

COMMON PET GUINEA PIG DISEASES

Bacterial Abscesses

Symptoms

1. Swelling under lower jaw
2. Swelling on undersides of foot pads ('Bumblefoot')

Diagnosis

1. Aspirate of swelling
2. Biopsy of swelling

Treatment

1. Surgical removal of abscess and entire capsule
2. Long term antibiotic therapy (Guinea pigs can have fatal reactions to penicillin based antibiotics)

Overgrown Teeth (Malocclusion)



Symptoms

1. Weight loss
2. Saliva collecting under chin ('slobbers')
3. Grinding teeth

Diagnosis

1. Oral examination under isoflourane anesthesia or with aid of an oral speculum
2. Xray of head (lateral projection)

Treatment

1. Clipping and filing teeth under 'isoflourane anesthesia'
2. Offering Timothy Hay to supplement pellets all the time

Pneumonia

Symptoms

1. Weight loss
2. Difficulty Breathing
3. Nasal Discharge / sneezing

Diagnosis

1. Chest Xray
2. Complete Blood Count

Treatment

1. Long term antibiotic therapy (some cases may never completely resolve)
2. Nebulization with antibiotics

Scurvy (Vitamin C deficiency)

Symptoms

1. Poor coat condition
2. Painful joints / Swollen joints
3. Weight loss

Diagnosis

1. Dietary history
2. Xrays

Treatment

1. Vitamin C injections
2. Daily supplementation with Vitamin C

Prevention

1. Using a Guinea pig diet with stabilized Vitamin C and an expiration date.
Supplement diet with Vitamin C rich vegetables (Bell Peppers, Carrots)