

# INFORMATION

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## Short Guide to Keeping

# RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS

The Rabbit is distributed world wide, living on every continent except Antarctica. The Guinea Pig on the other hand is of very limited distribution, all species being solely from S. America.



### FEEDING:-

Rabbits love cabbage, sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, swede, etc, however, under the age of 6 months, they should not be fed greens as this causes diarrhoea. It is also advised that rabbits of all ages are not given lettuce - as well as having little nutritional value, too much can cause diarrhoea. Formulated pellets provide a balanced diet and can be left in a bowl for the rabbits to help themselves.

Rabbit food will not suffice for guinea pigs due to it not being supplemented with vitamin C, which guinea pigs require a constant supply of from a few days old (specially formulated guinea pig food is available from the pet centre). If a guinea pig does not receive a regular dose of vitamin C, it will develop a complaint known as "stagers" which manifests in a paralysis of the limbs and eventually death if not immediately treated with vitamin C. Broccoli and cabbage provide a vital source of vitamin C.



### ROUGHAGE:-

Wholemeal bread is an ideal aid to keeping teeth in trim. The bread should be dried in an oven first until it becomes hard.

### BEDDING:-

Hay is an important nutritional supplement for both rabbits and guinea pigs and is therefore preferable as a bedding material than straw.

### WATER:-:-

There should be a constant supply of water in with both rabbits and guinea pigs. In winter, make sure that the water isn't too cold as this can cause intestinal problems.

### SEXING:-

It is very difficult to separate the sexes in rabbits before five months of age, after which the presence of testes identifies the buck. In a female rabbit, the gap between the two openings near the tale is shorter than in the male.

In Guinea Pigs, sexing is quite easy when young as in the male, the penis will be extruded with gentle pressure.

All livestock at All-In-One Garden Centre have a 7 day guarantee. A valid receipt is required.