

## SHOPPING LIST FOR YOUR NEW GUINEA PIG

### **1. Cage**

The cage must be at least 24" long, 18" wide, and 18" high, with 1/2" bar spacing. Do not purchase a cage that has wire floors. Cage must be at least 10% larger if housing more than one guinea pig.

### **2. Guinea Pig Pellets**

Guinea pigs should be fed fresh, high quality pellets. Buy in smaller quantities (5-10 pound bags) so it does not spoil or become rancid. Do not purchase mixes that include nuts and seeds as these can cause excessive weight gain and seed shells can be dangerous.

### **3. Timothy Hay**

A constant supply of good quality hay must be available 24 hours a day.

### **4. Fresh Vegetables**

Guinea pigs must be fed fresh vegetables daily. Including: red leaf and romaine lettuce, dandelion greens, carrots and tops, collards, mustard greens, spinach, kale, radish tops, clover, pea pods, bok choy, and escarole. Fresh herbs could include: parsley, basil, mint, cilantro, and dill. **Never** give: iceberg lettuce, nuts, seeds, raw beans, rhubarb, beet tops, dairy, onions, garlic or cabbage.

### **5. Ceramic Food Dish**

### **6. Water Bottle**

### **7. Bedding**

Use dust-free litter such as Care Fresh or Yesterday's News. **Never** use cedar or pine-based bedding these are toxic and can cause chronic respiratory conditions in mammals. **Never** use cat litter, if ingested in can kill your guinea pig. Brown paper to line the bottom of the cage.

### **8. Toys**

Natural wood blocks, hard plastic or wire balls with bells, untreated straw baskets, grass/straw/rice mats, cardboard condos, toilet paper/ paper towel rolls and brown paper bags with handles cut off.

**9. Grooming Tools:** Purchase a slicker brush or comb for longer-haired breed, nail clippers, and styptic powder.

