

Guinea Pigs

A Non-Chronological Report



Introduction

Guinea pigs are not actually pigs, they are rodents.

They originally came from the Andes Mountains in South America. They were brought to Europe by Spanish sailors, returning from South America during their travels to the new world, in the 15th century.



Habitat - Where do Guinea Pigs Live?

In the wild, guinea pigs tend to make their habitats in rocky areas, grasslands and forests. When they live in the wild, guinea pigs go around in herds.

Guinea pigs, kept as pets, can be kept indoors or outdoors. They need a home that has a large shelter and exercise area, which should be strong and secure and free from draughts.



Appearance - What Do They Look Like?

There are lots of different breeds of guinea pig and they come in lots of colours and fur textures. Some are short-haired, some are long-haired and some are fuzzy.



Diet - What Do They Eat?

Guinea pigs will eat and drink day or night. They need to drink water to stop getting thirsty but actually get a lot of water from eating grass.

They are vegetarians and love green grass and vegetables.

Guinea pigs' teeth are constantly growing and they always need things to gnaw on to grind them down so love eating coarse foods like grass and hay.



Interesting Facts

- Did you know that the name for a male guinea pig is a 'boar' and the name for a female guinea pig is a 'sow'?
- You can tell when guinea pigs are happy because they 'purr'.
- There are places in South America where people eat guinea pigs.
- Another name for a guinea pig is a cavy.
- Guinea pigs can live for up to 8 years.