



FAECAL IMPACTION IN GUINEA PIGS

Faecal impaction is a condition seen most commonly in entire male guinea pigs after 2-3 years of age. The exact reason for its occurrence is unknown, but it is thought that the increased size of the testicles and fat deposit in the scrotal sac prevents faeces from falling out of the rectum. This collection of faeces then 'dilates' this area causing more faeces to accumulate in this area.

The impacted faeces begins to break down and the odour can be significant. Normal faeces can also be seen from guinea pigs with this condition.

Affected guinea pigs can show no signs at all in some cases however most show symptoms of straining to defecate or an unusual odour.

What can we do about this condition?

The old saying of prevention is better than a cure holds true for this condition. Castration, ideally at a young age, helps to prevent this condition from occurring. Castration after the condition has occurred may prevent it from getting worse but generally will not alter the dilated pocket.

Regular manual cleaning of this pocket is often the best treatment in older boars (male guinea pigs). Cleaning twice daily to once a week is required depending on the severity of the condition.

