



Start-up Plan

1. Which guinea pig rescues do you have in your area? Which guinea pigs/ guinea pig groupings do they have available for adoption?

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...



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3. What equipment or 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?



Start-up Plan

5. Does the veterinary clinic have a pet plan for guinea pigs? Which insurance will you use? Calculate monthly and yearly costs.

6. When you go on holiday, 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? If leaving them at home isn't safe, local rescues may offer a boarding service. Calculate cost for time away or holidays.