



**Edition 10 – March 2015**

***In This Issue:***

Welcome! .....	1
Around the Shelter .....	1
What's On .....	1
Piggies for Adoption .....	2
Sponsorship .....	2
QGPR Online Shop .....	3
Meet the Team .....	3
Health Facts .....	4
Piggy Food Facts .....	4

***Welcome!***

Welcome to the March edition of the *QGPR Weekly*. We have a busy month ahead at our new location, where you can still find our shop, on site adoptions and piggy parlour. You can find out our new address by sending a message to the [QGPR Facebook page](#).

The *Qld Guinea Pig Refuge* was founded in 2013 by a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting, rescuing, and finding homes for lost, abandoned, unwanted and mistreated guinea pigs.

*Beth – Editor*

***Around the Shelter***

What a busy month we are having at our new location at Bracken Ridge.

Another exciting thing happening at the moment is Miranda’s Law, a campaign started by a group of independent guinea pig rescues in Queensland. We want to see an end to the chain of unwanted, neglected, dumped and abused guinea pigs filling our refuges. We want to tell the Government that these animals need protection, and that change is needed. Please help us to stop guinea pigs from being dumped and abandoned. They are not capable of surviving in the wild and it is our responsibility to care for them and protect them! Sign our petition to give them a voice. [Mirandaslaw.org/petition/](http://Mirandaslaw.org/petition/).

*Tabitha – Shelter Manager*

***What's On***



---

## *Piggies for Adoption*



### **Alec and Grady (4 and 7 months old)**

Alec is the adventurous of the boys and loves exploring. He is also very close to Grady and enjoys snuggling in to him. Grady is the exact opposite. He is a laid back, chilled out boy who is happy to just sit and watch what is going on and finds his confidence following Alec's lead.



### **Wyatt (3 years 7 months old)**

Wyatt is a real sweetie and loves cuddles and chin scratches. He has impactation (see Health Facts below) and a permanently enlarged foot resulting from bad bumble foot, which may re-occur in the future. While he currently needs no medical attention, he may in the future if his foot swells again. Due to this reason, Wyatt needs an extra special home.

These piggies, and many more, are looking for their forever homes and are \$15 each. Desexed males are \$30 each. They come fully health checked, worm and mite treated, and have been living at their foster carer's home where they receive lots of handling time. If you are interested in adopting, please fill out our [Adoption Enquiry Form](#).

## *Sponsorship*

Sponsoring allows you to help us help piggies in need.



Often male guinea pigs cannot be paired with another male, especially if they have been with females prior to coming to the Refuge. To find them a forever female friend, they need to be desexed. While this procedure carries risks for males, it is less risky and invasive than desexing female guinea pigs.

Clifford is in need of desexing so he can find his new best friend and, for a one-off donation, you can help us with the medical costs. While we need a donation of \$100, any donation is appreciated, as with the help of several sponsors, we can group together to cover the costs of his desexing.

Clifford isn't happy with a male companion and a girlfriend will make him much happier!

All sponsorship amounts and one-off donations over \$2 are completely tax deductible. For further information, please visit the [Sponsor](#) section of our website.

---

## **QGPR Online Shop**

As winter draws closer, our online shop is filling with winter goodies for your piggies, such as fleece tunnels, strawberry houses, caves and more. We currently have fleece tunnels in stock to keep your piggy warm at night, with many different patterns available. Be sure to order soon so your piggies are ready for the cold nights!

All profits from these sales go directly back into the rescue, rehabilitation and care of QGPR guinea pigs. We post within Australia only, using pre-paid satchels. For more information, go to our [online shop](#).



## **Meet the Team**

**Kat**

### ***A little about you-***

The only pets I had growing up were goldfish, so I was excited to have the opportunity to finally adopt some gorgeous little boy guinea pigs. I adopted them in January 2013 after doing heaps of research and planning for quite a few months! When I'm not watching my three mischief makers, I'll be sewing, playing computer games or working in the garden.

Our only other pet is a Musk Lorikeet, who will soon be joined by a cockatiel and chickens later in the year.

### ***How did you become a piggy volunteer and foster parent?***

I started volunteering a couple of months after adopting my first two gorgeous boys. I needed something to do on weekends and wanted to help more piggies. I couldn't adopt more but I could help out at the Refuge!

### ***Most memorable piggy moment?***

Too many to count! But probably one of the first times I caught my pair curled up sleeping beside each other - it was just so cute! They get along like typical teenage boys at the best of times!



### ***What is something people may not know about Guinea Pigs?***

Just like humans, each one has their own unique personality and becomes a little member of your family so quickly! When I'm away from them, I miss them and their cute antics so much!

## Health Facts

### Male Guinea Pigs

More information on keeping your male guinea pigs happy and healthy.



### Anal Impaction

What is it, and how to help



#### 1 WHAT IS IT?

- ★ A build up of caecotroph pellets (the ones which are reingested) in the anal sac.
- ★ You will feel a hard roundish mass within the anal sac if there is an impaction
- ★ More common in elderly boars
- ★ Only occurs in boars



#### 2 CAUSES...

- ★ The muscles become weaker with age, preventing the caecotrophs being excreted
- ★ The caecotrophs become softer, forming a ball



#### 3 HOW TO HELP...

- ★ Help is needed to excrete the matter to prevent pain
- ★ Enables passing of new caecotrophs to ensure the piggy gets the right balanced diet; caecotrophs are high in vitamin B
- ★ Roll back the anal sac opening over the lump and expel using a finger and thumb. If you are unable to do this, please book an appointment with a cavy savvy vet.
- ★ Frequency will depend upon the piggy. This is rarely as a one off activity. For others this will be daily support activity, or 2-3 times a week.

**Any concerns about your piggy?**  
**Contact your cavy savvy vet now!**



Info Source: Piggy Bank, Peter Gurney, Jack Pine GPR, Crawley GPR

Please note that information provided is general only. If you have any concerns about your guinea pig's health, please ensure you seek appropriate veterinary care.

## Piggy Food Facts

### Bananas

Bananas are one of the world's most amazing fruits. They can help combat depression, protect against kidney cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis by increasing bone strength, and reduce the risk of blindness.

They can also be a cure for hangovers and morning sickness. Bananas can make you

smarter, give you energy, help with digestion and provide nutrients that help regulate your heart rhythm. The skins can even be used to clean your shoes!

A small amount of banana no bigger than half a centimetre on a daily basis can help increase your piggy's phosphorous levels, which helps with avoiding bladder stones and the buildup of bladder slime.

Bananas should only be given as a treat once or twice a month as they can cause piggies to become constipated, and they are also high in natural sugars that can increase weight gain.

Piggies can eat the skins as well as the flesh. Banana pieces should be given in conjunction with a healthy, green diet. You may be interested to know that guinea pigs can also eat the leaves of the banana tree.



To access the QGPR food list on our Facebook page, click [here](#).



© Qld Guinea Pig Refuge