

Cavy Unit 1 Information

Primary & Junior

Revisions done in 2008 by Shonna Ausbourne

Units developed by Kim Lukehart & Shonna Ausbourne

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