

# **Cavy Unit 1 Information**

## **Primary & Junior**

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Resources used in creating these questions:

-Prior 4-H Cavy bowl questions

-ARBA book of standards

-The Guinea Pig Handbook by Sharon L. Vanderlip, D.V.M

-Guinea Pigs by Karen Bawoll

-4-H Cavy Handling/Knowledge Worksheet

### **4H questions all 4H'ers should know:**

**1. Q: What are the 4H's in 4H?**

A: Head, Heart, Hand, Health

**2. Q: What are the 4H Colors?**

A: Green & White

**3. Q: What do these colors stand for?**

A: White stands for purity. Green stands for life, springtime, and youth.

**4. Q: What is the 4H symbol?**

A: The 4H symbol is a 4 leaf clover with a white H on each leaf.

**5. Q: What is the 4H Pledge?**

A: I Pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to greater service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country, & my world.

**6. Q: What is the 4H motto?**

A: To make the best better!

### **4-H Cavy Questions:**

**1. Q: Where were cavies first domesticated?**

A: South America

**2. Q: What does ACBA stand for?**

A: American Cavy Breeders Association

**3. Q: Where should you purchase a cavy from?**

A: From a breeder having the breed and variety you prefer.

**4. Q: What is the main problem with purchasing or adopting a cavy from any other source than a breeder?**

A: You cannot be sure of its background.

**5. Q: How much do cavies usually cost?**

A: \$10-\$35

**6. Q: Do mature cavies usually cost more money? Why/why not?**

A: Yes, because you already know their quality since they've reached their full potential

**7. Q: What is the life span for a cavy?**

A: 5-7 years

**8. Q: What is the best way to decide what breed and variety you want?**

A: Attend a show and look at all the different cavies

**9. Q: What is a pedigree?**

A: A document that shows the ancestry of you cavy back 3 generations

**10. Q: What is a male cavy called?**

A: A boar

**11. Q: What is a female cavy called?**

A: A sow

**12. Q: What is a baby cavy called?**

A: A pup

**13. Q: What is a group of cavies called?**

A: A herd

**14. Q: How many toes do cavies have on their front and back feet?**

A: 4 on their fronts and 3 on their backs

**15. Q: What room temperature is the best for your cavy?**

A: 65 degrees

**16. Q: What type of floor should your cavy NOT have in its cage?**

A: A wire floor

**17. Q: What is at least 1 reason your cavy should not be housed on a wire floor?**

A: Foot sores or their feet could get caught

**18. Q: How many times a week should you clean a cavy cage?**

A: Once or twice

**19. Q: Is it ok to line the bottom of a cavy cage with newspaper?**

A: Yes

**20. Q: What types of shavings are NOT ok to use for a cavy? And why?**

A: Cedar shavings are not good because cedar is toxic to cavies

**21. Q: What vitamin does a cavy not produce on its own that it needs in its daily diet?**

A: Vitamin C

**22. Q: Should you feed your cavy any other type of animal food including rabbit food?**

A: No

**23. Q: Should you wash the vegetables prior to feeding them to your cavy?**

A: Yes

**24. Q: How often does your cavy need water?**

A: Every day

**24. Q: What should you use to give your cavy water?**

A: A drip water bottle

**25. Q: How often should you brush or groom your cavy?**

A: At least once a week - unless it's a long haired cavy

**26. Q: How often should you brush and or wrap a long haired cavy?**

A: Every day

**27. Q: How often should you bathe your cavy?**

A: Once a month or as needed (unless they are long hair)

**28. Q: How should you dry your cavy after a bath?**

A: Using a hairdryer

**29. Q: Should you make sure your cavy is completely dry after a bath?**

A: Yes, they need to be ALL the way dry or bone dry.

**30. Q: How often should you trim a cavy's toenails?**

A: Once a month unless they need them trimmed more often

**31. Q: What should you use to clean a cavy's ears?**

A: A cotton swab

**32. Q: If showing your cavy at State Fair it will need an ear tag. What ear should this tag be placed in?**

A: The left ear

**33. Q: What is a show carpet?**

A: A small carpet square used specifically for your animal at shows

**34. Q: What are some of the benefits of using a show carpet?**

A: \*A show carpet will make your cavy more comfortable and responsive at a show

\*To prevent your cavy from sliding around on the show table

\* It's more sanitary and easier to clean up after your animal and helps prevent parasite transfer

\* Scent/smell sensitivity

**35. Q: What should you wear when fitting and showing?**

A: Black pants, and a white, long sleeved shirt

**36. Q: What should you never have at the show table?**

A: Gum

**37. Q: What should you NOT wear at the show table?**

A: Nail polish, jewelry, and watches

**38. Q: Should you bathe a cavy before a show?**

A: All cavies should be clean for all shows. If it's a short haired cavy, Yes (long haired cavies may require other care)

**39. Q: Who should you keep your eyes on during all 4-H competitions?**

A: The judge

**40. Q: Should you listen as the judge talks with your competitors?**

A: Yes, you should listen to the judge the entire time you are at the show table

**41. Q: Perform and explain a health check - what are you looking for?**

A: You should check the following:

\*Eyes - looking for dirt, debris, and crustiness

\*Nose - looking for dirt, debris, and crustiness

\*Ears - looking for dirt, sores, debris, and parasites

\*Mouth - the teeth should be properly aligned

\*Coat - looking for dirt, sores, abscesses, and evidence of parasites and or parasites

\*Feet - looking for sores, broken toenails, and wetness

\*Under the tail - looking for signs of diarrhea

\*Listen to the chest – listening for a rattling noise or cough

**42. Q: If you are checking for ear mites what are you looking for?**

A: Black flakes within the ears

**43. Q: How do you check your cavy for texture?**

A: Blow on the coat

**44. Q: What are you looking for when you are checking for texture?**

A: Ticks, mites, and abscesses

**45. Q: If a judge ruffles the coat on your cavy what are you expected to do?**

A: Restore it to its condition/position (brush it back down)

**46. Q. How many breeds currently are accepted by the ACBA?**

A. 13

**47. Q: Can a cavy get fleas or lice?**

A: Yes, but only if it comes in contact with another animal that already has the parasites

**48. Q: What is the most important thing to consider in the diet of your cavy?**

A: That they are getting all of the vitamins they need

**49. Q: How can you give your cavy vitamin C?**

A: By adding liquid Vitamin C to the water, Vitamin C tablets, or by adding Vitamin C enriched vegetables and or pellet foods to their diet.

**50. Q: What is the disease caused by lack of vitamin C in the diet called?**

A: Scurvy

**51. Q: Does your cavy need hay in their diet? Why/ why not?**

A: Yes, because it aids in the digestion of food and cavies love it.

**52. Q: What are things you would look for when looking for a healthy cavy?**

A: There are many ways to check for good health:

\*Ears and nose should be clean and free of discharge and debris

\*The fur of a healthy cavy will be soft, shiny, even, and free of parasites and bald spots

\*The body of a healthy cavy should be round, tight, and smooth

\*A healthy cavy is bright eyed, alert, and active

\*Check the teeth - the 2 top teeth should overlap the 2 lower teeth

**53. Q: What is malocclusion?**

A: Malocclusion is a serious tooth condition. The upper incisors do not overlap the lower incisors or improper meeting of the teeth

**54. Q: If you are asked to pose your cavy what should you do?**

A: Position your cavy to the front - or facing the judge

**55 Q: If you are asked to pivot your cavy what should you do?**

A: Turn your cavy to either the left or right side