

Guinea pig

Abnormal behaviours:



Excessive chewing can show signs of stress.

Vocalization for guinea pigs are normal but sometimes it can get excessive and there could be something wrong with their health.

Suboptimal grooming can show they are distressed.

House soiling or litter box issues can depend on the guinea pig but usually they like to keep their sleeping area tidy.

Aggression is not a normal behaviour as they are known to be calm and friendly animals this can mean many things.

Excessive grooming can cause hair to get impacted in their mouth or skin issues this can mean a number of things like showing a health issue or stereotypical behaviour.

Cage biting is stereotypical behaviour which usually means your enclosure is wrong.

As they are prey animals hiding most of the time usually means they are trying to hide symptoms of disease which might make them look weak or an easy target.

Animals that are reluctant to move usually means they have health issues.

Weight loss or a reduced appetite.

Drizzling/weepy eyes/runny nose/mouth open/teeth not poking out mouth/no bald patches/no tangles or lumps in skin/fecal impactions etc.

Normal behaviour:



Guinea pigs are social animals they love playing with other guinea pigs.

Guinea pigs are gentle natured which makes them a great pet so any signs of aggression usually shows something is wrong.

They are curious animals so there usually running around investigating their surroundings.

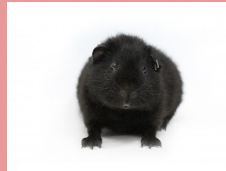
Guinea pigs are vocal animals squealing to communicate or show happiness.



Eating the right food makes sure they have a stable diet so they don't have any stomach issues.

Having a constant routine they are very intelligent and usually remember.

When they are happy they popcorn which means running round jumping and even more squealing this shows they are healthy and happy.



Guinea pig

How does environmental factors influence their behaviour:

If you do not provide the space they need they will get stressed and stereotypical behaviours will appear.

If you do not look after them correctly like regular spot cleans they can get fecal impaction.

If they do not have cage mates they can become bored and show abnormal behaviours.

If you provide them with the best care possible they will be thriving and living a long and happy life.

They are prey animals so if you do not provide enough hides they can become anxious and not feel safe.

If it gets really cold or really hot it can cause many health issues and could even leave to death.

If you have other animals or are keeping them outside you need to make sure they can not get in as guinea pigs will usually just have a heart attack and pass away.

Correct food for guinea pigs and making sure they get all the nutrients needed so they perform best of their ability. You also need to make sure the food will trim back their teeth.

Monitoring behaviour:

Making sure you watch the animal and monitor the health and welfare. If they are showing abnormal behaviour and writing information and dates when health checking.

Recording behaviour:

Record information about the animal. It can be from good to bad but make sure your writing it down or documenting it. Guinea pigs don't usually show signs of illness so when they do they are usually too far gone to help them.



Minimum Care



Plastic tubs/glass aquariums and cages with wire floors are not acceptable for guinea pig housing.

The RSPCA recommend 120cm x 60cm is the minimum cage size for 2 guinea pigs adding 30cm for each additional guinea pig.

Guinea pigs should have as large of a enclosure as possible, ideally with the right amount of lined/covered space and soft grass hay to provide cushioning. Microzorb is a good bedding but saw dust and wood shaving are not as they can cause respiratory issues.

Guinea pigs thrive with company of other guinea pigs the best combination is a pair of guinea pigs, but they don't necessarily need to be in pairs. If you have a group of 3 or more that live happily together that's great!

Horse

Normal behaviour:

Horses are social animals so it is very unnatural for them to not want to run and play with other herd members.

Horses spend most of their day grazing on grass so if they don't it can be signs of illness.

Looking relaxed.

Horses sense their surroundings.

Horses communicate with each other making a number of different noises.

Nostrils soft, round, relaxed and breathing evenly on both sides.

A sign on deep relaxation is that your horse's jaw may hang loosely with a soft eye.



Abnormal horse behaviour:

Change in appetite or drinking habits.

Change in droppings or signs of diarrhoea.

Change in demeanor or behaviour.

Change in weight.

Change in coat/foot condition.

Reluctance to move/stand or inability to stand.

Signs of injury or lameness.

Signs of disease such as fluids leaking from the eye/ear/nose, congestion of conjunctiva or difficulty coughing or breathing.

Woodchewing.

Aggression.



Horse

How does environmental factors influence their behaviour?:

Equine stereotypic behaviours are repetitive involving a constant sequence of actions that has no obvious function. Some examples are cribbing/wind-sucking/woodchewing/stall walking/head shaking.

A horses diet can affect their behaviour by their energy/performance/health especially hoof health.

Horses are highly social animals so they benefit a lot from company otherwise they can become lonely or depressed.

Horses are natural grazers, they eat little and often. Their natural diet is mainly grass. Horses should be provided with a fibre-based diet, either grass/hay/haylage/hay replacement in order to mimic their natural feeding pattern.

The weather can influence the behaviour by either too cold/hot/weather conditions. If its hot they need to be kept hydrated and have shade otherwise they can overheat and even die. If its cold you must provide shelter for them to warm up in.

Cleaning conditions can influence behaviour if the lack of cleaning is poor it can cause health problems.

Monitoring behaviour:

If horse is showing abnormal or changes in behaviour it's a good idea to monitor it if it gets worse or better. You should monitor the health and welfare of the animals.

Recording behaviour:

Writing down any behaviour for each day to make sure your checking for any changes in routine or behaviour.



Minimum care

Minimum care horses must receive:

Nutritious food in sufficient quantity.

Clean water in sufficient quantity.

Appropriate veterinary care.

Sufficient space.

Free flow of fresh air in enclosed spaces.

Shelter or protection from the weather.

All passageways should be wide enough to allow horses to be led safely past other horses. **As a guide the BHS minimum stable size recommendations are:**

Large horses: 3.65m x 4.25m min

Horses: 3.65m x 3.65m min

Large Ponies: 3.05m x 3.65m min

Ponies: 3.05m x 3.05m

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