

PET STANDARD 2025

Body and Health – 30 points

This assesses the guinea pig's size and body structure. A guinea pig in the Pet Class should be muscular, with even form and good body condition.

Common faults: Too small/large in relation to age, overweight, underweight.

Disqualifying faults: Severe over- or underweight. Skeletal defects (misaligned/curved bones, "golf ball" head, deformed sternum, poorly healed fractures), swollen legs or joints.

Coat and Skin – 15 points

The skin should be clean, soft, and supple. The coat should be clean and in good condition.

Common faults: Dandruff, shedding, bald spots under 3 cm in diameter, abnormally sparse coat, wounds, dirt, discoloration, dirty grease gland, sebaceous cysts ("pimples").

Disqualifying faults: Abscesses, skin tumors, or bleeding wounds, bald spots over 3 cm in diameter.

(Animals that are naturally partly hairless or have sparse fur are not judged based on bald spots.)

Feet and Nails – 10 points

Nails should be well-trimmed so that the toes are correctly angled toward the surface when the foot is placed down. Paw pads should be well-maintained and soft.

Common faults: Overgrown or twisted nails, cut quick, large calluses, wounds, extra toes, missing claws.

Disqualifying faults: Inability to support weight on one or more feet. Swollen or irritated paw pads, bleeding wounds, missing toe.

Ears – 10 points

Ears should be clean and soft. Shape and placement are not judged.

Common faults: Excessive wax or dirt in the outer ear, dry and flaky ears, warts. Healed injuries on the outer ear.

Disqualifying faults: Missing outer ear. Bleeding wounds.

Eyes – 5 points

Eyes should be clear, alert, and clean. Eye shape is not judged.

Common faults: Watery eyes, small healed corneal injuries, drooping eyelids, cherry eye and fatty eye, eggshell eye.

Disqualifying faults: Missing eye, severely clouded lens in one or both eyes that suggests serious vision impairment or blindness. Swollen or irritated eyes. Corneal damage. Cataracts, glaucoma.

Teeth – 5 points

Teeth should be intact, straight, and even.

Common faults: Uneven or damaged front teeth, severely discolored teeth.

Disqualifying faults: Missing or loose front or opposing teeth.

Temperament – 15 points

Guinea pigs should be easy to handle, fearless/curious, tame, and may communicate with the judge through sounds or licking, or enjoy being scratched under the chin.

Common faults: Aggressiveness and visible fear.

Disqualifying faults: If the guinea pig repeatedly bites the judge or otherwise makes it impossible for the judge to complete the evaluation.

General Health and Presentation – 10 points

A clean, well-cared-for, and well-presented guinea pig should receive full points in this category. Points are only deducted if the animal has a fault not covered under another criterion.

Common faults: Mouth fungus (nose stripes are not judged), static lice in small amounts, wounds or general uncleanliness.

Disqualifying faults: Any kind of parasite except minor static lice, pregnancy, illness, suspected ringworm or other fungus, intestinal parasites, respiratory infections such as watery eyes, runny nose, cough, and sneezing neglect.

POINT SCALE – PET CLASS and PET CLASS YOUTH

- Body and Health: 30
 - Coat and Skin: 15
 - Feet and Nails: 10
 - Ears: 10
 - Eyes: 5
 - Teeth: 5
 - Temperament: 15
 - General Health and Presentation: 10
- TOTAL: 100**