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Around the Refuge

The Refuge has received lots of requests for surrenders of guinea pigs recently. We are currently able to accept only urgent surrenders, with non-urgent requests added to a waiting list. Unfortunately, adoptions have slowed down due to school holidays, which in turn affects how many guinea pigs we are able to rescue and accept into the Refuge.

We have lots of fantastic winter stock to keep your piggies warm in this cold weather so please come along to our next Open Day at our new location at Bald Hills Scout Den, 508 Bracken Ridge Road.

Rachel – Refuge Coordinator

Welcome!

Welcome to the July edition of the *QGPR Weekly*. We hope you've had a chance to come and say hello and check out our new winter stock. Remember, Open Days are held on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

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. We would not be able to do this without your support!

Beth – Editor

What's On

Guinea Pigs for Adoption



Leo and Timone (10 months old)

Leo and Timone are brothers. Leo is a very adventurous boy and really loves Timone. They always snuggle up together in their tunnel. Timone is the shy one but really is a snuggle pie and follows Leo around. These two boys are best friends and are looking for a perfect forever home where they can spend the rest of their lives.



Flossy (2 years), Spooky and Pebbles (1 year)

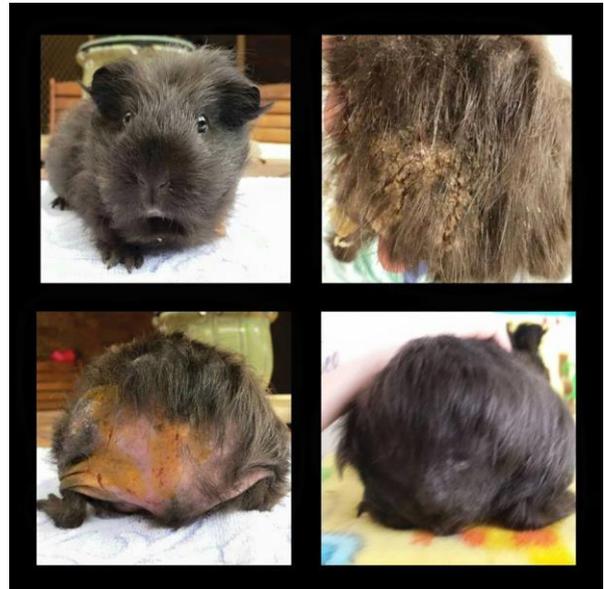
Flossy (Sheltie) is the mum to Spooky and Pebbles. They are best of friends and love their cuddles. Flossy is a little bit shy but still enjoys snuggles.

These guinea pigs, 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 are 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 guinea pigs in need.



Bella was picked up with Des and Snowy on 12 May from an urgent surrender after a fourth male guinea pig had passed away. All three guinea pigs had mange mites and fungal. Bella also had Bumblefoot.

Bella was by far the worst of the three. Her fungal was so thick on her rear end and around her girl bits that she was not able to walk, just hop around. It was about 1 cm thick crusts. Bella's bumblefoot appeared to have possibly occurred from a broken foot or leg getting infected. The infection went from her foot pad right up to where her leg joins her body. Bella has had to endure having pus squeezed down her leg to clear the infection twice daily, as well as being on pain medication and antibiotics. Bella no longer needs this to happen but will be on antibiotics for around six months to get the infection out of the bone, otherwise the bumblefoot will reoccur. Bella also has not yet

been able to stop scratching and, although the mites are dead and her hair is growing back, she still scratches impulsively.

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

QGPR Online Shop



If you live too far away to attend the QGPR Open Days and would like to purchase items for your guinea pigs, you can do so via the QGPR Piggy Shop. Lap mats, cuddle sacks, cuddle cups and tunnels are available. You can support the Refuge and spoil your piggies at the same time!

Cuddle cups are available in 2 sizes, large \$17 and small \$15 (plus postage). The cuddle cups have waterproof material in the base so you can cuddle your piggies in comfort. They are great for kids to hold their guinea pigs securely and safely during cuddle time. To find out more, click [here](#).

Meet the Team - Jess

A little about you:

I am a crazy animal lady, I have four dogs, 19 piggies, two galahs, a tiger oscar (fish) and a turtle. I am a shift worker and spend most of my spare time at home feeding my babies and cleaning cages.

How did you become a piggy volunteer and foster parent?

I got my first piggy in November 2014. I went to a QGPR open day and became hooked and wanted to help as much as I could. I now foster pregnancy watch and minor medical piggies.

Most memorable piggy moment?

There are so many. I am lucky to be able to witness some of the happy times with the pregnancy watch girls. The bubs are always a delight to have around. Most memorable moment would have to be getting my first piggy Peanut, as she is the reason I have opened up my home to so many beautiful souls.



What is something people may not know about guinea pigs?

While many people have single piggies and think they are happy, I recently had an experience that made me realise how important company is for them. I had a foster girl who needed a caesarean. She didn't recover from her surgery as well as hoped and required hand feeding for three weeks. We couldn't understand why she wouldn't start eating on her own again until we put her with another piggy. Her whole world changed and she is now part of my herd at home and has two

friends to live out her days with. While she had gone through her pregnancy without company, it was still a vital part of her living a happy life.

Health Facts

Weekly Health Check for Guinea Pigs



As prey animals, guinea pigs are good at hiding signs that they are ill. The following is a check list that all guinea pigs owners should do weekly to detect signs of illness so that treatment can be carried out early.

- Weigh your guinea pigs. The best indicator of a guinea pigs health is its weight. Loss of weight can be a sign of overgrown teeth or general illness in guinea pigs.
- Does your guinea pigs look bright and active? If it appears lifeless with its head down and in a corner, this is a sign that your guinea pigs is seriously ill and needs vet treatment ASAP.
- Is your piggy's bottom dry and clean?
- Check for scabs or lumps which may have come up quickly.
- Check to see if nails are overgrown. They should be trimmed at least once a month.
- Check the bottom of their feet for redness, dryness or sores.
- Does your guinea pig have any patches of hair loss?
- Check for dry, flaky skin especially around the eyes, back of ears, and feet.
- Are its eyes clear and bright and free of discharge?
- Is it breathing normally or does it sound crackly?

- Check that your piggy's nose is free of discharge.

The more you handle your guinea pigs, the more likely you will notice the above signs of illness. Guinea pigs can get critically ill quickly so it is important to seek vet treatment early.

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 advice.

Guinea Pig Food Facts - Peas

There are different types of peas that guinea pigs can eat - snow peas, snap peas and sugar snap peas. All of the pea can be eaten, including the shoot, pod and the pea inside. Peas are nutritious for guinea pigs as they contain vitamin A and vitamin C. Vitamin A helps with development and immune system. Vitamin C assists with metabolizing proteins and fighting infections. Guinea pigs can't make these vitamins themselves, so need to be fed foods high in these. As a guide, guinea pigs can be fed peas 2-4 times a week and an appropriate serving would be 1-2 pods per piggy.



Never feed guinea pigs canned or cooked peas. Peas need to be raw and fresh to be of benefit. Guinea pigs are also not able to eat split peas or sweet peas as these are poisonous for them. Always ensure fresh hay and water are available at all times for your guinea pig.

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

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