

Guinea Pig Socialization & Enrichment

Guinea pigs require plenty of socialization, enrichment, and space to stretch their legs. This is not only good for their bond with humans, but it also gives them crucial exercise and movement they need as they grow. Guinea pigs need to mimic natural behaviors in order to stay healthy. Because their teeth are constantly growing, they need to be filed down in a way that is both physically and psychologically beneficial.

Socialization Spaces

While guinea pigs can be socialized and have bonding time most places, the ideal location is a large area, such as a play pen, set up with several enrichment tools.

Enrichment Tools

The following are a few tools you can use to enrich the lives of your guinea pig and many of them can be easily built. Each one lists supplies needed and why that option is a good tool for your guinea pig.

Guinea Pig Nose Work

What you need:

- Small plastic cups
- Treats

Why:

- Encourages foraging, sniffing, and movement.

Treats Clothesline

What you need:

- String
- Clothes pins
- Vegetables

Why:

- Encourages stretching, chewing, and works as a puzzle.



20950 Enterprise Avenue | Brookfield, WI 53045
262-782-9261
ebhs.org

Chewing Sticks

What you need:

- Chewing sticks or natural, untreated wood

Why:

- Holding them for guinea pigs helps build a bond (especially helpful if they are shy).
- Erodes constantly growing teeth
- Exercises muscles
- Enables stretching

Treat Ball

What you need:

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Scissors
- Guinea pig treats or hay

Why:

- Treat balls provide mental and physical stimulation.
- Adjustable dispense holes encourage activity as incentive for treats.

Bonus: Cut holes in a small or medium bottle (ex: Listerine bottle) for more advanced guinea pigs.

Cardboard Roll Treat Toys

What you need:

- Toilet paper or paper towel roll
- Treats
- Scissors
- Sticks

Why:

- Provides mental and physical stimulation that encourages chewing and activity.

Lettuce Egg Carton

What you need:

- Egg Carton
- Lettuce or vegetables

Why:

- It makes for a great puzzle game that also encourages chewing.

