



Guinea Pigs Do Best When Housed at the Right Temperature



Guinea pigs are very sensitive to both heat and cold. Keep them in temperatures between 60 and 85 °F to avoid putting their health at risk.

Young guinea pigs are especially vulnerable, as they cannot control their body temperatures like adults can.



HEAT

Guinea pigs are very susceptible to heat stroke. They overheat quickly when temperatures are too high and can die within minutes.

To reduce this risk, house guinea pigs away from:

- **heat vents**
- **radiators**
- **direct sunlight**
- **heat lamps**

Signs of heat stroke include listlessness, laying in a stretched-out posture, panting, and drooling. If you find a guinea pig in this condition, relocate it to a cooler environment and contact your attending veterinarian right away.

COLD

Guinea pigs handle cold much better than heat, but being too cold still causes them significant discomfort and stress. They can become sick or even die if they are too cold for too long.

Protect your guinea pigs from cold stress by:

- **Keeping the room temperature closer to the middle of the 60-85 °F range.**
- **Housing them away from cold air currents, such as drafty windows or doorways.**
- **Paying extra attention to their bedding to make sure it is dry.**

PRACTICAL TIP

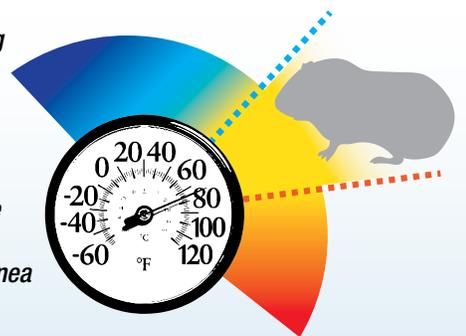


Guinea pigs tend to drink more during the warmer months so check their water supply often to make sure they have plenty of fresh, clean water.

Tips for Maintaining the Right Temperature for Your Guinea Pigs

- **Place thermometers near guinea pig housing to be sure you are checking the temperature where they live.**
- **Record the temperature daily in a calendar or notebook to monitor trends and identify problems early.**
- **Consider monitoring temperature in more than one location if your guinea pigs are housed in a large room. Housing may be cooler closer to the floor or windows compared to housing that is at a higher level or closer to a heat source.**
- **Be sure to provide ventilation in a way that maintains temperature control. Keeping windows or doors open for ventilation can make the temperature in your guinea pig room drop quickly when the weather is cold.**
- **Temperatures below 60 °F or over 85 °F need to be addressed right away. These temperatures are outside the appropriate range for your guinea pigs' health and comfort.**

Maintain room temperatures between 60 and 85 °F



This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to promote optimal guinea pig care and health.

Questions? Email us at CenterforAnimalWelfare@usda.gov

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