

## DANGEROUS MEDICATIONS

All antibiotics will affect the gut flora of a guinea pig. Some are toxic to guinea pigs and can cause a deadly and fatal enterotoxemia. **All penicillin based drugs are toxic to pigs!** Amoxicillin (Clavamox) is one that is frequently and mistakenly prescribed by unknowledgeable vets. Please ensure your pig is **not** being prescribed any penicillin based drugs. A vet experienced in treating guinea pigs should never prescribe any of these medicines and should be able to provide you with a more complete list of toxic medications or find that information. If not, find another vet.

**Medications to Avoid!** This list includes some of the most deadly antibiotics. Derivatives of these drugs may also cause problems. "The action of [many of] these drugs affects the normal flora of the gut, causing a fatal and irreversible diarrhea. There is some thought that a few of these drugs cause a fatal allergic reaction. Any use of these drugs is always a bad choice, even when the alternative is no therapy at all. They always make the situation worse." Valerie Blaes, DVM

- amoxicillin (Clavamox)
- ampicillin
- bacitracin
- cefadroxil
- cephalixin
- cephalosporins
- cephalozin
- chlortetracycline
- clindamycin
- dihydrostreptomycin
- erythromycin
- lincomycin
- oxytetracycline
- penicillin
- streptomycin

### Sources/References

Information regarding safe medications can be obtained from the following reference books, which also list the above medications as dangerous to guinea pigs. **Do not add any medications to your cavy's drinking water.** Dose your cavy's individually to ensure they receive the correct amount of any medication.

- The Biology and Medicine of Rabbits and Rodents by J.Harkness DVM and J.Wagner DVM (Williams & Wilkins - a Lea and Febiger Book)
- Diseases of Domestic Guinea Pigs by V.C.G. Richardson (Blackwell Science Ltd.)
- The Exotic Animal Formulary by James W. Carpenter, MS, DMV et al (W.B. Saunders Company)
- Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents - Clinical Medicine and Surgery by E.Hillyer DVM and K.Quesenberry DVM (W.B. Saunders Company)

