



Guinea Pigs



Rabbits can have a bacterium that shows no symptoms in rabbits but can be fatal to guinea pigs so handle guinea pigs first.

Room Whiteboard	Animal ID # and cage number of each rabbit (update when rabbits come and go). Draw map of cages (showing cage #'s).
Owner Equipment	Label all owner equipment. List owner equipment on the Animal Care Schedule.
Housing	Housing: Cover the bottom of the cage with paper-based litter (no separate litter box).
Handling	No handling unless necessary! Always wash hands well before and after entering the Exotics room. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disposable gloves and change after handling.
Dietary Needs (Owner Feed)	Follow owners' dietary instructions. Label any owner feed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed 1/8 cup (25 ml) twice a day. • One handful of greens and 1 treat (1/2 baby carrot) twice a day. • Pelleted food: Use Oxbow adult guinea pig food (adult) or Oxbow young guinea pig food • Under 6 months, Pregnant, and Nursing: If you don't have this, any adult or young guinea pig food. • <i>Rabbit food can be used short term for all ages (if it doesn't have bits of dried fruit in it). Only with the owner's approval!</i>
Water	Use water bottle, rather than water bowl.
Daily Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sterile gloves, remove poop and urine soiled litter. Add more litter as needed. • Use a paper towel with water solution to remove urine and poop. • Change gloves after each cage!
Health Issue	Contact the Shelter Lead , if there is a guinea pig with a medical issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eating/drinking, discharge from nose or eyes, fleas/ticks, etc.). • Document on Animal Care Schedule (and highlight it). • Attach cage card (Vet Needed) on clipboard and note on whiteboard. <u>Veterinary staff may not be activated.</u>
Demobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Animal ID # from whiteboard, once the animal is released to owner. • When a cage is no longer needed (Exotic has left), put cage card (Dirty) on clipboard. • If appropriate, take the cage / kennel to wash station. After cleaning, spray with Rescue Solution, and let sit for 5 minutes. • Clean food and water bowls/bottles. Rinse well with water and return to • Clean food, water bowls/bottles, and housing. Rinse well with water and return to Exotic room. • Put cage card (Clean) on clipboard.