

## Purchasing a guinea pig in Saquisilí, Ecuador

### Purchasing a guinea pig in Saquisilí, Ecuador

A woman purchases a white guinea pig from a vendor in an open-air market. The vendor, wearing a black fedora with a red and white feather, is reaching into a hand-woven basket. Saquisilí has one of the largest daily markets in Ecuador. Everything from agricultural products to livestock to handcrafted goods can be found in Saquisilí. The active market makes the town a lively place to visit and is a popular tourist destination. Many anthropologists see the market of Saquisilí as a culturally significant because it represents a time in Ecuador's history that is increasingly hard to find. As the country becomes more industrialized and more land is becomes open to investors, traditional lifeways are beginning to disappear. By providing an arena for local craftsmen, markets like the one at Saquisilí help preserve a little bit of the country's traditions. One tradition that is maintained in highlands Ecuador is the raising of guinea pigs for consumption. Besides the llama, which is an important pack-animal, there are few indigenous domesticated animal species in Ecuador. Unlike North Americans who raise cattle, chicken, turkeys, and pigs for consumption in great quantities, highland Ecuadorians eat a much more limited diet of meat. Guinea pigs provide an important source of protein and are consumed throughout the Andes region.



**Usage Statement:**

## **Creative Commons BY-NC-SA**

This item has a Creative Commons license for re-use. This Creative Commons BY-NC-SA license means that you may use, remix, tweak, and build upon the work for non-commercial purposes as long as you credit the original creator and as long as you license your new creation using the same license. For more information about [Creative Commons licensing](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) <sup>[1]</sup> and a link to the license, see full details at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> <sup>[2]</sup>.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/purchasing-guinea-pig>

### **Links**

[1] <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/> [2] <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>