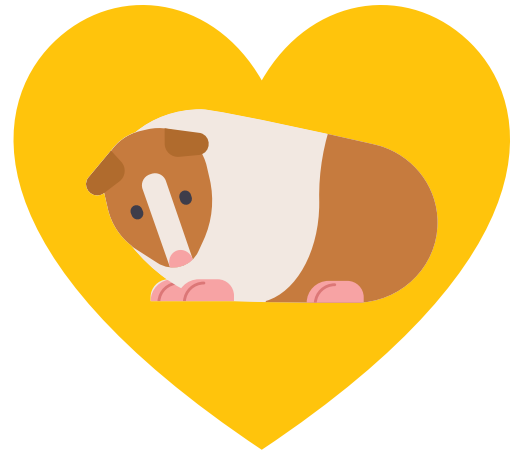




PASADENA HUMANE

We Love Guinea Pigs!

There are all sorts of adorable critters that share our homes as pets. Some of the most popular critter pets are guinea pigs. They can be ridiculously adorable with their puffy hair and high-pitched squeaks. Watch this Animal Planet video on guinea pigs: <https://youtu.be/Xjm0ZcBWtSE>. Then answer the questions below.



1. What did scientists name the ancestor to the guinea pig?
2. When did the first guinea pig go into space? For which country? What was the mission?
3. Why was the guinea pig first domesticated?
4. What are some unique characteristics of guinea pigs that make them different from other pets?
5. What is the best living environment for a guinea pig? Should they live with other guinea pigs? Why or why not?
6. For how long do guinea pigs usually live?
8. Now that you have learned a little bit about guinea pigs, do you think you would like one as a pet? Would it be a good fit for your home? Why or why not?



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Answer Key

1. “Guineazilla” was the name for the massive ancestor of the modern guinea pig.
2. The first guinea pig was sent into space in 1961 aboard the Russian spacecraft Sputnik 9 to test a new TV camera.
3. Guinea pigs were first domesticated as a food source.
4. Short and stocky bodies; triangular snout; pebble-shaped eyes; variable coat colors, lengths, and textures. Very vocal.
5. Guinea pigs do best in herds in a large, enclosed space with good bedding.
6. Guinea pigs live for approximately 5-7 years.