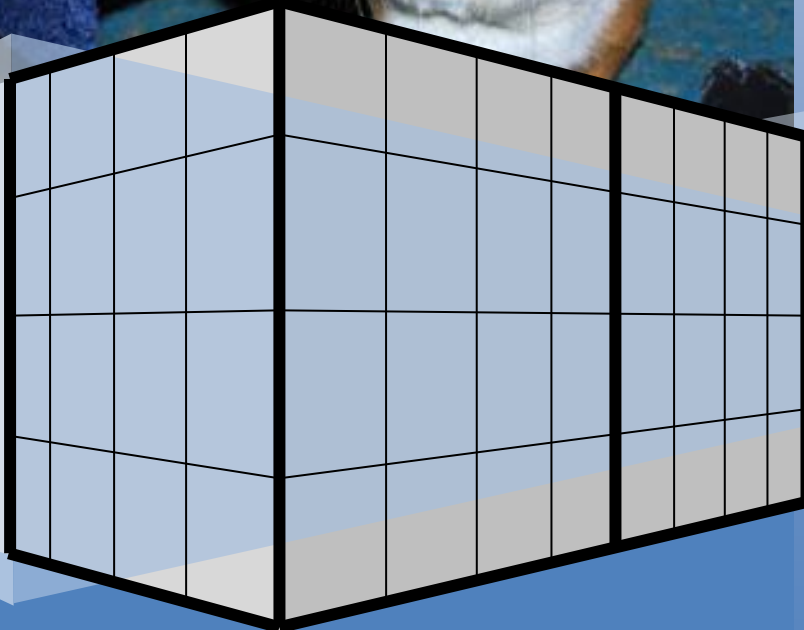


SPECIAL REPORT

Guinea Pig Cages

**A How-To Guide for
New Guinea Pig Owners
Edited by BlueStoneCommerce
www.BlueStoneCages.com**



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Part 1

Selecting a Cage

As a new guinea pig owner, selecting a cage for your pet can be a daunting task without the right information. Many parameters need to be considered – including size, materials, construction and price.

New owners often have a tendency to just visit their local mall or pet store and just buy what is on display. In most cases, this is a mistake. Pet store cages tend to be too small.

Following is a collection of papers by various authors presenting different points of view on the subject of cage selection. Note that there is a general agreement among authors on cage size or square footage recommendations. Also, note that very few pet store cages fit these criteria.

Cage Type for Guinea Pig

By Bosun Sogeke

Selecting the correct cage type for a guinea pig is important as this is where they will spend their time and it is important that your guinea pig is happy in order for them to be healthy. Guinea pigs are social animals so they are better off with two or three other of their kind, but most of the cages are not big enough to be home to more than one pig. Many owners will say that the old guideline of having a 2 squared feet space per guinea pig is outdated and should no longer be followed. Nowadays, the correct cage type for a guinea pig is 7.5 square feet for one and 10.5 squared feet for two guinea pigs. If you are able to provide the animals with a larger space they will be happier and benefit more from the slight freedom. In most cases, purchasing the cage type for a guinea pig can be expensive and sometimes it is not big enough, where as a home-made cage will be less expensive to make and you can make it the size you think your guinea pig needs.

A cage type for a guinea pig that has wire floors or ramps should be avoided, but besides that, they normally are not too fussy about what they live in. the cage type for a guinea pig that has ledges of low plastic shelves provide some interest for them instead of having just a normal boring cage. When doing so, be sure to leave them enough ground space for running laps, do not put the shelves on the floor or too low off the floor so it can interfere with their exercise. For adult guinea pigs, the spacing between the bars of the cage should be

about one inch. The great thing about having guinea pigs is that they are rather big and not very much into climbing and jumping. The most they are likely to jump is approximately 18 inches.

There are many ideas one can choose from when deciding on the correct cage type for a guinea pig. There are even kits that allow you to make your own cage in less than thirty minutes! The kit will include everything you need to make the cage and you can choose the size as well as the color. The sizes are normally, Extra Large (2x5 grids – 27”x71” 14 grids and 28 connectors), Large (2x5 grids – 27”x56” 12 grids and 24 connectors), and Medium (2x3.5 grids – 27”x50” 12 grids and 20 connectors, Small (2 x 3 grids – 27”x41” 10 grids and 20 connectors) and Extra Small (2x2.5 grids – 24”x37” ten grids and eight components. You can choose the color of the cage type for a guinea pig, the color of the coroplast can be green, light blue, navy blue, silver, grey, red, yellow or black. The color of the grid can be either black or white. You can be very creative when creating your own cage type for a guinea pig and it is guaranteed to save you some money.

If the cage type for a guinea pig that you chose does not have all that much space for your animal to exercise and you think they could do with more, a portable wire pen is what you need. They would like to be outside when the weather is not miserable and there is some sun shining, place a pen on the lawn and allow them some space until it gets cooler outside than take them

back to their usual spot. Keep in mind that you should not have any fertilizer or pesticides on the grass when you let the guinea pig outside. Also remember that while they are outside they should have access to water and shade at all times. This is important as they like to exercise but get tired quickly because of their size and then like to drink lots of water.

The cage type for a guinea pig doesn't really have to be all that specific, as long as they have space to exercise or you have a second cage that they can be put in and taken outside at a certain time everyday. They will be happy with this and more importantly, they will be physically healthy.

*For more information or to learn more on Guinea Pig, please visit my [http://www.guineapigaspets.blogspot.com]blog
Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bosun_Sogeke <http://EzineArticles.com/?Cage-Type-for-Guinea-Pig&id=707111>*

Four Tips for Buying Guinea Pig Cages

By Jake D

It's important that you provide your cavy with proper housing like a cage. This will prompt him to be more active and healthier. There are a few things you need to consider when buying guinea pig cages. Some of these things include size, floor, and design. This article will give you a few tips for buying a cage for a guinea pig.

Size

Size is one of the most important considerations. Cavies need a lot of space to run around. If you want him to be more active, then you should buy the largest cage possible. At the very least, the one you choose should be 18 inches wide and 14 inches high. Some pigs like to jump, so relatively tall walls will prevent them from escaping.

Floor

One of the next things you need to consider when buying a cage is the type of floor it has. You need a cage that has a solid floor. However, these pigs have very tender feet. This means that you should avoid wire or mesh floors as it will likely injure your pig's feet.

Design

You should also look for guinea pig cages that have added components of interest for your pet. Plastic ledges and shelves are two good options.

However, these additional components shouldn't prevent your pig from having enough space to move around the cage.

Cavies also need a place to hide. So, some toys can also double as a hiding place. Plastic pipes with thick walls are a good option for this. If you want a simple hiding place for your pig, you can just put a cardboard box inside the cage.

Bedding

While you're out buying a cage, you might as well get some bedding. There are plenty of bedding options you can choose from. These include hay, towels, and shredded paper. The shredded paper should be ink-free. As a matter of fact, anything you use for bedding should be nontoxic because guineas love to chew on things.

*These are a few tips for buying guinea pig cages. If you're new caring for cavies, then there are many things you need to learn about proper [\[http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/\]](http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/) guinea pig care. So, click here now to pick up even more tips to ensure excellent [\[http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/\]](http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/) guinea pig health.
Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jake_D <http://EzineArticles.com/?Four-Tips-For-Buying-Guinea-Pig-Cages&id=1870818>*

Guinea Pig Cages

By Adam Brenner

Guinea pig cages are your guinea pig's home. This is where they will spend the majority of their lives. Guinea pigs tend to do best living in groups, yet many of the standard commercial cages aren't large enough for even a pair of pigs. Here, bigger truly is better. The older guideline of 2 square feet per guinea pig is considered out of date and not sufficient space. Many consider this too cramped and it is recommended you provide a space of 7.5 square feet for a single guinea pig and 10.5 feet for a pair of them. If you can provide the extra space beyond those dimensions, your guinea pigs will benefit from the extra space. You can also build your own guinea pig cages and you can make a homemade cage easily and they can be better than many commercial guinea pig cages.

Cages should not have wire floors or wire ramps and any cages that do have these should be avoided. Some cages have ramps and shelves or ledges, and they can provide some interest for the guinea pig, but the problem can be that they can take away some space that is needed for running laps. Space between the bars can be as much as an inch for adult cavy, or guinea pigs. Many owners have come up with some very creative solutions for space and providing large enough housing and adequate space. You can make a C and C cage, which stands for cubes and Coroplast. You can buy the materials or you can

purchase a kit, which comes with the materials you will need. It is best if you can get the large or even the extra large size if possible. The open top design is fine for homes without dogs or cats, but adding a top made of wire shelving should be added if you need a cover to keep other pets out.

There are several benefits of guinea pig cages that have the extra space. One has to do with exercise. The health benefit of exercise for guinea pigs is significant. Just like humans, overweight guinea pigs have a much greater risk of having health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, bladder infections, respiratory problems, bumblefoot, and more.

Adult males can develop a condition called impaction -- a loss of muscle tone in the anal area, which causes their droppings to get 'backed up' and requires some regular, periodic cleaning by their guardians. A large cage with ample room for exercise can help keep your guinea pig toned and fit.

As for adult females, they tend to put on weight in their belly as they get older. It can become more difficult to find and diagnose ovarian cysts and other related problems in females when they are overweight.

As for bedding, you want to avoid cedar shavings and pine shavings. Aspen shavings are a better choice, as is hay with a paper layer underneath to help with absorbency. Newly recycled newspaper beddings are acceptable too in

addition to some new kinds of bedding materials being made nowadays. One good bedding material made is called CareFRESH, and it is manufactured from 100% wood pulp fiber. It is a light weight and fluffy bedding that it is not too dusty (less so than original CareFresh) and it is very absorbent and soft.

Another option you may look into is called Eco straw. This one I have not tried but have heard good things about it. These pellets are made from wheat straw and are said to absorb 300% of their weight in moisture. The product is dust free and heat treated to eliminate mites and other pests and it is completely biodegradable and can be composted or flushed down the toilet. Since it is made entirely of natural fibers, it is also reasonably safe if ingested.

Please remember that the cage will likely need to be cleaned weekly or more often.

Article written by Adam Brenner. For more information on Guinea Pig cages, care, feeding and other information about guinea pigs, visit: <http://www.guineapighealth.net>

Adam Brenner is a New Jersey native and writes about a number of topics and has a particular interest in animals and pets. He has a website devoted to Guinea Pigs. For more information and helpful hints visit: <http://www.guineapighealth.net/>

*Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Adam_Brenner
<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pig-Cages&id=1994805>*

Guinea Pig Cage - Four Factors in Choosing a Good Cage

By Robert M. Matthews

What Size Cage is Best for My Pigs?

In reality, there is no best size for a guinea pig cage. The simple rule is: the bigger the better. However there are minimum cage-size guidelines that many guinea pig rescue organizations and guinea pig advocacy groups recommend. A quick search on the internet will reveal the following approximate de facto standards for minimum cage sizes:

One guinea pig: 6-7 sq. ft.

Two guinea pigs: 7.5 sq. ft.

Three guinea pigs: 10.5 sq. ft.

Four guinea pigs: 13 sq. ft.

Because guinea pigs are social creatures, it is recommended to keep a minimum of two guinea pigs together. For this reason, if you want your pigs to enjoy an optimal environment, you need never consider a cage under 7.5 sq. ft.

In general, commercial cages (I like to refer to them as "pet store cages") tend to be under 3 square-feet. Commercial cages much larger than this are difficult to find and are apt to be quite costly. For this reason, conscientious guinea pig owners tend to gravitate toward a popular class of do-it-yourself or kit cages commonly called C&C or Cubes and Coroplast cages.

Do I Have to Worry About the Floor?

Definitely! Wire floors or floor with grates are hard on your guinea pigs' feet. Harsh metal grids can trap toes and legs or otherwise damage your guinea pigs' delicate feet. Imagine if you had to spend your entire life walking on metal bars suspended a foot off the floor -- in your bare feet. Even worse -- imagine trying to run on that surface.

Incidentally, the same goes when choosing a multi-level cage with a ramp. The ramp surface should not be covered with metal grids. Bottom line: avoid cages that make your pet walk on metal bars or grids at all. For best pig health and safety, your cage should have a smooth plastic or metal bottom.

Does My Guinea Pig Cage Have to Be Fully Enclosed? Does it Need a Lid?

It depends on your situation. If your guinea pigs are sharing your home with "domestic predators" (most notably cats and toddlers) you will definitely need a lid. If your home is free of these types of threats, then a lid is not needed. Most guinea pig cages and pens tend to have at least 14" walls. Although guinea pigs do like to jump for fun (commonly called "popcorning"), they are not known for being great leapers and cannot leap anywhere near 14-inches high. Trust me -- you will never see a guinea pig in the NBA. (Not only can they not jump, they also play terrible defense.) In this case, not only is a lid not necessary, it is not recommended. We find that when guinea pigs are housed in a cage with no lid, it encourages more interaction with the guinea pigs. (It's not necessary to open

the lid to pet them or pick them up.) A lidless cage will also take much of the hassle out of chores like feeding the guinea pigs and cleaning the cage.

How Large Should The Door Be?

Many cages are designed with access doors that are too small. Small doors, make it difficult to catch and pick up your pets. If you've ever owned a guinea pig, you will certainly agree that they are "scurriers". When picking them up, they don't just calmly sit there while you pick them up - they scurry! And if you've ever tried to corner a scurrying guinea pig with one arm through a tiny hole...

Some innovative cages offer large fold-down "tailgates". These models are engineered so that the entire side of the cage is hinged and swings open like the tailgate on a pickup truck. This allows you to reach in with both hands to scoop up your guinea pig. It also makes cleaning your cage a much easier and more efficient operation. If you've ever tried to shovel 25 lbs. of wet bedding through a small door and then turn around and shovel 25 lbs. of clean bedding back in through that tiny hole...

It's much easier to scrape the bedding out into a waste container and then just pour the new bedding in directly from the bag. Yes, door-opening size really is a big deal.

Summary

There are other factors, of course. But this article has given you four very important factors to consider when selecting a cage for your guinea pigs:

Make sure the cage is large enough for your guinea pigs to live a healthy and comfortable life.

Avoid wire floors. They are extremely hard on your guinea pigs' feet and legs and pose a very real injury threat.

If possible, consider an open pen or cage. It makes it more convenient to interact with your guinea pigs and also to clean and maintain your cage.

Large doors and openings are important for making your life much easier. Not only will they lower your frustration level, they will save you a ton of time.

With more than 30 years of engineering and management experience, Robert M. Matthews (better known as Bob Matthews) is currently responsible for all C&C cage design and engineering duties at BlueStoneCommerce -- an innovative seller of C&C cages for guinea pigs and rabbits. We here at BlueStoneCommerce are happy and proud to have developed a large base of satisfied and delighted customers (as well as their human owners).

Please visit our website at <http://www.BlueStoneCommerce.com> for more information on C&C guinea pig and rabbit cages.

Or feel free to visit our blog at <http://www.bluestonecommerce.blogspot.com/> to see what's going on with our piggies and our business.

*Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Robert_M._Matthews
<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pig-Cage---Four-Factors-in-Choosing-a-Good-Cage&id=2004984>*

Guinea Pigs Cages - Selecting a Guinea Pig Cage For Your Pet

By Fiona F Bodington

Selecting guinea pigs cages often depends on creativity and resourcefulness. Being their place for rest and for other activities, their cages are are definitely something you need to spend time building or planning for if you are purchasing one. Guinea pigs are very energetic, so they will need enough space to run around in every now and then. If you are planning to make their house, you will have to prepare a large space.

Space

Providing very little space for guinea pigs cages can actually cause them to have stiff joints or arthritis and they will also be overweight because of limited movement. They are also prone to problems with their behavior like too much squeaking to get attention and food as a result of boredom. They will also develop 'barbering' or excessive chewing on anything they get their teeth into.

Placement

Now, lets look at where to place your guinea pigs cages. It is helpful to know that indoors is the best place to locate them. Their cages are also safe if they are sheltered from the elements and placed where there are no other big animals which may harm them.

If you follow these placement guidelines, you can be sure that they are secured and away from illnesses and from disturbing weather conditions such as excessive heat or cold.

Outdoors

Today, many owners let their guinea pigs out onto their lawns usually with or inside their guinea pigs cages as the owners are watching over them. In this way, cavies get to feel and see another cool environment and enjoy the breeze. However, once the owner plans to go back inside the house, he or she must not forget to bring the pet along. Guinea pigs should not be left outside unsupervised unless you are sure the temperature is ok and the guinea pig is very safe from predators.

If you forget to take your pet back inside with you, and it is not secure or the weather is unstable it will not survive the unfriendly environment out there. It can die from heatstroke, respiratory illnesses, and from being eaten by cats, snakes, dogs, and birds.

As the owner of one of these lovely creatures, you have the responsibility to take good care of your pet and to educate yourself with the correct knowledge. Use it wisely!

<http://www.guineapigrun.com>

Fiona Bodington loves guinea pigs and has through her research compiled lots of helpful information about caring for guinea pigs. For more information on how to plan for [http://guineapigrun.com/guinea-pigs-cages]guinea pigs cages visit the link above and make sure you sign up for her free mini e course which teaches you exactly what to do to raise happy and healthy guinea pig pets.

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Guinea Pigs Cage Selection - How To Choose The Best Cage For Your Pig

By Florian Ross

The decision on where to place your guinea pig should be made before you choose a cage so you'll know exactly how much space you will be working with, particularly if you will be keeping your guinea pig indoors. Ideally, your guinea pig's cage should be at least 2 square feet per guinea pig, but the more area you provide for your pet, the happier he or she will be. The height of the cage is not as important. Guinea pigs don't really climb much because of their size so 18 inch walls should be high enough to keep them safely inside a cage.

Many guinea pig owners prefer to have multi-level cages for their pets. While the addition of ramps and other levels may be fun and interesting for the guinea pig, it isn't necessary.

When most people purchase their guinea pig cages, they usually go through a pet store. This can be a mistake for several reasons:

1. You will pay too much! A decent-size guinea pig cage in any pet store will run you around \$75 to \$100 minimum, which is way too much to spend for what you are getting.

2. You will have to do additional modifications on the cage to make it livable for your guinea pig. Your cage should never have an exposed wood interior (it soaks up the smell of their urine) or an exposed wire bottom (it can hurt their sensitive feet). Many of the cages you purchase in pet stores have these features.
3. You usually won't be able to find a large enough cage. Remember that for one guinea pig, you need at least 2 square feet of cage space. Each additional guinea pig requires between 2 to 4 extra square feet of space. Also, you need to figure in the room for toys, hiding places, and food dishes. Many cage manufacturers will try to fool you by quoting only the exterior size on the box but, because of how it is measured, that can be a foot or more different from the actual amount of room your guinea pig would have inside the cage.

If you do decide to buy a pet store cage for the sake of convenience, be sure to also figure on giving them lots of time to run around on the floor.

The best option regarding guinea pig cages, particularly if you want to keep several together, is to build your own. This may sound difficult, but it truly isn't, especially if you find some helpful instructions to work with.

Cavycages.com, for example, includes detailed instructions on how to create a safe, roomy cage for your guinea pigs relatively easily and inexpensively.

All of the pieces can be purchased in local stores and would cost anywhere from \$60 to \$90 to create, including the table to sit the cage on. While that may not seem like much of a savings over the pet store variety, you won't have to do any further modifications and you will be giving your guinea pig more than 10 square feet of room to enjoy.

For those guinea pigs who will be staying outside, you will probably want to construct your own hutch as well. Most of the ones currently sold are either not of good quality, have interior exposed wood, or both. Another option is to purchase a metal commercial cage, remove the wire bottom, and place it on a table that is high enough off the ground to prevent other animals from having easy access to the guinea pigs.

If you do choose to build your own, avoid using chicken wire and instead opt for welded wire because chicken wire can cause injuries to the animal's mouth if he or she chews on it. However, you do not need to worry about the guinea pig chewing its way through either type of wire.

One final word of caution on choosing a cage: Many pet stores sell aquariums and fish tanks as ideal homes for guinea pigs and other small pets, but this is a definite no-no. Guinea pigs need a well-ventilated cage because the ammonia fumes from their urine can cause them to become ill. Obviously, an aquarium

is not well-ventilated and, therefore, should never be used as a home for your guinea pig.

Regardless of the type of cage you buy or make, you'll want to be sure that it is fairly easy to clean. At least once every two weeks, you need to remove everything from the cage and give it a thorough cleaning so be sure you can do that as conveniently as possible. People, even loving pet owners, tend not to do necessary things when they are too much of an inconvenience.

Florian Ross is a freelancer and small animals expert. For more tips on raising Guinea Pigs and having them live 3 times longer, see <http://www.pets-lovers.com/guinea-pigs/guinea-pigs.htm>

*Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Florian_Ross
<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pigs-Cage-Selection---How-To-Choose-The-Best-Cage-For-Your-Pig&id=576267>*

Part 2

The Do-It-Yourself Cage

Having learned of the size requirements for a healthy guinea pig environment, perhaps you are just beginning to realize that pet store cages tend to be sadly inadequate in this area. Many experienced guinea pig owners have decided to go the do-it-yourself route in guinea pig cages.

Some owners build their cages completely from scratch while increasing numbers of guinea pig owners have turned to online vendors to supply guinea pig cage kits.

The first article in this section explores C&C (Cubes and Coroplast) cage technology. This increasingly popular type of cage allows owners to purchase very large cages at reasonable prices.

The second article in this section discusses some of the guidelines and parameters to consider when building your own guinea pig cage.

Guinea Pig Cages - C&C Cages Defined

By Robert M. Matthews

What are C&C cages and what makes them so popular? Let's take a closer look at the C&C cage:

As far as we can tell, the original C&C cage design was developed (and made popular) a few years ago by an innovative guinea pig rescue organization. This cage style was developed as a matter of necessity so that the guinea pig shelter could efficiently house a large number of pigs in a cost-effective manner. For this reason, to this day, the C&C cage tends to have a very low cost per square-inch of living space -- in other words - C&C cages tend to offer a lot of cage for the money.

The mysterious name C&C originates from the two main materials used to construct this category of small animal cage: Cubes and Coroplast.

The frame and wire lattice portion of the cage is built from wire grids normally used in the assembly of wire grid storage cubes. These square wire grids are usually 14-inches long on each edge. This sort of shelving is often seen in stores or boutiques where clothing or other items are displayed in arrays of wire grid cubes or cubbies. Hence, the first C in C&C comes from the word cube.

The second C in C&C comes from the other fundamental material used in C&C cage construction -- Coroplast. Coroplast is a trade name and is essentially a contraction of the product description: corrugated plastic. Coroplast is corrugated PVC (polyvinylchloride) plastic sheeting and is used to form the litter pan or bin in the bottom of the cage. This material is commonly used by sign-makers in the fabrication of economical weatherproof signage.

Coroplast has some remarkable properties that make it highly suitable for its application in the pet cage arena.

First of all, it is constructed of PVC (yes, the same basic material used in PVC pipes). This material is chemically inert which means water, solvents, oils and other chemicals generally have no effect on it. What this means to the concerned pet-owner is: a) it is waterproof and (more importantly) urine-proof. b) soaps, detergents, vinegar and other cleaning agents will not harm it. c) it is indigestible - stomach acids do not affect it. This means if your pig happens to be a chewer, the material will pass harmlessly through its digestive system. d) Coroplast is non-toxic and it is certified to be safe for use in contact with food.

C&C cages have become very popular as a do-it-yourself type of project.

However, in recent years, suitable wire metal grids have become increasingly difficult to obtain. National department store chains have carried storage cube

kits for several years. Until recently, most contained 14-inch square grids with 9 openings on each side (9x9 array). These grids had openings of roughly 1.5 square-inches.

Recently, at least one major chain has drastically redesigned this product. It now contains two varieties of 14-inch grids: grids with an array of 5x5 spaces (approx. 2.8-inch spacing) and grids with an 8x8 array (approx. 1.75-inch spacing).

CAUTION: Both of these grid configurations (5x5 and 8x8) are to be strictly avoided by guinea pig owners.

5x5 grids are way too large and are ineffective in containing many size pigs. 8x8 grids are only slightly too large and present a potential choking hazard. We have received bulletins from several guinea pig rescue organizations warning us to avoid 8x8 grids. They cited various strangulation incidents involving grids with these larger openings and counseled us to use only 9x9 grids in our guinea pig cage designs.

C&C cages are almost always built as do-it-yourself projects and tend to be very much larger (and therefore healthier for your pig) than standard manufactured "pet store cages." Generally one of three approaches is taken by do-it-yourself C&C cage builders. The skilled do-it-yourselfer creates the cage

from scratch - designing the cage and buying the materials by themselves. The industrial-yet-thrifty do-it-yourselfer also buys materials on their own, but only after buying cage plans from a competent C&C cage designer. And the shrewd do-it-yourselfer takes the easy, proven, no-hassle route by purchasing a packaged C&C cage kit - complete with materials and instructions - from a reputable and proven C&C cage seller.

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With more than 30 years of engineering and management experience, Robert M. Matthews (better known as Bob Matthews) is currently responsible for all C&C cage design and engineering duties at BlueStoneCommerce -- an innovative seller of C&C cages for guinea pigs and rabbits. We here at BlueStoneCommerce are happy and proud to have developed a large base of satisfied and delighted customers (as well as their human owners).

Please visit our website at <http://www.BlueStoneCommerce.com> for more information on C&C guinea pig and rabbit cages.

Or feel free to visit our blog at <http://www.bluestonecommerce.blogspot.com/> to see what's going on with our piggies and our business.

*Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Robert_M._Matthews
<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pig-Cages---CandC-Cages-Defined&id=2001406>*

Making a Guinea Pig Cage

By Fiona F Bodington

Want to make a guinea pigs cage? Not a problem. Your guinea pig will definitely enjoy exercising to the fullest if you consider the following factors when choosing or making your guinea pigs cage.

Size

First is the size. To be able to fulfill the fact that guinea pigs are social active creatures, you need to have a 10.5 square feet cage for a pair of guinea pigs, and around 7.5 square feet for a single guinea pig. Now these are not the usual sizes of those that are available in regular pet stores. Nevertheless, if you really want to have more space for your guinea pig, try making your own guinea pig cage.

Style

With regards the style of the cage, you must also be aware that those with a wire floor should be considered with caution. Using such will only harm your pet's feet. But with the other types, there should not be any problem.

Those made of plastic and those with ledges can delight covies. However, be cautious that you do not cut down on the space that is needed for them to have a guinea pigs cage. To cope with this, many pet owners have already devised

creative measures on their own, such as making multi level cages.

Furthermore, one of the great things about these pets is that since they are not so big, they cannot escape easily from their den. They generally do not like to jump or chew through things. A run wall of around 18 inches, will be high enough to prevent them escaping. For adults, you will often need around an inch of space in between the bars so that the guinea pig cannot escape and squeeze out.

Extra Space

Now you know the basics of the requirements for guinea pigs cages you can develop them further. Unless your space is large enough at the moment, you still have to expand the guinea pigs space to run around in. Using a wire pen can be handy as an extra corral for them. These are easily bought or created especially for small pets. A wire pen is better for an extra run for your guinea pig since it prevents the guinea pig from going under your furniture or from nibbling through wires.

If you want to let your pet have a brand new experience, try to bring it along with its wire pen onto your lawn. In this way, with your extra lighter run your guinea pigs will be on exciting and new ground.

<http://www.guineapigrun.com>

Fiona Bodington loves guinea pigs and has through her research compiled lots of helpful information about caring for guinea pigs. For more information on how to [http://guineapigrun.com/guinea-pigs-cage]guinea pigs cage visit the link above and make sure you sign up for her free mini e course which teaches you exactly what to do to raise happy and healthy guinea pig pets.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Fiona_F_Bodington

<http://EzineArticles.com/?Making-a-Guinea-Pig-Cage&id=2481587>

Part 3

Bedding: The Overlooked Component of Your Guinea Pig Cage

Your guinea pig cage will be incomplete without some form of bedding. Sure, your cage will keep your pigs contained - but they will be uncomfortable and wet - all-in-all a poor and unhealthy environment for your new pets.

We here at BlueStoneCommerce recommend 1) either bedding made from recycled paper or 2) using shredded paper itself. Both are comfortable for the pigs and pose no health risks.

Materials such as sawdust, wood shavings and clay should be avoided. All of these types create some form of dust which can be inhaled and can cause respiratory problems for your pigs.

Contain within this section are a couple of other authors' views on the subject of bedding or litter.

Guinea Pig Bedding - How to Select the Correct Bedding for Your Guinea Pig

By Fiona F Bodington

Guinea pig bedding is important for your pet guinea pig especially for its rest and elimination. Various types of bedding can be used. You can select from hay, paper, and shavings. Below is a short guide to choosing the correct bedding to make you guinea pig feel right at home.

Shavings

If you want to save on the cost, try using wood shavings. There are choices such as pine pellets, aspen and pine shavings. However, in choosing these types, you have to be aware that dust is may accumulate in the guinea pig run. When you plan to use pine shavings, before placing it on the cage, expose them first to the air. Also, if you decide to use shavings, make sure that your cage has good ventilation. This will lessen the possibility of an allergic reaction for your cavy.

Hay

The next type of guinea pig bedding is hay. Aside from being a bedding, it can also serve as food for your pet since they love to eat hay. However, if you choose this, be sure that it is not moldy or moist. Also, if the hay is not

changed everyday, your pig may be in danger as hay cannot absorb fluids very well.

Paper

Aside from these choices, you may also want to consider using paper that has been shredded. Guinea pigs just love the softness of bedding that is made of paper. Through the softness of the paper beddings, they are protected too. If you are worrying about filling the cage with dust, this is a choice to seriously consider since paper will not accumulate or make dust. One thing you need to remember, about the paper to be used is that you should ensure there is no ink in it, as this can be toxic to your pet.

Straw

Straw is alright to use for your pet's bedding, but take away those hard straws which may injure your pet.

One type of bedding that is not good for your pet's run is sawdust. This is not a great material because when breathed in or inhaled by your guinea pig, your pet will get ill.

<http://www.guineapigrun.com>

Fiona Bodington is a lifelong guinea pig lover. For more great
[<http://www.guineapigrun.com/guinea-pigs-cages.html>] guinea pig bedding information, visit
the link above and make sure you sign up for her free mini e course which teaches you exactly
what to do to raise happy and healthy guinea pig pets.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Fiona_F_Bodington

<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pig-Bedding---How-to-Select-the-Correct-Bedding-For-Your-Guinea-Pig&id=2466425>

Newbie's Guide to Guinea Pig Bedding

By Jake D

Cavies need comfortable bedding to sleep on and will also use it as a bathroom. There are many types of guinea pig bedding you can choose from. Some of these include shavings, paper, and hay.

This article will discuss some of the common options for bedding for guinea pigs.

Wood Shavings

Wood shavings are a very popular choice for pigs. You can use pine pellets, pine shavings, and aspen shavings. Although using these shavings can lead to a lot of dust, it's one of the cheapest solutions. If you use pine shavings, it's best to air them out before use and use them in a well-ventilated cage. You should know that some cavies suffer an allergic reaction to shavings.

Paper

Another popular option for guinea pig bedding is shredded paper. Pigs love it because it's very comfortable. Its softness also assures that your pig won't get hurt. Shredded paper is also a good option if you have problems with a lot of dust since it won't produce any. It's important that you use shredded paper that's ink-free so that it won't be toxic to your pig.

Hay

One of the next bedding options is hay. Cavies need plenty of fresh hay in their diet. You can kill two birds with one stone and also use it for bedding. It's important that the hay isn't damp or moldy because that would be harmful to your pig. Some of the disadvantages of using hay is that it must be changed daily because it doesn't absorb liquids very well and molds easily.

Warning

There are a few things you should never use for guinea pig bedding. Sawdust is too fine and will easily be inhaled by your pig leading to health problems. If you choose to use straw, you should make sure there are no stiff stalks in it. Your pig may get stuck in the eye or suffer some other type of injury from it.

These are some of the most common options for guinea pig bedding.

If you're new caring for cavies, then there are many things you need to learn about proper [http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/] guinea pig care. So, click here now to pick up even more tips to ensure excellent [http://guineapigcare.blogspot.com/] guinea pig health.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jake_D <http://EzineArticles.com/?Newbies-Guide-to-Guinea-Pig-Bedding&id=1870922>

Part 4

Your Guinea Pig's General Environment

Now that you have your cage, where do you put it? What makes a good environment for your guinea pigs?

Read these two selected articles to gain two people's perspective on this subject.

Creating an Ideal Guinea Pig Home

By Amanda Toop

Cage Location

One of the first decisions you will need to make before you bring your new guinea pig home is - do you want him or her to live inside or outside? While the outdoor option may seem more convenient consider a these factors first - if your pet lives outdoors, the two of you may not form as tight of a bond unless you make the extra effort. A lot of what people find enjoyable about guinea pig ownership is simply the shared companionship - sitting together, watching your furry friend play with toys in his cage, etc. Outdoor pets also do not have as long of a lifespan due to increased exposure to extreme weather conditions and neighborhood predators. Finally, if you are not regularly monitoring your furry friend, days can go by before you realize he or she is ill. This could be potentially life threatening if your guinea pig has contracted a rapidly developing illness. For the reasons above, we recommend keeping your pet indoors.

The greatest consideration when locating your guinea pig cage in your home is selecting a spot that will remain at an ideal temperature for your pet. Avoid close proximity to direct sunlight and other heating elements such as radiators and stoves. Extreme cold is also deadly so avoid cage placement near doors, windows, or directly on the floor as this is likely to be drafty. Avoid areas that

are dark and damp - this includes basements and garages (especially because of car exhaust fumes.) Finally, avoid any location that is very noisy as guinea pigs have very sharp hearing. This would include televisions and stereo systems. The ideal spot will be somewhere in the center of your home where he or she can watch household activity. Any area where people are interacting should be fine - just not an area that is so busy that your new companion becomes stressed due to a lack of rest.

Cage Basics

Look for cages with removable bottom trays and sturdy wire. Sturdy wire will not be vulnerable to gnawing and will provide excellent access to ventilation and light. A removable bottom tray will make the task of cleaning much easier. Make sure the cage floor is either hard plastic or some kind of non-rusting metal. If your cage is all wire, you will need to add a wood floored area (any wood but toxic redwood.) Mesh and wire cage floors are going to be very uncomfortable and not entirely safe for your guinea pig as his leg can get caught in the gaps and the wire will make his feet sore. The cage you select should also be easy to take apart as you will need to clean it once per week. Make sure the cage comes with an opening on top so you can easily reach in without your guinea pig running out. A side door is also an excellent option for when you want to let your guinea pig out to play.

Many so-called experts recommend cages that are simply too small to ensure the maximum health and happiness of your guinea pig. The most common recommendation is that you find a cage big enough to accommodate your guinea pig, his food, water, nest box, and toys. The cage should be large enough that your pet cannot reach the top. Unfortunately this information is too vague and can result in an owner buying a cage that is too small. Other "experts" recommend 2.5 square feet per guinea pig. This is also inadequate. We strongly recommend 7.5 square feet for one, or 10.5 square feet for two. Remember, the more exercise and space your guinea pig has the healthier he will be. This will ultimately save you the stress and financial burden of a sick guinea pig later on.

Amanda is a lifelong guinea pig lover. For more great tips on bringing guinea pigs home, visit <http://guineapigresource.com/bringing-your-guinea-pig-home/>

*Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Amanda_Toop
<http://EzineArticles.com/?Creating-an-Ideal-Guinea-Pig-Home&id=2469376>*

Guinea Pigs Care - A Look at Guinea Pig Cage Care

By Fiona F Bodington

Temperature

As you think about your guinea pig's care, try to consider too the temperature they will be exposed to when in their cage. Normally, the temperature should be 64 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit or 18 to 20 degrees Centigrade. Guinea pigs cannot easily tolerate shifts in temperature. If you really want your pet to be healthy, avoid such fluctuations. If they live outdoors, place a good amount of hay to serve as insulation in the night, when temperatures go as low as 45 to 50 degrees F. It is still advisable to house your cavy indoors.

Drafts

Even though they live inside the house, ensure that they are not exposed to drafts. These can result to chills, then deteriorating their immune systems, leading to potential diseases because of the invasion of harmful microorganisms.

Heat

More so, you must not expose them to extreme heat either. As compared to a cold environment, guinea pigs are even more affected by too much heat. Do not

place them near radiators, stoves, hot pipes, and other heating devices. And when they are outside, put a shade over their cage to avoid too much heat from the sun, leading them to heat stroke. By following these guidelines you will have success in caring for your guinea pigs.

Cleaning

Now, with regards the cage and its specifics, you should take away the waste inside it every now and then, or when necessary. If you have bedding made of hay, replace it with fresh hay to prevent toxicity to your pet because of the accumulation of mildew. At least once a week, you should be changing the bedding and cleaning the cage to ensure that you are promoting a clean environment for your pet guinea pig. It must also be disinfected. In this way, you are also preventing your pet from harboring potential illnesses. The more guinea pigs you have in your cage means the more times you have to clean it.

These guinea pigs care measures will pave the way to a healthier pet, so if you want to keep your pet strong, build upon these habits.

<http://www.guineapigrun.com>

Fiona Bodington loves guinea pigs and has through her research compiled lots of helpful information about caring for guinea pigs. For more information on guinea pigs care visit the link above and make sure you sign up for her free mini e course which teaches you exactly what to do to raise happy and healthy guinea pig pets.

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<http://EzineArticles.com/?Guinea-Pigs-Care---A-Look-at-Guinea-Pig-Cage-Care&id=2497760>

Part 5

Conclusion

This compilation of various authors' articles was designed to bring a variety of different viewpoints on guinea pig cage selection and usage to your attention. We hope that this document has been of use to you.

In the future, if you are looking for a reputable dealer of quality C&C (Cubes and Coroplast) guinea pig cages, please visit our informative website at

www.BlueStoneCages.com ...

Or, to purchase a cage, visit our one of our three online stores:

www.stores.ebay.com/BlueStoneCommerce-Cages-and-Guitars

<http://www.bonanzle.com/booths/bluestonecommerce>

<http://www.ioffer.com/selling/bluestonecommerce>

For video information on guinea pig cages, visit our YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BlueStoneCommerce>