Hi I'm Jessica.

Guinea pigs are wonderful animals. I have had the privilege of having them in my life since I was a child. I got my first guinea pigs around age
5-7yrs old and I remember the first time I saw them I fell completely in love with guinea pigs. I had guinea pigs as a child and never haven't had them in my life. I remember the first two mum bought and I loved them so much.

I have had guinea pigs throughout my entire life so far and the most I have cared for at any given time was around 350 guinea pigs and this was a time in my life when I was managing a sanctuary just for guinea pigs. Prior to this I had guinea pigs throughout my child-hood and up to around 50-60 at a time. I learned all that I know from growing up with guinea pigs in my life and to this day they remain a special part of my life.

I remember that in childhood my favourite guinea pig was a guinea pig called Jumper she was what people consider absolutely beautiful and she looked like she was wearing a jumper. I had never seen a guinea pig with a long coat and her hair was amazing.

I got really unwell around age 28 and had to be hospitalised and throughout that time in my life I had to take my focus off the animals in order to heal myself. A sad day came and I had to close my shelter though I know now that I only closed it because other parts of my life were requiring healing. The following guide is going to be my own updated guide which will share with you what I consider the most up to date information based on my own life experience/s with these beautiful animals. I hope that this guide reaches all those that want to know more about guinea pigs and the aim really is to teach others so that you can know more about them.

Guinea pigs are kind hearted animals and their innocence is something that I've always noticed and to this day I hold a great respect for them
for they in themselves are teachers.

'Love cannot be found it can be learned but most of all love can be shared'. - Jessica.

Guinea pigs are very much a part of my life to this day and I wouldn't have it any other way because they simply are one of God's most amazing creatures in my eyes.

**Introduction about guinea pigs:** Guinea pigs make wonderful pets although they are small and very easy to get hurt if their setup isn't right or the environment. Guinea pigs need and require a nice calm environment and low stress this sounds great doesn't it! Guinea pigs by nature are a prey animal and they are considered to be in the rodent family. Guinea pigs are very friendly if they've grown up being handled and grown up in a positive good environment for them. Guinea pigs are loved by many.

**Guinea pig natural lifestyle and habitat:**

Guinea pigs live in the wild mostly amongst grasses and nature. Since guinea pigs have become so popular nowadays guinea pigs spend their days inside the home or being pampered though in saying this a guinea pig truly does not seem to mind and it is worth noting that guinea pigs overall have a laid back peaceful nature. Guinea pigs are timid if not handled enough so it is recommended that you handle your guinea pigs often and this will assist them to get to know you better. Guinea pigs generally are shy although those that have grown up in homes with lots of human interaction seem to adapt very easily. Guinea pigs in the wild in modern society would not survive the threat of predators and
destruction of their natural habitat would be huge. When inviting a guinea pig into your life I think it is worthwhile to consider how they would be in the wild and to implement what you can to make sure that they are truly comfortable. Guinea pigs by the natural order like to be in little caves in rocks and similar they are prey animals so in the wild it is natural for them to want to run from anyone coming their way in saying this it truly is magnificent how quickly guinea pigs adapt to modern living.

**Guinea pig natural behaviour:** Guinea pigs are shy although they can become very placid and nice natured if looked after well and if they grow up in an environment which is not the normal for them encouraging their natural behaviour is recommended. Guinea pigs easily adapt to most environments and they can be easily stressed. Guinea pigs like to roam and a spacious enclosure is recommended for their health and well-being.

**Guinea pig basic features:**

- Guinea pigs have 3 front toes and 4 back toes.
- Guinea pigs have 24 teeth.
- Guinea pigs on average weigh between 850 grams to 1.2 kg as adults. The males weigh slightly more than the females in general.
- Guinea pigs have two eyes to see and two ears to hear.
- Guinea pigs have whiskers.
- Guinea pigs have no tail.
- Guinea pigs have a rounded body a bit like the shape of a jellybean.
• Guinea pigs do not smell like some other rodents do.

• Guinea pigs are herbivores this means they do not eat meat or have dairy.

**Guinea pig personality:**

Guinea pigs have incredible personalities. Guinea pigs love company of other guinea pigs. It is not ok in general to keep a guinea pig on their own and this is because they are social animals by their nature. Guinea pigs require their own kind to be happy in their environment. Guinea pigs in the wild stay in groups.

Guinea pigs love the company of people as long as they are handled with care and awareness and also kept safe from handling that could be too rough for them. Guinea pigs love to be handled with care and they sometimes like gentle grooming and pats. Guinea pigs vary in nature and some enjoy the company of people more than others. Some guinea pigs like to watch T.V. and take part in the household whereas others prefer to spend time in their environment just with other guinea pigs. Some guinea pigs can be trained similar to dogs and cats. This means that they can be toilet trained and also can be trained to do tricks. Guinea pigs are very intelligent little animals.

Guinea pigs enjoy spending time by themselves and just like people it is a good idea to let them have their space if they want it whereas other guinea pigs don't mind being handled often. Just like people guinea pigs have their own personalities and when looking for a guinea pig it is a good idea to take into account their personality to be sure they are the one/s for you.

Guinea pigs can get lonely if they don't have a friend of their own kind and it is wise to really consider their happiness prior to deciding to get them. Guinea pigs kept by themselves tend to not show emotion so you won't be able to tell if they are lonely.
Guinea pig brief history of: Guinea pigs have been kept for 1000's of years as much loved loved pets and they also have been kept by some kings and queens. Guinea pigs have quite an interesting history as many believe that they were kept by royalty. Guinea pigs are known throughout history as being wonderful companions, lovable and respected. Guinea pigs appearance and genes have changed much over the centuries and in some countries to this day although kept as pets they are also kept as food sources for the people. Once country, Peru, has over 14 million guinea pigs although these guinea pigs are huge and they all weigh approximately 3 kilograms. The guinea pigs in Peru are called 'cuy'. Guinea pigs are loved in Peru they live amongst the people
and some live in kitchens roaming the floors. Guinea pigs have a long history of being respected in Peru and they sometimes are used for healings. Guinea pigs are food sources in this country alongside companions for people. Some guinea pigs have made history over the years the oldest guinea pig to date has been recorded in the guinness book of records as having been approximately 14 years old. This guinea pig was written down as being a laboratory animal. The true history of the guinea pig is not known.

**Safety:** Guinea pigs are prey animals to a lot of animals and because of this they need a secure and safe setup. Guinea pigs sometimes get on with other animals although they are best kept with their own kind. Guinea pigs can pick up illness from other animals including birds, rats, mice if they are carrying disease or germs. The risk can be great for those that do not house their animals in clean and appropriate environments. The risk can seem small sometimes but it only takes once and then your loved animals are no longer with you.

Any enclosure purchased for guinea pigs must have small wire or some form of protection from the animals mentioned above alongside others. Many enclosures and setups for guinea pigs are innappropriate for them unless kept indoors. If your guinea pigs are going to live outdoors you need to be sure no other animals can get into their enclosure. This means that you will need a secure yard, small snake wire on your enclosure, a setup that will not succumb to the elements such as wind and rain. Indoor guinea pigs tend to be easier to keep because much of these requirements are not necessary.

**Housing:** Guinea pigs require a lot of space but in saying this they also are very accepting of not having the right space this is one thing
these little animals seem to have in their nature something about them that shows this all the time. This means that if we are to have them in our lives they are to be treated well and taken care of properly.

Guinea pigs have so much love to give and basically this is the best thing about them. I will start this guide by firstly talking about guinea pigs and how they interact with us. Guinea pigs interact with us very easily; they are able to adapt to their environment with ease.

Guinea pigs love to be handled and gently cuddled. Guinea pigs do not like to be overhandled. Small children are not suited to guinea pigs unless monitored well by a parent. The reason for this is because they are not at the stage of development to be able to know this on their own. Support is necessary by parents and if as parents you do not want guinea pigs yourself then it is recommended to look for a pet that is more suited to you. In saying this as a parent the greatest responsibility is to look after your children and teach them the right ways to go about things in their lives. Guinea pigs are not easy to keep but once you have the basic information they are quite easy to keep.

Guinea pigs love to spend time outside and also inside but they must be protected from the elements and predators at all times. Guinea pigs need housing that is safe from predators and also the elements so this means that when purchasing or building their home that this is taken into account.

Guinea pig housing varies greatly and the best way to go about looking for the right housing for your guinea pigs would be to look for an enclosure that is best suited for them. Guinea pigs require an enclosure that is at least 1.2m in length by 60cm wide. The reason for this is so that they do not get bored and also so that they are able to exercise and go about their business themselves during the day without feeling cramped or overcrowded. Guinea pigs need an enclosure that is safe and basically this means one without sharp bits in it that could harm them. Guinea pigs need an enclosure that is free from toxins so if you
choose to paint your guinea pigs enclosure for instance make sure that you use a non-toxic water based paint and one safe for them to be around as they can on the rare occasion have a nibble on the wood. This is not in their natural instinct it is usually caused by boredom. Guinea pigs need an enclosure that is made from something durable.

Guinea pigs like to have areas in their enclosure where they can go and hide. Guinea pigs are prey animals so having something for them inside their enclosure that they can retreat to at any time is important.

Guinea pigs must never be in an enclosure with a wire base as this can be unsafe and also harm their little feet. Guinea pigs should also never be housed in fishtanks or enclosures with poor air circulation as this can lead to health problems.

If your guinea pig is housed in an enclosure with bars or wire or gaps that are more than 1cm width x 1cm long and your guinea pigs are not living indoors the setup for them must be wired with wire or something similar with gap spaces no larger than 1cm long x 1cm wide this keeps any unwanted visitors for getting into your guinea pigs enclosure.
Guinea pig housing is very easy to find or make once you've taken into
account their safety and overall requirements you've done the easy part.

The best place to get housing for guinea pigs is a local pet supply store although in saying this you can also make your own enclosure or purchase them online.

**Guinea pig bedding:**

Guinea pigs require bedding that is soft and absorbent. Guinea pigs need bedding that is soft because their little feet can get hurt if they are on something harsh. Guinea pigs need bedding that is also free from chemicals or contaminants. The best place to get guinea pig bedding is your local pet supply store or local animal feed store another good place is to look in some shops that sell animal bedding. It is easy to find once you've found the right place. Guinea pig bedding can also be purchased online. The best types of guinea pig bedding include newspaper (layered), woodshavings (dust free ones), shredded newspaper, hay (although this needs to be cleaned more regularly as it is not as absorbent as some other beddings), Carefresh or a similar branded bedding (recycled paper it is like a soft fibre mache). Guinea pigs can also be kept on fleece or towelling or blankets you just need to wash these every few days. Guinea pigs in the wild are housed on a more natural bedding which is grass although are not housed as commonly nowadays on grass due to climate change and safety reasons although in saying this they can definitely be housed on grass permanently in the right environment. This is their most natural way of living. People that house guinea pigs on grass must be able to move the enclosure regularly so that the grass doesn't die and so that their are no bare patches left where the guinea pigs will walk.
Guinea pig bedding is regularly changed and requires changing at least every 3-7 days on average. Sometimes pending enclosure size the bedding can be left a little longer.

Guinea pigs love to snooze in some places of their enclosure and it is a good idea to have separate areas for their food from where sleep.

Guinea pigs require their enclosure to be kept clean and by this it doesn't just mean changing the bedding often enough clean also means that it is free from contaminants. Some enclosures just require a simple hose down here and there whilst others may require more sterilisation particularly those that are in environments outside of the family home e.g. childcare centres or schools or environments basically where
human traffic comes through a lot and the guinea pigs are handled more or cared for by more than one person. If your own personal guinea pigs are in the home environment only you are less likely to have to sterilise.

**Guinea pig accessories:**

Guinea pigs love to have their own accessories included in their setup. Some guinea pigs won't use them others will love them. Some accessories for guinea pigs include feed bowls, water bottles or bowls, little soft beds they can sleep in, wood chews for them to have and other hand-made or purchased toys. Please note that not all toys available for guinea pigs are ok for them it is wise to look for toys that are safe this means no little parts that they could get stuck in their mouths and nothing toxic.

**Breeding:** Guinea pigs are often bred by people for various reasons. Guinea pigs require study in this area if this is the case. Basically over the years new breeds have come about and inbreeding has also grown so the genetics of guinea pigs has been changing based on what people are doing with them. Guinea pigs require specific study on their breed if they are to be bred otherwise the genetics can be unstable resulting in many new breeds or crossbreeds that carry health problems. Guinea pig genetics are one of their own and in order to study them it is recommended to see someone who is a professional breeder that is registered and has quality lines. The health issues arising in many guinea pigs nowadays are a direct result of people inbreeding guinea pigs. Many guinea pigs are sitting homeless or being overbred and this issue to this day causes other people to have to basically look after them and any health issues that are arising. It is recommended not to breed your guinea pigs at this day and age and this is because of just how much the genetics of these animals has been changed alongside of the fact that with excess guinea pigs the excess always ends up somewhere. Guinea pig breeding should never be taken lightly. Guinea
pig breeding is something recommended only for professional experienced individuals. The fun of having babies is one thing for those that are not breeders though the consideration of where the guinea pigs will end up once bred is the main concern by many nowadays as most families tend to re-home the offspring rather than keep them.

Guinea pig breeding is technically very easy guinea pigs are mated easily and will have between 2-4 babies on average per litter. Most inbred guinea pigs breed very easily and although it is nice to see the babies they grow very quickly and by 6mths of age they are already getting close to their adult size. 12 months of age is the approximate age people consider guinea pigs adults with adolescence being between age 6mths to 12 mths. At four weeks old baby guinea pigs wean themselves and must be separated from the father and any male babies separated from the females. The mother guinea pig often wants a rest prior to breeding again but male guinea pigs are very quick to mate so it is recommended that the male guinea pig be placed out of the enclosure from the pregnant female prior to her giving birth. Male guinea pigs will often fight with other males once they have been around females and this is another reason breeding guinea pigs should be studied well and taken responsibly prior to breeding.

Female guinea pigs gestation is approximately 3mths. The guinea pigs mate with ease the same way other animals do. Male guinea pigs are dominant to the female most of the time. Baby guinea pigs are born fully furred and with eyes open. Baby guinea pigs can walk around usually very soon after birth this is one of the incredible things about guinea pigs.

Female guinea pigs should not be bred over the age of 12mths this is because their pelvic bones often tighten meaning that they carry a higher chance of being unable to give birth after this age.

It is recommended to not repeatedly breed a female guinea pig and this is because just like people they need time to recoup their health and
overall condition after having raised babies and weaned them.

Sometimes male guinea pigs can end up fighting with each other and are unable to be housed together again with other males once a male has been with a female. This issue doesn’t usually arise if males do not come in contact with females at all and are only housed with other males.

Below I will place a checklist of what one would require in order to breed a guinea pig just to show what truly is involved and so you as the reader can make your own informative decision if you have considered breeding your guinea pig/s.

• The female is over 3-4mths old.
• The male has a separate cage available
• You know the history of your guinea pigs genetics
• You have an aim regarding the breeding e.g. it is not just for interest sake.
• You know how to tell the difference between male and female babies and adults.
• You are financially secure enough to seek vet assistance if required.
• Your female guinea pig is not over 12mths old.
• Your enclosure has ample room for babies and adults.
• You have somewhere to place the male babies after they are born at around 3-4wks of age when they will become mature enough to breed.
• You know that your guinea pigs do not carry bad genes.
• You have considered where your guinea pigs will be re-homed if
unable to keep them.

- (optional) You know your guinea pigs genetic line this may prevent unwanted birth defects and other complications.

Guinea pigs wean babies at around 3-4wks old and at this time the males are already mature enough that they must be separated from females or they could easily impregnate the mother or another sibling. This is only a general guideline as some male guinea pigs are not mature enough till a little further along.

Guinea pigs have nipples just like people and the babies suckle off their mum.

**What guinea pigs eat:** Guinea pigs eat a variety of fruit and vegetables and they also have fresh hay and grass in their diet and they can sometimes have grains though not seeds and no nuts. Guinea pigs can have some herbs and other plants.

Guinea pigs graze on food throughout the day this keeps their digestive system functioning well and also keeps their teeth from overgrowing as guinea pigs teeth constantly grow.

Below is a brief list of some of what guinea pigs can eat. Some foods are best fed in moderation or sparingly and not regularly.

**Types of vegetables:** Capsicum, celery, carrot, spinach, silverbeet, kale, cherry tomatoes, tomatoes, bok choy, pak choi, wombok, cucumber, lettuce (cos), corn and the silks/husk, string beans, sweet potato, pumpkin, broccoli, cauliflower, fancy lettuces, iceberg lettuce (feed very sparingly and in small amounts only), squash, cabbage (feed sparingly).

**Types of herbs:** parsley, endive, fennel, coriander, chicory, basil, mint.

**Types of fruit (to be fed sparingly):** Banana, apple, choko, berries, citrus fruits (though most do not like citrus), honeydew melon,
rockmelon, watermelon, grapes, paw paw, dragonfruit, pear, peach and apricot and nectarine although most guinea pigs will not eat these.

**Types of plant:** Milk thistle, banana leaves, some fruit tree leaves (research safe ones)dandelion, edible flowers, clover.

**Other:** Bamboo leaves, banana tree leaves, types of hay such as lucerne (feed sparingly or not at all to adult guinea pigs as is high in calcium - can lead to bladder stones), oaten, wheaten, barley, grassy, pasture, timothy (fresh green quality hay with no dust). Oats, barley, fresh grass.

**Below is a brief list of what guinea pigs should not eat.**

**What guinea pigs should not eat:** Garlic, onion, bulb vegetables, some types of beans, potato or potato skins, dairy, meat, nuts, eggs, seeds, spices, eschallots, leek, avocado, coconut, lollies/sweets, rice.

**Example daily feeding regime for 2 guinea pigs in the average household:** Grass or hay in constant supply, 1 cup of vegetables, fresh clean water readily available, optional grain mix.

**The cost of keeping two guinea pigs:**

'Did you know that the average weekly cost the average person would spend on the keeping of two guinea pigs is $45. $45 includes the following: bedding, food, other. $45 does not include vet bills'.

**Guinea pig bathing and grooming:**

Guinea pigs love a good bath and most will accept one gentle and well. Guinea pigs love to enjoy a relaxing bath. When handling your guinea pigs whilst bathing always remember to keep their little face and nose out of the water. In cool weather guinea pigs bathed have to be dried and kept warm so that they don't catch a cold or chill. A towel is suffice for this or blow drying your guinea pig again making sure that their little face is out of the way. The key is to be gentle and relaxed as if you are your guinea pig will be to whilst experiencing their bath. A good
memory is always best for them so re-assuring them that everything is ok will assist them to relax and enjoy their bath times. Guinea pigs can be shampood and have conditioner applied though keep in mind the ingredients it is best to go with something natural and non-toxic to them if accidentally ingested.

Guinea pigs love a gentle comb a soft baby brush or wide tooth comb is best for them so that their hair isn't pulled.

5 of the most common guinea pig diseases and health issues and the best way to successfully treat them. (see below each one is listed in point form).

**Respiratory infections** - Respiratory infections are not uncommon in guinea pigs and the main cause is cold weather combined with drafts. Guinea pigs with a strong immune system will not always fall ill although some guinea pigs just have weakened immune systems and can become sick even without a particular specific notable cause. Symptoms include sneezing, rattling noises, sunken eyes, laboured breathing. Antibiotics from a specialist guinea pig vet is usually administered (Baytril or Bactrim are fantastic), Doxycycline.

**Fungal infections** - Fungal infections are not uncommon in guinea pigs and the causes can vary. Usually guinea pigs lose hair and patches result on areas of the skin. As the infection gets worse a white crustiness will begin to appear on the skin and the surrounding hair follicles. The condition is easily treated before it gets severe by using natural options such as oatmeal washes and aloe vera to soothe the area and then to treat the actual infection you can dilute essentials oils like tea tree and lavender now in saying this dilute and only apply to infected area and areas where the guinea pig cannot lick it off. If this is an issue regarding application the next step would be to purchase a medicated fungal wash. Two on the market include Pyohex and Malaseb and these are medicated washes when used twice a week that can clear the condition. These can be purchased from local vets and
online and some pet supply stores. Fungal infections in guinea pigs result in quite an itch and you may require application of an anti-itch treated such as pinetarsel or similar to ease the itch alongside treating the guinea pig for inflammation. Your vet may prescribe antibiotics for more severe infections which have progressed.

**Sarcoptic mange mite infestation** - A severe infestation of a mite that lives under the skin. This condition causes a discomfort to the animal and severe itching. The guinea pig may scratch wounds the condition is extremely itchy. Hairloss comes with this condition and if it is left to progress your guinea pig may lose condition and weight and death is a possibility if left untreated. Guinea pigs with this condition require a treatment called IVOMEC. This particular product is administered orally to the guinea pig via a 1ml syringe over a number of weeks. Ivomec can be purchased online although it is recommended if you are a first time guinea pig owner that you seek veterinary care for your guinea pig. The condition causes the guinea pig to suffer greatly so early intervention is required before the condition progresses.

**Maloclussion** - Back teeth overgrowth. This is sometimes genetic in guinea pigs although can also be caused by not enough long stranded hay or grass for the guinea pigs to eat to grind their teeth down naturally. Your guinea pig may go off their food you will notice they have no other symptoms other than trouble eating. The best prevention is to make sure that your guinea pigs have a constant supply of hay in the enclosure and are fed an appropriate complete guinea pig diet. Back teeth overgrowth cannot be treated at home unless experienced in it it requires veterinary attention whereby the vet will use a special instrument to be able to trim the back teeth sometimes without anesthetic required.

**Eye conditions** - Conditions that affect the guinea pigs eyes and these can vary. Eye conditions usually can be home treated if it is just a minor infection. Eye drops from your local chemist should assist to clear this
condition up. If normal human eye drops do not work after a couple of days phoning your vet may be the best idea. Eye conditions vary and on occasion guinea pigs can end up with conditions that are difficult to treat these include abcesses behind the eye or under it. Abcesses can burst and a typical symptom can be reddness around the eye or notable enlargement of the eye. It is best to seek veterinary attention for abcesses.

5 Common guinea pig health issues and how they can be avoided (listed in point form below):

- **Respiratory problems** - good hygeine and a quality diet and a low stress lifestyle.

- **Teeth issues** - other than genetic predisposition feeding hay in constant supply to keep teeth trim and avoiding hard foods that may damage the teeth.

- **Sore feet or foot diseases** - soft bedding, no wire based enclosures, a clean environment.

- **Scurvy** - Making sure your guinea pigs have adequate Vitamin C in their diet. Guinea pigs need and require at least 50mg a day with 100mg a day for pregnant guinea pigs. Guinea pigs cannot store Vitamin C in their bodies and require this on a regular basis.

- **Loneliness** - Having a friend whether it be a person or another guinea pig that regularly is with them. Guinea pigs get lonely and can get depression just like people.

**Guinea pig general health:**

Guinea pigs should be robust and at a normal weight. Guinea pigs should have constant food in supply and they should also be kept in appropriate conditions. Guinea pigs kept well often do not get sick it is
uncommon though even some that are kept incredibly well may succumb occasionally to illness and it is best to be sure that you are in close connection with your guinea pigs at all times whilst they are with you in order to be able to tell if they are well or sick.

Guinea pigs that are sick can suffer from sudden weightloss, crust around the eyes, laboured breathing, hairloss, redness or infection of the feet amongst other things. A healthy guinea pig does not show these symptoms. An emergency scenario is usually laboured breathing alongside sudden weightloss and going off food just like people they go off food if unwell. Any symptoms that arise very quickly require medical attention.

**Vitamin C:** Guinea pigs can't store Vitamin C in the body and because of this just like people they require it in their daily diet. Vitamin C usually comes through fresh vegetables given daily and a balanced diet. Vitamin C deficiency usually shows signs that are obvious and this includes going off food after losing weight and general condition. The guinea pig may also have trouble moving about and the eyes often show a crust around them as a typical symptom. If your guinea pig is suffering from this condition you can use human grade Vitamin C and sprinkle this through the food the guinea pig/s eat or you can mix it with water and syringe feed your guinea pig the supplement. Guinea pigs require approximately 50mg daily of Vitamin C and pregnant guinea pigs require approximately 100mg whilst pregnant. If unsure about the amount of Vitamin C your guinea pigs are having you can purchase Vitamin drops from your local pet supply store or online specifically made for guinea pigs and other options include feeding capsicum regularly as capsicum is very high in Vitamin C. Also guinea pigs with Vitamin C deficiency shows signs of aggression on occasion.

**Guinea pig varieties:** Guinea pigs today have lots of different colours and breed types. Below is a list of some of them. Every breed tends to come with differing personality type.
What is a Rosette? Rosettes - a part of the coat whereby the guinea pig has a circular patch with a pinpoint in the centre.

Long hair guinea pig breeds (come in a variety of colours):

All long coated breeds can grow hair up to 12 inches long.

Sheba-mini-yak - A long coated breed of guinea pig with rosettes and long hair.

Peruvian - Long coated - straight hair. Hair falls over the face. Rosettes under the hair.

Alpaca - curly coated - long hair. Hair falls over the face. Rosettes under the hair.

Texel - Curly coated. Long hair.

English merino - Curly coated. Long hair. Crest on head.

Sheltie - Straight coated. Long hair.

Coronet - Straight coated. Long hair. Crest on head.

Lunkarya: Same as sheltie,coronet or peruvian in looks although more of a dense harsh coat. Long wavy/curly hair.

Short hair guinea pig breeds:

All short hair varieties can come with a crest on the head these are called crested short hairs in one of the varieties below. A crest is like a small crown on the top of the guinea pigs head which has a point in the centre.

Self:

Self white (dark or red eyed). White coat. Shorthair.

Self golden (dark or red eyed). Golden coat. Short hair.
Self cream (dark or red eyes). Cream coat. Shorthair.
Self black (dark eyes). Black coat. Shorthair.
Self beige (red eyed). Beige coat. Shorthair.
Self lilac (red eyed). Lilac coat. Shorthair.
Self red (dark eyed). Reddish coat. Shorthair.
Self saffron (pink eyes). Rusty coloured coat. Short hair.
Self chocolate (black eyes). Short hair.
Self buff (red or black eyes). Darker cream colour. Short hair.

**Other:**

**American crested:** (red or black eyes). Solid colour with a crest on the head. Short hair.

**Dalmation:** (dark eyed). Black and white, chocolate and white. Separated spots through coat and a black face with a white stripe up the centre of the face. Feet are solid colour.

**Roan** (dark or red eyed). Black and white, other. Roan guinea pigs are similar to dalmation although the hair of the prominent colour has white or other colour hairs through it. Feet are solid colour.

**Abbyssinnian** - (Black or red eyes). Rough coat. Rosettes all over body. Many colours. Short hair.

**Rex** - Short hair. Short rough coat. Wirey hairs. Many colours.

**Tortoiseshell and white:** Black, gold and white. The markings are symmetrical down the body on both sides forming patches. Colours oppose each other on each side. Short hair.
**Brindle:** The guinea pig has black and gold tones to the coat. Short hair.

**Himalayan:** Chocolate or black. Marking on the nose which is chocolate or black. Eyes red or black. Feet are solid colour. Ears dark pigment. Himalayans are born completely white. The markings appear later. Short hair.

**Magpie:** Like the tortoiseshell though only black and white in colour. Short hair.

**Dutch:** Two colours (one which is white). Short hair. White blaze down middle of face. Solid colour on each side of face. Shoulders white. Middle of body white. Solid colour across back half. White feet.

**Bi-Colour:** Same as tortoiseshell and white although only two colours. Short hair.

**Tri-Colour:** Same as tortoiseshell and white. Any colour other than black/red/white. Short hair.

**Sable:** Solid colour. Ears, nose and feet darker shade of same colour. Short hair.

**Harlequin:** Chocolate or black with cream patches. Short hair.

**Argente:** Red eyes. Solid colour on top with lilac hairs underneath.

**Fox:** Black or chocolate solid colour with white rings around eyes, under chest and on belly. Short hair.

**Otter:** Solid colour and a second colour which is cream with cream rings around eyes, under chest and on belly. Short hair.

**Agouti:** Solid colour with ticking through the hair of a second colour. Varieties include Golden, cinnamon, lemon, chocolate, silver. Solid colour belly. Short hair.

**Ridgeback:** Any colour. Has a ridge of hair running up along the back.
Skinny and Baldwin: Hairless guinea pigs. May have minor hair growth.

Tan: Black with tan rings around the eyes, on neck, chest and on belly.

Satin: Satin shiny hairs through coat. Many colours and coat types.

Guinea pig extra information about the basic keeping of:

What you will need and require for your setup:

- Enclosure
- Fresh food - fresh hay, vegetables, optional grain mix, water.
- Bedding
- Accessories (optional)

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