



Guinea Pig Advice: Housing

Disclaimer: These notes are only based on my own experience and are not set in stone. They have worked for me and people who have adopted a guinea pig from Windwhistle Warren, I hope they will help you too.

As social animals, piggies should be kept in pairs or small groups as living on their own can get them very bored and depressed. Even if they can see and talk to another pig nearby this is better than them living in solitude. If your pig is left on his own another option is that he becomes a house pig. At least he will then have the comfort of humans around!

The minimum size hutch for a pair of guinea pigs is **4ft x 2ft** and they also need daily access to a large run so that they can have plenty of exercise.

In the warmer weather there is nothing better for piggies than access to fresh grass in the shelter of a safe run with sunshade. They can then have the option of basking in the sun or nibbling at will - perfect!!

Damp can kill guinea pigs as they are very susceptible to bronchial illnesses. Therefore, if they are kept outside their hutch must be weather-proof and draught free. In the winter months, if at all possible, their hutch should be moved into a shed, porch, under a carport, in the shelter of a wall or somewhere more protected from the colder elements.

Some guinea pigs are kept as house pets all year round and some spend the warmer months outside and when inclement weather conditions arrive, they move inside.

The number of times we clean our pets out is not set in concrete. I aim to do mine every other day, disinfecting the hutch at least once a week and use hay and newspaper as bedding. Straw is too sharp for guinea pigs and can poke them in the eye, and sawdust can cause eye/respiratory allergies.

Gentle yet inquisitive little animals, piggies love igloos and tubes to scamper through. It is always a good idea to have little separate areas such as this so pigs can choose their own territory to inhabit if they have minor differences of opinion!