



RSPCA - Appropriate Company for Guinea Pigs

Ensure your Guinea Pigs have appropriate company!



- Keep with at least one other friendly guinea pig, unless advised otherwise by a vet/clinical animal behaviourist. Good combinations include: neutered male and one/more females, two females, neutered brothers (if they've been reared together)
- Neuter if male. Neutering females isn't common as the operation is more complicated. Your vet will advise on neutering
- Guinea pigs can develop abnormal behaviour and may suffer if left without company and nothing to do for long periods
- Places to escape from companions if they want to. Provide enough resources (e.g. shelter/food/water/hiding places) for all guinea pigs at all times
- Guinea pigs are naturally sociable preferring other guinea pig company; kept together they form a "pecking order". Some animals become more dominant than others. If there aren't enough places to spend time away from each other, they can become stressed and may bully lower ranking individuals
- Introduce new guinea pigs gradually and under supervision, preferably somewhere new to both guinea pigs. Guinea pigs brought up together usually get on, but adult males introduced for the first time may fight. Consult a guinea pig behaviour expert if you're unsure/have problems