Vitamin C Product Guide

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Guinea pigs cannot manufacture their own Vitamin C, so it must be present in their pellet diet, treats, and supplements. Guinea pigs that do not receive adequate levels of Vitamin C every day will develop scurvy. The amount that they need varies depending on age, health and other factors. Your veterinarian can tell you exactly how much your guinea pig should get each day. We understand how important your guinea pig's health is to you, and it's important to us too. That's why we offer a variety of products that can help you make sure your guinea pig is getting the Vitamin C he needs.

Diets

Ensuring that your guinea pig receives the proper amount of Vitamin C starts with a nutritionally complete pellet diet with added Vitamin C. However, Vitamin C will break down in food over a period of three months, and food that is kept in a hot, humid place will lose Vitamin C even faster. To make sure that your guinea pig is getting the necessary Vitamin C from his diet, buy food monthly in small quantities and store it in a cool, dark place. Whenever possible, feed a guinea pig pellet that contains stabilized Vitamin C, as the Vitamin C will be active longer. Some diets with high levels of long-lasting, stabilized Vitamin C include:

- Kaytee Fiesta Max Guinea Pig
- Oxbow Cavy Diets

Treats

Guinea pigs' treats should always meet their nutritional needs, so treats that contain added Vitamin C are especially nutritious. But don't rely on treats to provide your cavy with all the Vitamin C he needs; no matter how nutritious they are, treats should never make up more than 10% of your pet's daily diet. As with his diet, store your guinea pig's treat in a cool, dark place to make sure the Vitamin C remains active as long as possible, and only purchase enough treats to last about a month at a time. A treat that provides your guinea pig with much needed Vitamin C include:

Supplements

Supplements can be key in providing your guinea pig with Vitamin C. The easiest, most effective way to supplement your guinea pig's diet with additional Vitamin C is with a liquid multi-vitamin, such as 8 in 1 UltraVite Vita-Sol Liquid Multi-Vitamin for Rabbits and Guinea Pigs, that you add to water. However, Vitamin C breaks down within one day in water, so you will need to be sure to change the water daily.

WE RECOMMEND

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Oxbow Cavy Diets
contain essential Vitamin C necessary for digestive health.

Oxbow Daily C for Guinea Pigs
contains 50 mg of stabilized Vitamin C per tablet, which helps meet the recommended daily amount for guinea pigs.

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