

You should always make sure you hold your guinea pig properly and carefully. The following pictures will show several ways of how to hold your guinea pig.

One way to hold your guinea pig is shown in the photo below. Holding your guinea pig like this is not the safest way because the guinea pig can jump out or fall if frightened. Most guinea pigs can get excited and become hasty when going back in their cage, so use two hands to direct them safely back into their hut.

Once you get to know your guinea pig's character you can usually tell what they are going to do but don't be fooled... accidents happen very quickly, often resulting in death for your guinea pig as a result of dropping it.



This is one way to hold a baby guinea pig. When the guinea pig gets older and starts growing it won't fit in your hands so you will have to hold it differently.



If you have several guinea pigs then this is a good way to shift them by using a solid box, make sure it has a sturdy bottom so it doesn't give way.



Holding a guinea pig can sometimes be quite hard especially for smaller hands. The guinea pig below was in a good mood and sat still for the camera even though it was not in a secure position. Holding your guinea pig like this makes it easy for your guinea pig to jump out, if it is being held high it could hurt itself causing internal injuries, which often leads to death.

Always support your guinea pig properly. Never pick your guinea pig up by the front legs only or just by the upper half, because you will tear muscles and ligaments in the middle of the body.

If you have a pregnant female, try to pick her up as little as possible. Too much handling of pregnant females could lead to miscarriages. The photo below shows a good way to carry a pregnant guinea pig. One of the best methods I found is to guide the female in a cardboard box and move her that way. This is ideal if you want to clean the cage or take her onto the lawn for a feed. It is a safe and careful method of looking after your pet properly.



Learn about guinea pigs - How to hold a guinea pig, chapter 8

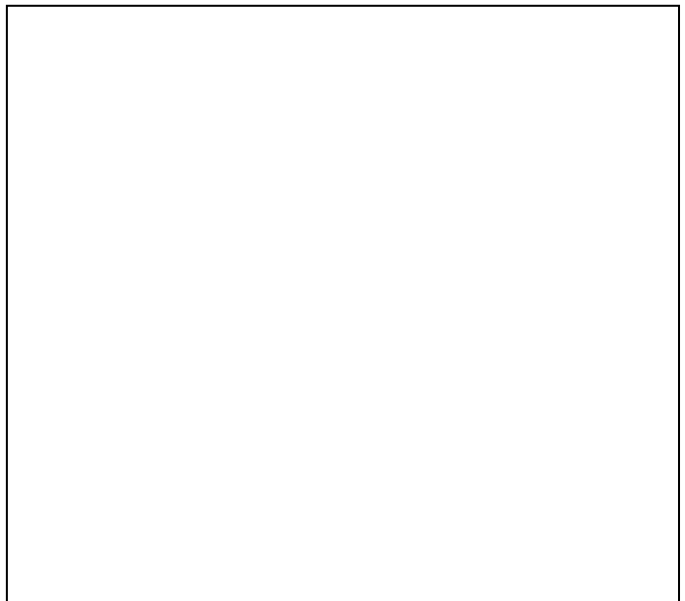
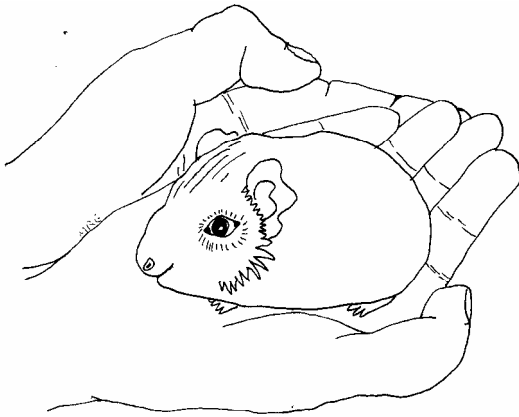
The best way to hold your guinea pig is to hold it against your chest or sit down and hold it on your lap. If you drop your guinea pig from a height it is likely to cause internal damage to the pig and it could die a very painful death. Remember.... even a short drop could be fatal for your guinea pig.

Most accidents happen when excited friends come to inspect your pet. They all want to touch it, handle it and cuddle it. Ask your friends to sit down and take turns at holding your guinea pig. Explain the reason why and you'll find that most friends will be very understanding, if they are not willing to do this, simply do not allow them to handle your guinea pig or take it out of the cage. Guinea pigs may be bought cheap at any pet shop but they are real living creatures with real feelings and will die a most horrid death if handled without care. Will you want to go down in history as a pet lover... or as a pet killer?



Name _____

Copy the pictures!



Name _____



If one adult sow weighed an average of 879 grams, how much would three sows weigh on average?

grams

Convert this into kilograms. _____kg

A healthy guinea pig's normal body temperature is an average of 38.6°C

A sick pig's temperature is 39.9°C How much higher is the sick pig's temperature than normal?

Normal respiration rate for one guinea pig is 80 per minute. How much would this be over the course of two hours?

One newborn guinea pig weighs 58g, another 67g, another 74g. How much do the three weigh together?

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The following outcomes could be achieved by completing the entire guinea pig theme; *beat boredom, breeding, caring for guinea pigs, diseases and disorders, feeding guinea pigs healthy foods, feeding guinea pigs unhealthy foods, general knowledge, holding guinea pigs, housing guinea pigs, males and females, photos, taming guinea pigs.*

English

- reading
- writing
- alphabetical order
- develop further research skills

Science

- learn about guinea pigs in captivity
- breeding, males and females
- familiarize oneself with diseases that affect guinea pigs
- breeding
- feeding habits
- biological data

Mathematics

- problem solving
- learn about data

Health

- personal hygiene when handling animals
- guinea pig health related issues

Technology

- design, cage and feeding utensils
- research using the Internet
- basic computer knowledge
- Use of camera (or digital camera)

Art

- design and layout
- creative playtime planning for pets
- drawing

Cross curricula based learning
