in laboratory animal workers who come into contact with guinea pigs. In popular culture and media As a result of their widespread popularity, especially in households with children, guinea pigs have shown a presence in culture and media. Some noted appearances of the animal in literature include the short story "Pigs Is Pigs" by Ellis Parker Butler, which is a tale of bureaucratic incompetence. Two guinea pigs held at a railway station breed unchecked while humans argue as to whether they are "pigs" or "pets" for the purpose of determining freight charges. A guinea pig named Rodney, voiced by Chris Rock, was a prominent character in the film Dr. Dolittle, and Lenny the Guinea pig is a co-star on Nick Jr. Guinea pigs were used in some major advertising campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s, notably for Egg Banking plc, Snapple, and Blockbuster Video.

2: Lonestar Laboratory Swine - Miniswine for your biomedical research applications

The Laboratory Guinea Pig provides a compact and well-illustrated introduction to research on the guinea pig. The second edition of this popular handbook facilitates quick reference to the behavioral and physical traits of the guinea pig, as well as practical information on its unique anatomical and biological features.

3: Lab Supply - Guinea Pig

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Guinea Pigs. Dunkin Hartley Guinea pigs are available through our facilities in the United Kingdom. The Dunkin Hartley Guinea pig is an albino Pirbright strain derived from the short haired English Guinea pig.

5: Why use guinea pigs in animal testing? | Science | The Guardian

Feeding commercial, high-quality guinea pig diets has reduced the incidence seen in laboratory colonies. There are two other, similar syndromes in guinea pigs that affect either the skeletal muscles (muscular dystrophy) or the myocardium and skeletal muscles (muscular degeneration and mineralization).

6: Guinea pig - Wikipedia

Modular Guinea Pig Unit House your guinea pigs in the secure, easy to maintain living space of the Modular Guinea Pig Cage System. With a or square foot floor area, standard systems offer 5, 8 or 12 cages.

7: GP-SUITE - Rack for Guinea Pigs | Laboratory Animal Equipment

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The Laboratory Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Hamster, and Other Rodents is a single volume, comprehensive book sanctioned by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), covering the rabbit, guinea pig, hamster, gerbil and other rodents often used in research. This well-illustrated reference won a PROSE Award for Best Single Volume.

8: The Laboratory Guinea Pig - CRC Press Book

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The Laboratory Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Hamster, and Other Rodents will be a combination of previous published works and new material. The Laboratory Rabbit, The Laboratory Guinea Pig, and The Laboratory Hamster have been in print for nearly twenty years.

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