



Guinea Pig Adoption Policy

Thank you for considering adopting a rescue guinea pig. The Centre has seen an increase in the number of guinea pigs needing to be rehomed and we are now taking over 90 each year.

This document provides you with important information regarding CRRC's adoption policy.

- Guinea pigs are naturally very sociable creatures and they need the companionship of their own kind to avoid them becoming lonely, therefore we only rehome guinea pigs in pairs.
- The Centre can help with bonding your single guinea pig with one of our rescue guinea pigs (see below for our bonding policy).
- All guinea pigs will have received a health check.

Accommodation Requirements

We can only rehome where your accommodation meets or exceeds the following sizes. All requirements are based on a pair of guinea pigs living together.

Guinea Pigs Living Outside

Guinea Pigs can live outside all year round, providing they have the right kind of accommodation and protection from the elements.

- There should be an enclosed/bedding area of at least 8 sq. ft. with an attached run
- Separate runs can be considered **if** the hutch equals more than 15-16 sq. ft.
- Sheds and playhouses need to be adapted to allow light and ventilation.



Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre

- The accommodation will need to be fox proof with strong mesh (foxes can get through chicken wire).

Guinea Pigs Living Inside

We can rehome guinea pigs to live inside.

The size requirements are as stated for outside guinea pigs

For groups (larger than 2) the accommodation size would need to be increased.

- An additional square foot for each additional Guinea Pig is required.
- Also consider increasing your run size.

Bonding Guinea Pigs

- Females generally bond quickly without any problems and therefore after an initial meeting they should be able to come home with you the same day.
- Males tend to need more time to adapt to one another and therefore they would need to stay with us at the centre for 7-10 days so that we can observe them and be confident that they are showing all the signs of being happy together before coming home. The same would apply to a neutered male and female.
- We insist that all bonding is carried out at the Centre and there is no exception to this.
- Whilst your guinea pigs are being bonded you will need to ensure, if your accommodation is not new, that it is completely disinfected with animal friendly disinfectant. This is to neutralise all scent of your existing rabbit. This is extremely important as any remaining scent can upset the bond.

For further information on housing ideas and where to purchase, please go to our Help and Advice for Guinea Pigs.

Charity No: 1010000

June 2021