



**Bobtails Rabbit &
Guinea Pig Rescue**

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Guinea Pig Advice

The first few days for your guinea pigs in their new home is very important. As tempting as it may be to arrive home with your new pets and play with them straight away, this is **NOT** advised as they will probably be stressed after their journey and unsure of their new surroundings.

Have their living accommodation ready for them with fresh water, hay and a bowl of their usual food – as well as fresh vegetables, Bobtails guinea pigs are also fed Burgess Excel Guinea Pig Tasty Nuggets or Science Selective Guinea Pig commercial food.

Talk to them gently and put them into their area to let them settle in for a good few hours, overnight is a good idea.

As guinea pigs are unable to create or store their own vitamin C gained from food, they must have fresh vegetables *every day*. Most root vegetables are suitable but *avoid* spinach, lettuce, potatoes and anything from the onion family. They should always have fresh hay and water available. Always introduce *any* new food gradually over at least a week to avoid causing diarrhoea.

Guinea pigs are active little pets and will need a run to exercise in. It is advisable that this is moveable as they are very good grass eaters! It is imperative that the run is placed on even ground and pegged down so it cannot be tipped over by a predator. Guinea pigs love places to hide in and run through, such as cardboard boxes with holes and they can be great fun to nibble too. If their exercise area is attached to their hutch, they will need a ramp to minimise any risk of injury as guinea pigs are not good climbers or jumpers.

Guinea pigs cannot tolerate excesses of heat or cold, so always make sure they have shade in summer and protection in winter by housing their accommodation in a shed or even better, bringing them indoors for the duration.

If you need any further advice or have any concerns regarding your new pet, please contact us via bobtailsrescue@aol.com or telephone 020 8393 2016.



