Start-up Plan

1. Which reputable animal rescue charities do you have in your area? Which guinea pigs/guinea pig groupings do they have available to adopt/foster?
2a. Consider whether you have a suitable area and space for guinea pigs. Will the guinea pigs be kept indoors/outdoors primarily (chat with the rescue about the piggies' needs); which space/room(s)/shed/enclosure will be used? What available space do you have (dimensions)? Note that you need more than enough refuge for each piggy to provide choice i.e., consider how many houses, tunnels and other types of refuge will you need to fit into the area?

Start-up Plan

2b. Space/Enclosure Design: **Use sketches to plan shape and size of different areas. Continued overleaf…**



Start-up Plan

Start-up Plan

3. What equipment or other items will you need? E.g., accommodation, houses, tunnels, bedding, feeding utensils, hay, nuggets, fresh food, cleaning items. This will help you see just how much you need and calculate costs.
4. Which veterinary clinic(s) do you have in your area? Does the clinic have a specialist vet who is confident treating guinea pigs, or at least a vet who has a keen interest in guinea pigs and is happy to refer to specialists they know of?



Start-up Plan

5. Which insurance will you use? Calculate monthly and yearly costs.
6. When you go away, do you have someone reliable who can look after your guinea pigs? Are there professional 'pet sitters' in your area who will look after your guinea pigs at home (home visits mean your piggies can stay in their familiar environment)? How much do they charge per visit? Calculate cost for time away or holidays. If leaving the guinea pigs at home isn't safe, local rescue centres may have boarding facilities available and there are also specific refuges available to help take care of companion animals when special support is needed in the case of domestic violence situations.