



# Anim-Mates

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1099282

Helping animals in need in the South East

## Guinea pig adoption Form



Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: Work \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: **M / F** Type \_\_\_\_\_ Colour \_\_\_\_\_

Neutered: **Yes / No** Age \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

1. I declare that I am over 18 years of age and competent to undertake the complete responsibility for the guinea pig.
2. I agree to have the guinea pig neutered by \_\_\_\_\_ and that all inoculations are kept up to date.
3. Male guinea pigs must be kept away for at least 8 weeks after their neutering from unneutered females.
4. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN THE ABOVE GUINEA PIG BE USED FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.
5. My vets name is \_\_\_\_\_ I undertake to feed and house the guinea pig as a family pet and provide regular qualified veterinary treatment and additional treatment when needed.
6. I undertake that no further change of ownership will take place without the permission of the Anim-Mates representative.
7. I will permit an authorised person of the Anim-Mates group to visit my house at a convenient time to ensure all is well.
8. Anim-Mates reserve the absolute right to reclaim the guinea pig if, in the opinion of Anim-Mates, the terms of this agreement are not being adhered to.
9. Anim-Mates does not in any circumstances sell animals. However a minimum donation is requested.

I, the undersigned agree to this as a binding legal agreement subject to the above terms and conditions.


SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ (Adopter) Dated this day \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /2006

**Received the donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ cash/ cheque towards future animal care.**

In no circumstances can Anim-Mates or any of its volunteers be held responsible for veterinary fees or behavioural problems or damage caused by re-homed animals after this contract is signed.

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_ (Anim-Mates volunteer)

Media: **Yellow Pages / Posters / Press Ad / Friend / Newsletter / Website / KT** or \_\_\_\_\_



Simply tick the box below and the government will top up your donation – providing Anim-Mates with an extra 28p for every £1 you give.

Please treat all of my donations from 6 April 2000 and until further notice as Gift Aid.

My annual UK income tax and /or capital gains tax is more than the tax Anim-Mates will reclaim.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **PLEASE TICK THIS BOX**

*If you are not a taxpayer, please tick this box*

**General Enquiries:** Shakespeare Farm House, Shakespeare Farm Road, St. Mary Hoo, Kent, ME3 8RS

**Tel:** 01634 271456 **Email:** info@anim-mates.org.uk **Website:** www.anim-mates.org.uk

Entered		Written		Card		Mailing List			
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## Keeping Guinea Pigs – a few ideas

New Guinea Pig owners are often surprised by the range of calls that Guinea Pigs (GPs) can emit in fact they have often been compared to bird calls. This is one reason that Guinea Pigs make such lovely pets, as more often than not you will be welcomed, particularly if you are carrying their dinner, with chirrups and squeaks.

GPs are not difficult to keep, but do have some special needs. They are gregarious and do need to have a partner of the same sex, or one neutered to prevent even more unwanted GPs. Some have been successfully paired with rabbits, but it is safer to keep GPs with their own kind.

### Living quarters

They are happy to be kept outside with a good amount of sawdust and hay for bedding, and with a weatherproof and fox-proof hutch. They must be protected from severe weather and when the temperature drops to near freezing it is best, if possible, to bring them into the house, or warmer outbuilding.

When the weather is right, GPs adore to be put out in a run on the grass. If you introduce some small lengths of pipe and perhaps some boxes to the run, this will give the GPs extra stimulation, although their main interest will be the grass.

### Feeding

GPs have good appetites and enjoy all vegetables, including carrots, bell peppers, broccoli, spring greens (full of Vitamin C) and courgette, but never lettuce. Apple is a treat, but should be kept to a minimum because of the high degree of sugar content.

Proper feeding is crucial as GPs, like us, do not create Vitamin C and need to have it added to their drinking water as well as receiving it in their hard food and vegetables. A mineral lick is also appreciated.

### Handling

GPs will probably always seem reluctant to be picked up, but if they are handled often and confidently, they settle very quickly and are very happy to be cuddled and stroked. Young children should be supervised when handling GPs as, although they look quite tough, if dropped, there is a chance that a leg fracture could occur.

### Grooming

Remember to check your GPs' eyes, ears, and teeth regularly. Regular grooming of longhaired varieties, although not particularly appreciated by most GPs, is necessary to keep the hair from becoming tangled: this is more important in males as they secrete a slightly greasy substance around their rear end. GPs also will need their claws clipped on occasion. This is probably best done by your vet as a vein runs for some distance through the claw and it is not always easy to see where it stops.



**Books:** The Proper Care of Guinea Pigs by Peter Gurney  
Guide to Owning a Guinea Pig by Graham J. Edsel

**Websites:** [www.oginet.com/pgurney](http://www.oginet.com/pgurney) [www.coldal.org/cavie.htm](http://www.coldal.org/cavie.htm) [www.gpdd.org](http://www.gpdd.org)

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