

Bringing home your rescue guinea pigs

How to prepare for your guinea pigs arrival:

Preparation is key, therefore before you rehome a pair of guinea pigs, make sure you do lots of research and prepare their new home so that it is well suited for a pair of guinea pigs:

- Make sure their hutch and run is the correct size
- Make sure the enclosure contains suitable substrate and accessories
- If being housed outside, make sure their enclosure is protected from the elements
- Purchase suitable enrichment toys such as willow balls
- Set up their environment before you collect your new guinea pigs, this way they can be transitioned into their new environment straight away
- Register with a suitable vet, although guinea pigs do not require annual vaccinations, it is still good practice to take them for annual health checks

How to help your new guinea pigs settle into their new home:

Guinea pigs are prey animals and may be very timid when they first arrive at their new home, below are a few tips to help them settle in:

- Provide lots of hiding areas so they feel safe and secure
- Keep them housed with their companion, so they are not lonely
- Bring an item of bedding or toy from their previous environment so they are not surrounded by all new smells
- Let them explore their new home at their own pleasure, don't pick them up or move them lots in the first few days
- Spend time talking to them and letting them get used to your voice and smell
- Provide lots of tasty feeding hay and some appropriate foods that they are used to eating
- Be patient with your new furry friends, allow them to slowly trust and build a bond with you

Make sure you transport them safely:

It is important that you transport your guinea pigs in a suitable carrier and secure them into your vehicle correctly.

Speak to your rescue centre about what carrier is most suitable for your guinea pigs.

Feeding your rescue guinea pigs:

Guinea pigs have very sensitive tummies and therefore it is important that if you plan to make any changes to their diet that this is done very gradually. A guinea pig's diet should be made up of 85-90% good quality feeding hay, 5% tasty nuggets, 5% fresh greens and unlimited drinking water.



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