



SKINNY PIGS

# CARE GUIDE

*THE NEW BEGINNING WAY*



# Skinny Pigs Care Guide

Skinny pigs, or hairless guinea pigs, are unique and fascinating pets that require special care to ensure they thrive. Despite their lack of fur, they share many similarities with their furry counterparts but do have specific needs due to their hairless nature.

## Habitat and Environment

To provide a comfortable and safe environment for your skinny pig, consider the following:

- **Cage Size:** Skinny pigs need ample space to explore and exercise. A cage measuring at least 7.5 square feet is recommended for one or two skinny pigs. Larger cages are preferable if you have more than two.
- **Bedding:** Opt for soft, absorbent bedding such as fleece or paper-based products. Avoid wood shavings, as they can be rough on their sensitive skin.
- **Temperature:** Without fur, skinny pigs are more sensitive to temperature changes. Keep their environment between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) to prevent them from getting too cold or overheating.
- **Hiding Spaces:** Provide plenty of hideouts and tunnels for security and enrichment.

## Diet and Nutrition

A balanced diet is crucial for the health of your skinny pig:

- **Hay:** Unlimited access to fresh hay is essential for their digestive system and dental health.
- **Pellets:** Offer high-quality guinea pig pellets fortified with vitamin C.
- **Fresh Vegetables and Fruits:** Incorporate a variety of fresh veggies daily, such as bell peppers, carrots, and leafy greens. Fruits should be given sparingly due to their sugar content.
- **Vitamin C:** Skinny pigs, like all guinea pigs, cannot produce their vitamin C, so ensure they receive enough through their diet or supplements.

## Grooming and Hygiene

While grooming needs are minimal, there are still important considerations:

- **Skin Care:** Regularly check their skin for dryness, irritation, or signs of infection. Moisturize with a guinea pig-safe lotion if necessary.
- **Bathing:** Bathing should be infrequent to avoid stripping their skin of natural oils. If necessary, use lukewarm water and a mild, pet-safe shampoo.
- **Nail Trimming:** Regularly trim their nails to prevent overgrowth and discomfort.

## Health and Wellbeing

Monitor your skinny pig for any health issues and ensure they receive regular veterinary care:

- **Signs of Illness:** Be on the lookout for changes in appetite, behavior, or droppings, which could indicate health problems.
- **Regular Vet Checkups:** Schedule routine veterinary visits to catch any potential issues early.
- **Social Interaction:** Skinny pigs are social animals and thrive in pairs or groups. Ensure they get plenty of interaction, whether with other guinea pigs or through human companionship.

## Enrichment and Exercise

Keep your skinny pig mentally and physically stimulated:

- **Toys:** Provide toys like chew sticks, tunnels, and balls to encourage play.
- **Floor Time:** Allow daily supervised floor time outside their cage in a safe area to promote exercise and exploration.

By adhering to these care guidelines, you can ensure your skinny pig leads a healthy, happy life. These adorable pets bring joy and companionship, making them a wonderful addition to many households.

