



EASY TO SEX: Yes

LIFE SPAN: 9 – 12 Years

AVERAGE SIZE: up to 40cm

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 1.2 - 2kg



RABBIT

Habitat

Rabbits can be kept indoors or outdoors. A number of different styles of cages and hutches are available depending on where you are keeping your Rabbit. Your chosen cage/hutch should be of a good size to allow for exercise, places to hide and toys and tall enough for the Rabbit to stand up on its back legs. Rabbits are very social animals and would prefer to be housed in pairs or groups, this will help with their grooming and social requirements. Rabbits are a prey species so ensure the rabbit has a safe place to hide if it feels scared or threatened.

Maintenance

Your Rabbit needs to be kept in a dry, draft free cage/hutch. A damp, poorly ventilated, dirty environment can cause suffering or illness. A deep layer of wood shavings should be used on the floor to absorb any urine and the nesting area filled with hay or straw allowing a secure place for your Rabbit to sleep, do not use fluffy bedding like cotton wool or anything that can separate into thin strands as it can cause serious health issues Clean your hutch/cage out thoroughly at least once a week and ensure the nesting part is also cleaned and all old food removed daily.

Feeding and Water

Feed your Rabbits good quality hay and grass as this should make up the majority of your rabbits' diet. A rabbit's digestive system needs hay or grass to function properly so a healthy supply is extremely important. You can supplement with leafy greens and specific Rabbit pellets if you wish. Fresh fruit and vegetables should only be given in small portions as a treat, as rabbits don't naturally eat these types of foods. Always avoid muesli-style food, as these are unhealthy for rabbits and has a number of associated health problems. Fresh water should also be provided daily, make sure the bottle is at the correct level so it can be reached.

Handling

Socialising your rabbit from an early age is important, as otherwise, they can find human contact distressing. Always be gentle, move slowly and talk quietly around rabbits so that you don't startle them. Picking a rabbit up close to ground level is another way to avoid scaring them. Covering their eyes gently with the crook of your arm can also help them to feel more relaxed. Always hold a rabbit gently but firmly and use the minimum level of restraint necessary. Always supervise children, and never pick up a rabbit by their ears. Rabbits are naturally sociable and inquisitive, so developing a good relationship with them can be rewarding for both of you.

Health

It is important that your Guinea pig is kept happy and healthy, you should review any changes in their behaviour and condition and seek veterinary treatment where required. The table below shows common health issues with Guinea Pigs.

Health Issue	Symptoms & Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhoea	Loose stool caused by bad diet, unclean housing, stress or parasites	Consult Vet to determine cause and treatment
Malocclusion	Overgrown Teeth	Consult Vet to possibly have teeth trimmed
Mites	External parasites that cause Guinea pigs to lose patches of fur	Consult Vet for treatment
Snuffles (Pasteurellosis)	Runny nose, skin infections, or a head tilt caused by an upper respiratory infection caused by bacteria	Consult Vet for treatment
Fly Strike	Urine stains and droppings stuck to rear end will attract flies especially in summer.	Consult Vet for treatment and check fur and skin twice daily round their rear end during warm periods. Can be fatal if left untreated

