

Eggplants with Feet

By a Student

Thick, bulky little animals resembling eggplants, guinea pigs can be pleasant pets. They live in cages. They don't bark. They coo. Guinea pigs have simple yet adorable personalities, which makes them ideal indoor pets for children. However, as their owners will attest, a pair of pigs can be as different as Skittles and sausages.

For example, Benny is plump: his fat, cinnamon-colored sides bulge over his tiny, black feet. He is a satin, shorthaired guinea pig. His beady, black eyes stare intelligently from behind the bars of his cage. His smooth, soft ears perk up whenever he hears the refrigerator door open. Cooing softly, Benny doesn't demand a treat from the fridge, he asks nicely.

While Benny is a rotund rodent, his pal, Danny, is a poofy one. Danny resembles a yak -- soft, fluffy, brown fur cascades over his entire body except for his face, where those hairs are short and wiry. With fluff sticking out between his toes, Danny occasionally requires a haircut. His body weight, hidden beneath hairy exterior, doesn't appear large for his size, although he is a "pig", after all. Requiring a bit of grooming attention, Danny receives a haircut every now and then.

Distinguishing pigs by their appearance is simple, and yet comparing them by their personalities is a job for an attentive owner. Benny is intelligent, strong, silent, and easygoing. He loves to be held and will wait patiently to be grabbed from his cage and placed on a lap. Danny, on the other hand, is the essence of excitability -- jittery, squeaky, never still. He doesn't know if he wants to be held or not held, but he does know that he doesn't want to be caught! Both pigs share the same views on food, however. The high point of their days is the refilling of food dishes and the handing out of treats. When their dishes are empty, they both squeal until carrots, apples, or pig pellets land inside their cages, whereupon those are devoured with delight. Appearance and personality are the two main ways these "eggplants with feet" make themselves adored by their owners.

Pigs, even guinea ones, can have clear similarities and differences. Ben is a terrific pet for a quiet owner who prefers to work her math problems with an easygoing pet on her open book. Dan is ideal for a seven-year-old, who doesn't have to sit still at her desk for long minutes at a time, as he loves to climb over her legs and scamper around the room. Both pigs enjoy each other, cooing and squeaking and carrying on little piggy conversations, despite their unique personalities.