

# Cavy Unit 2 Information

## Intermediate

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

\*\*\*\*Intermediate members are also responsible for the knowledge in unit 1 as well as unit 2\*\*\*\*

### 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!

### Cavy Intermediate Questions:

**1. Q: Name the 13 breeds currently accepted by the ACBA**

A: 1) Abyssinian                      8) Coronet  
2) Abyssinian Satin                9) Peruvian  
3) American                         10) Peruvian Satin  
4) American Satin                 11) Silkie

- 5) Teddy
- 6) Teddy Satin
- 7) White Crested
- 12) Silkie Satin
- 13) Texel

**2. Q: What is a cross breed cavy?**

A: A cavy of more than one breed

**3. Q: Name the 4 long haired breeds**

A: 1) Peruvian 2) Silkie 3) Texel 4) Coronet

**4. Q: What makes an Abyssinian different from other breeds?**

A: An Abyssinian has Rosettes

**5. Q: How many rosettes should an Abyssinian have?**

A: 10-12

**6. Q: What makes a White Crested unique?**

A: The single white rosette located on its head.

**7. Q: What makes the Teddy different from other breeds?**

A: Their coat is "kinky"

**8. Q: Describe the coat of an American**

A: Short and smooth or silky

**9. Q: Should an American have rosettes?**

A: No, their hair should be smooth

**10. Q: What type of coat should a Teddy have?**

A: A coarse coat

**11. Q: Does a Peruvian have rosettes?**

A: Yes, this is what causes their hair to grow over the face

**12. Q: Does a Silkie have a frontal?**

A: No

**13. Q: What is a frontal?**

A: A frontal is the long fringe of hair covering a Peruvian's face.

**14. Q: Which breeds require more care?**

A: The 4 long haired breeds 1) Peruvian 2) Silkie 3) Texel 4) Coronet )

**15. Q: What are the long guard hairs dispersed throughout the coat called?**

A: Ticking

**16. Q: A cavy Birth to 4 months of age whose weight is 12-22 ounces is called what?**

A: A Junior

**17. Q: A cavy that is 4 to 6 months of age weighing 22-30 ounces is referred to as what?**

A: An intermediate

**18. Q: A cavy that is 6 months of age and older and weighs 30 ounces or more is called what?**

A: A senior

**19. Q: Are cavy's herbivores, omnivores, or carnivores?**

A: Herbivores (they do not eat meat)

**20. Q: If you plan to start a herd should you have a pedigree?**

A: Yes, because you will have a way to track family history and provide background for all of your cavies.

**21. Q: How many square feet should a cage be to house 1 cavy?**

A: 1.5 (one and a half) square feet or more

**22. Q: Name the 5 poisonous plants mentioned in the Cavy 4H Leader's Manual**

A: 1) Hemlock 2) Boxwood 3) Bindweed 4) Rhubarb 5) Potato leaves

**23. Q: Below what temperature does your cavy risk catching a cold?**

A: 55 degrees

**24. Q: At what weight is it safe to breed your cavy?**

A: 1.5 to 2 pounds

**25. Q: At what age can a cavy start breeding?**

A: A sow is able to breed at 4 wks - but it's best to wait until she is at least 12 weeks old  
A boar is ready to breed at 8-9 weeks old

**26. Q: At what age is it usually safest to breed a cavy?**

A: 3-6 months old (12-24 weeks)

**27. Q: What is the oldest age a sow should ever have her first litter at?**

A: 8 months old (A sow has a narrow birth canal, and after 8 months of age, the pelvic bones fuse and become inflexible, making it very difficult, if not impossible.

**28. Q: Why is it NOT good to breed a sow before she is the right age and weight?**

A: Because it could cause the sow to die during birth and or stunt her growth.

**29. Q: If they are in good health, to what age is it okay to breed cavies?**

A: 3-4 years old or for as long as they are fertile.

**30. Q: What do you call a father cavy?**

A: A Sire

**31. Q: What do you call a mother cavy?**

A: A Dam

**32. Q: What is the gestation period of a sow (how long is she pregnant?)**

A: 56-74 days (8-10 weeks)

**33. Q: How many babies can a sow have?**

A: A sow can have 1-13 babies but most common litter size is 3-4 pups

**34. Q: What does it mean if some one says their sow is “in-pig”**

A: She is pregnant

**35. Q: What is it called when a sow gives birth to her pups?**

A: Farrowing

**36. Q: At what age can the pups be weaned?**

A: 3-4 weeks after birth

**37. Q: Should you separate the male and female babies?**

A: Yes, during weaning at about 3 weeks (the males will try to mate with the females)

**38. Q: Why is malocclusion a serious condition?**

A: Misaligned teeth do not wear down properly and can grow out of control. Unless these type of teeth are trimmed regularly they will cause mouth infections, jaw problems, and could even grow so long as to curve back into the skull- killing the cavy

**39. Q: If a cavy has a number in its right ear what is it for?**

A: Either a registration number or breeder identification