

Animal Life Cycle
Pet Care Program

HANDBOOK

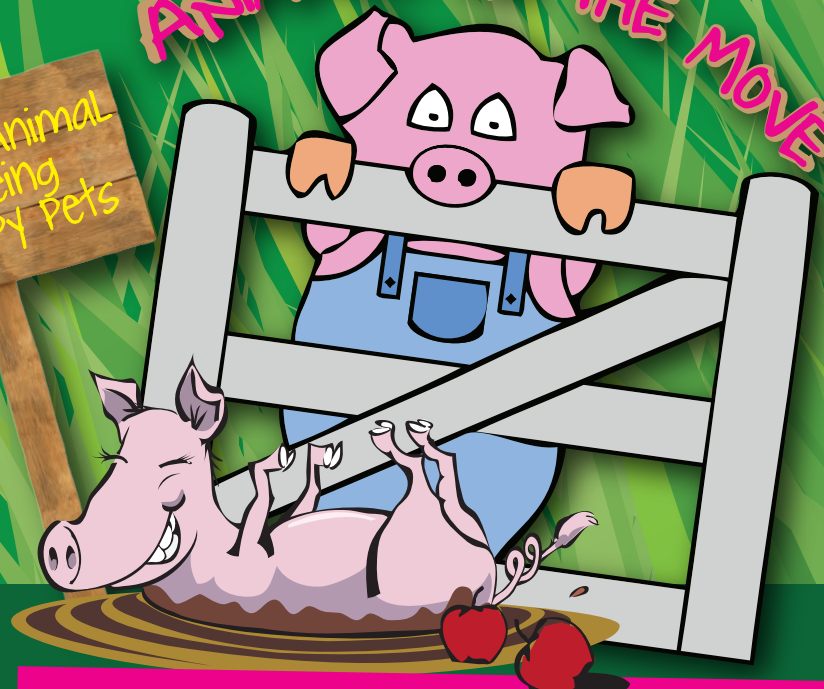
A unique hands-on learning experience
designed to extend childrens knowledge,
perspective and capacity to care for pets.

We'd like to share some
useful information on what
to expect, how to care for your
pets and much more...



ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

Teaching Animal
Wellbeing
for happy Pets



Cardinia Shire Council
WINNER
Business of the Year

www.animalsonthemove.com.au

Hi there!

Thank you for welcoming the Animals on the Move Pet Care Program into your Place

The Pet Care Program is Designed to give children an understanding to Provide Pets with a suitable environment and care for their well-being, which therefore consequences in a Pets overall happiness.

Delivering happiness includes Providing Pets with:

- * Quality shelter and a comfortable resting area
- * A Proper Diet & nutrients
- * The Love and attention Pets need and thrive on

This information booklet is Designed to give you a thorough understanding of:

- * How to care for your Rabbits and/or Guinea Pigs
- * How to observe and monitor them
- * What to expect along the way

We've also included a few interesting educational rabbit and guinea pig facts, as well as some fun activities to share with your group.

We trust you will enjoy the animals as they grow and your children/students gain the knowledge of care for a pet in the home and awareness of the importance of animal welfare both in the present and future.

Leonie Woodham (Farmer/owner & Animal Lover)
Animals On The Move Pty Ltd

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our aim is to bring smiles
to the faces of young &
old, whilst helping
children to develop a
caring attitude toward
all creatures

A bit about our Animal Life Cycle Pet Care Program...

The Pet Care Program provides a highly visual, hands-on, fun and educational experience that children (and adults) love. As most children are naturally interested and curious about animals it's important to equip them with the knowledge and responsibilities of caring for a pet.

Throughout the 2 week Pet Care Program, children will observe the development of young rabbits (kittens) and/or guinea pigs (pups), watch them grow and bond with each other whilst learning the daily responsibilities involved in taking care of pets.

The welfare of an animal can be seen in terms of the quality of an animals living, therefore, each day the childrens responsibilities will include; adequately nourishing the pets by providing fresh food and water as well as making sure the hutch and bedding are clean.

Children will learn that giving pets the attention they need by providing a comfortable and safe environment will result in optimal animal health and friendly, happy pets.

A perpetuate motive is to give children the idea that people can do things to help conserve animal life and that children themselves can carry out a plan of action to assist in the care of animals.



PHONE 1300 760 354



Things to know before you begin

A few helpful hints to remember along the way

For the health and safety of both animals and children, we've outlined some important factors to be aware of, to give you piece of mind the best Pet Care Program experience.

- ✿ Please insist children **DO NOT** poke their fingers into the Rabbits or Guinea Pigs mouth. Animals are curious creatures and may bite.
- ✿ It is a good idea to put a barrier or line on the floor, approx. ½ a meter from the cage, to allow good air flow into the hutch, better viewing and avoid childrens temptation to poke their fingers into the cage.
- ✿ Please do not feed the animals extra vegetables or food other than what we have supplied as this can cause upset tummies or worse.
- ✿ Sudden loud and unfamiliar noises can cause stress in both Rabbits and Guinea Pigs, please consider placing animals in another room whilst vacuuming
- ✿ Rabbits and Guinea Pigs can be handled by the children with adult supervision.
- ✿ We will return to collect the animals and accessories at the end of your Animal Life Cycle Pet Care Program.
- ✿ The animals are available for purchase as a family pet. If a group member is willing to provide a comfortable and loving home, we encourage rabbits and guinea pigs to be purchased. Each rabbit is \$40 each and each Guinea Pig is \$20 on the programs completion.



A female or Mother Rabbit is called a "DOE"

A female Guinea Pig is called a "SOW"



Baby bunny Rabbits are called "Kittens"

A male Guinea Pig is called a "BOAR"

A male or Daddy Rabbit is called a "BUCK"

A group of baby Guinea Pigs are called "PUPS"

A group of baby Rabbits are called a "Litter"



Pet Shop. For Rabbit and Guinea Pig Pet Care needs, Animals On The Move offer a range of hutches, feed, bedding and accessories available for purchase.

If you have any curious parents, please ask them to give us a call on: **1300 760 354** or visit our website at **www.animalsonthemove.com.au**



What's included and why...

After running the Pet Care Program for over 10 years we have tried and tested our set up for ease of use and manageability. We know it's imperative to provide you with the most practical housing, equipment and healthiest animals for you to care for and observe the growth and personalities of your pets effectively and easily.

We deliver 6 Rabbits or 6 Guinea Pig or 3 of each in a specially designed hutch for a clean and healthy (animal and child-friendly) environment.

Our set up is thoughtfully laid out to ensure easy viewing so the animal experience can be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This is a 2 week program, with the animals generally delivered on a Monday and picked up 2 weeks later on a Friday.

We deliver and set up the enclosure with food, water and wood shavings and provide enough materials required for the 2 week program (see list below).

Before we leave each venue we give a brief explanation of what to expect and advise that you can call us on 1300 760 354 during business hours, phone (03) 59681644 after hours or email info@animalsonthemove.com.au if you have any queries or concerns along the way.

What we Deliver...

- ✓ Rabbit/Guinea Pig Hutch
- ✓ Rabbits and/or Guinea Pigs
- ✓ Bucket of feed
- ✓ Brush and shovel
- ✓ Bag of hay
- ✓ Bale of wood shavings
- ✓ Water bottle

For happy & healthy animals,
Hutches must contain...

- ♥ Clean wood shavings
- ♥ Water bottle full of clean water
- ♥ Food container

N.B: We're happy to help. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

1300 760 354 

Getting your
Pet Care
Program...



Did you know?

Rabbits & Guinea Pigs need to gnaw and wear down their teeth. otherwise, their teeth will grow too long & they wouldn't be able to eat!

Guinea Pigs are born with fur and with their eyes open

Feeding the rabbits and/or guinea pigs What's On The Menu...

Feeding times : The animal food bowl should be filled once daily.

Special Dietary Requirements : Rabbits are particularly fussy about changes in diet and variation in food supply. An improper diet is the major cause of lack of gastric and intestinal motility (stasis and ileus), overgrowth of dangerous intestinal bacteria (enterotoxemia), soft stools, obesity of the liver, and urinary tract infections. Needless to say, a rabbit with any degree of these problems will be an unhappy pet.

Sweet treat : Rabbits and guinea pigs thrive on a coarse diet high in indigestible cellulose and our Animals healthy mix is enjoyed by all the animals. They will get sick if they are fed too rich a diet. Do not offer extras such as cabbage or lettuce etc. A small carrot every couple of days would be quite okay.

Hydration : Clean water should be available at all times to keep rabbits hydrated.

Menu

Animal Feed

Served daily in a clean feed bowl

Animals On The Move's Lucerne Chaff,
Pasture Replacement Pellets and a mixture
of cooked grains & Molasses (barley, oats, corn,
legumes, sunflower seeds, lucerne chaff,
oaten chaff)

Beverages

Fresh Water

Served in a clean water bowl or sipper bottle

The perfect animal hydration fix with continuous
refills for a never ending supply:)

Carrots are a
sweet treat & a
sometimes food



Handling, Hygiene & Accommodation Care & Management...

Rabbits and Guinea Pigs are social creatures and love company. However, all living creatures need a clean, stable and well-maintained habitat to thrive in.

✿ **Handling the animals with care** A teacher may show the children how to gently handle and pet the animals.

✿ **Adult Supervision** A teacher, carer or adult should be present and assist at all times when the rabbits or guinea pigs are to be handled.

✿ **Animal Hygiene** Droppings, especially in the corner where they choose to do their poo, should be reviewed daily and cleaned when required (minimum weekly).

✿ **Children & Adult Hygiene** Wash hands after handling the animals, cleaning the animals home or feeding the animals.

Keeping it a 5 star rating ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ Animal Accommodation...

Providing a great service to your bunnies will keep them happy and healthy. It will also teach the children the responsibility that comes with caring for pets and the work that goes into it.

✿ **Bedding & floor surface** sawdust in hutch should be changed completely once per week.

✿ **Clean daily** animal droppings, especially in the corner where they choose to do their poo.

✿ **Location, Location** Indoors or under a sheltered area outdoors during the day and to be moved indoors in the late afternoon for overnight accommodation. When indoors, please position away from windows and/or direct sunlight.

✿ **Safe & Secure** our hutches provide a safe and child-friendly habitat for the little ones.


✿ **Infection & Risk Mitigation** Please keep animals indoors in the afternoon and evening when mosquitos are most active, to minimise the animals chances of catching myxomatosis.

Providing a familiar & stable environment What to do on weekends...

If you add an extra food bowl & a large coke bottle of water over the weekend that should be sufficient. However, if someone is able to go in and check on them, that would be even better.

Your animals should remain at the place at where they were delivered, not taken home over the weekends. Contact with other pets can cause stress, as can letting the rabbit run around in your backyard (unfamiliar territory).





KEEPING RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS AS PETS

HOUSING & BEST PLACE TO KEEP THEM

In a sheltered outdoor position such as a porch or garden shed. With a suitable weather-proof hutch, which has shade mesh on wired areas, to keep mosquitos out, they can comfortably be kept outside in the open air. It is also a good idea to place your hutch in the shade throughout summer. Give them plenty of hay or straw for bedding, preferably over a thick woodshavings base. The enclosure should be cleaned out thoroughly once a week or more often if necessary.

DIET

Providing a commercial grade 'Rabbit & Guinea Pig Mix' and a constant supply of hay and fresh water is extremely important. As rabbits and guinea pigs are constant feeders, it is natural for them to be nibbling away at something all the time. Some vegetable may be fed in moderation eg. celery and carrots but should not be fed instead of 'Rabbit & Guinea Pig Mix' which has been purposely formulated to provide a healthy and balanced diet for rabbits and a guinea pigs.

Rabbits are particularly fussy about changes in diet and variation in food supply can cause major problems, therefore make any changes in their diet gradually. A mineral lick is appreciated and it is important to remember to place a piece of wood for gnawing (this prevents the rabbits & Guinea pigs front teeth from growing too long).

Water is best provided in the form of a drip feed bottle securely fastened to the wire of the cage.

HEALTH

Make sure you also give your pets some exercise time every now and then. The best way to maintain a healthy animal is to ensure you keep a clean environment and provide good food regularly.

Given a good routine, you should have no trouble. Check that the hay or straw is never mouldy, as this can cause respiratory troubles.

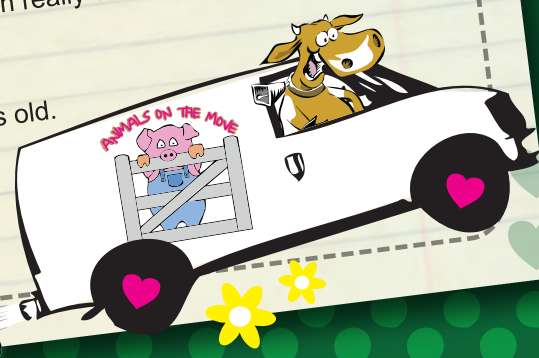
Try to avoid damp, draughts and too- strong sunlight.

Long haired rabbits will need some grooming

On really hot days, if possible bring your pets inside. On really cold days make sure they have plenty of bedding to snuggle into.

Take your rabbit to get vaccinated when it is 12 weeks old.

You may like to trim your rabbits claws, specialised nail clippers are available at most pet stores.



A little word-finding fun Find the rabbit words...



C	A	R	R	O	S	R	Q	Z	F	E	E	D	F
B	O	A	R	M	O	L	S	M	N	S	D	K	G
T	P	B	B	H	W	U	R	L	E	O	S	T	U
Y	I	B	Z	U	C	X	D	I	S	W	R	V	I
W	K	I	T	T	E	N	B	T	H	X	R	P	N
A	J	T	S	C	W	P	E	T	E	N	D	O	E
T	I	P	G	H	F	H	R	E	B	U	C	K	A
E	I	N	D	L	I	N	G	R	T	D	P	U	P
R	P	R	A	Q	B	D	M	C	T	Z	F	Y	I
O	X	N	I	B	B	L	E	N	P	L	H	G	G

PET
BOAR
PUP

CARROT
DOE
GUINEA PIG

LITTER
HUTCH
FEED

RABBIT
NIBBLE
WATER

BUCK
KITTEN
SOW

Cook with the kids Carrot Cake...

Ingredients

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp bicarb soda
- 1 cup grated carrot
- ½ cup drained and crushed pineapple
- 1/3 cup ground sesame seeds
- 2 oz. Coconut
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup oil
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup sugar

Directions

- Pre heat oven 350 degrees F
- Beat in a large bowl eggs, oil, milk and sugar
- Mix carrots, pineapple, nuts, sesame seeds and coconut separately
- Add carrot mixture, then add flour, cinnamon and bicarb soda



Thank you for booking the Pet Care Program...

We trust your group has enjoyed the experience of interacting with our Rabbits and/or Guinea Pigss and have gained an understanding of the responsibility involved in caring for a pet.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could please take a few moments to evaluate the program by answering the questions below. Any feedback would be welcome and will assist us in improving the running of this program.



What did your group learn from the program?

What activities did your group undertake involving the animals?.....

How did it fit in with your curriculum?.....

Was 2 weeks too long/too short?

Were you provided with enough information and advice at the start?.....

Was all the equipment provided satisfactory? ie Hutch/Food etc.....

How could this be improved?.....

Were the pick up and drop off arrangements satisfactory?.....

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvements?.....

Any further comments.....