

First Week Home Checklist

For: Rabbit & Guinea Pig — Day-by-day settle-in tasks so the first week feels calm instead of chaotic.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BEFORE THEY ARRIVE

- ☐ Set up the enclosure in a quiet, temperature-stable spot away from drafts
- ☐ Add hiding spots, bedding, and a litter corner if litter-training
- ☐ Have hay (for rabbits and guinea pigs) ready and fresh
- ☐ Buy a few days of their current pellet food to avoid a sudden switch

DAY 1

- ☐ Let them settle into the enclosure without handling for the first day
- ☐ Offer fresh hay, water, and a small amount of pellets
- ☐ Keep the room calm and free of loud noise

DAYS 2–3

- ☐ Start short, calm handling sessions at floor level
- ☐ Watch appetite, droppings, and activity level daily
- ☐ Begin a consistent feeding schedule

DAYS 4–7

- ☐ Offer supervised time in a safe, enclosed exercise space
- ☐ Introduce one new vegetable at a time to check for tolerance
- ☐ Book their first vet visit with an exotics-experienced vet if possible

New Pet Supply Shopping List

For: Rabbit & Guinea Pig — Everything to have ready before, or right after, pickup day.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

HABITAT

- ☐ Enclosure sized appropriately for the species and number of pets
- ☐ Bedding safe for their species (avoid cedar and pine shavings)
- ☐ Hide box or tunnel
- ☐ Litter box and pet-safe litter, if litter-training

FEEDING

- ☐ Unlimited fresh hay for rabbits and guinea pigs
- ☐ Age-appropriate pellets
- ☐ Water bottle or bowl
- ☐ Vitamin C supplement for guinea pigs, if recommended by your vet

ENRICHMENT

- ☐ Chew-safe wood toys
- ☐ Tunnels or cardboard boxes
- ☐ A safe grooming brush

EVERYDAY CARE

- ☐ Nail trimmer sized for small pets
- ☐ Enclosure cleaning supplies
- ☐ A small, secure carrier for vet visits

First Vet Visit Prep Sheet

For: Rabbit & Guinea Pig — What to bring and what to ask at their first checkup.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BRING WITH YOU

- ☐ Any records from a shelter, rescue, or breeder
- ☐ A secure, well-ventilated carrier
- ☐ Notes on appetite, droppings, and activity since arrival

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ Is this vet experienced with rabbits, guinea pigs, or other exotics?
- ☐ What's an appropriate diet and hay-to-pellet ratio?
- ☐ Are there species-specific health checks we should schedule (teeth, for example)?
- ☐ When should we talk about spay or neuter timing?
- ☐ What are early warning signs we should watch for at home?

BRING HOME

- ☐ A written copy of their exam notes and any treatment plan
- ☐ Next appointment date
- ☐ Diet or husbandry adjustments to make at home

Home Safety Checklist

For: Rabbit & Guinea Pig — A room-by-room pass to make your home safer before they arrive.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

EXERCISE AREA

- ☐ Remove or cover electrical cords in any play space
- ☐ Block gaps behind and under furniture where they could get stuck
- ☐ Check houseplants against a pet-safe plant list before free-roam time

ENCLOSURE PLACEMENT

- ☐ Keep the enclosure out of direct sun and away from drafts or heating vents
- ☐ Keep other household pets from having unsupervised access
- ☐ Check the enclosure has no sharp edges or wire your pet could chew

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

- ☐ Store cleaning supplies well away from the enclosure and play area
- ☐ Keep houseplants and floral arrangements out of free-roam areas
- ☐ Secure any small objects that could be chewed or swallowed