



**Edition 16 – September 2015**

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***Around the Refuge***

At our next open day, we’ll be trialling our new *Guinea Pig Care* information sessions, run by our volunteers. Sessions cover care, housing, cold/hot weather management, signs of sickness, nail clipping and bathing. The sessions are approximately 30 minutes long and will be run at both 11am and 1pm. Sessions are strictly limited to 10 people, so if you are interested, please book in by contacting us via email [qldguineapigrefuge@live.com](mailto:qldguineapigrefuge@live.com) or by private message to our [Facebook](#) page.

With the warmer weather, we are happy to announce our Piggie Parlour will be again offering bathing at our next open day. No bookings required, just bring your piggies along for some pampering.

*Rachel – Refuge Coordinator*

***Welcome!***

Welcome to the September edition of the *QGPR Weekly*. Open Days are held on the first and third Saturdays of every month at the Bald Hills Scout Den, 508 Bracken Ridge Road. Remember that the second open day of this month is being held on Sunday. Come along, say hello and check out our stock.

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.

*Amy – Guest Editor*

***What’s On***

★ **Sunday** ★ **19 Sept 10am-4pm**  
 At the Bald Hills Scout Den, 508 Bracken Ridge Road.  
 Please note that all adoptions require pre-approval.  
 A link to our online adoption form can be found on our Facebook page or website.  
 Forms need to be submitted at least two days prior to open day for processing.  
 For more details... Qld Guinea Pig Refuge

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## Guinea Pigs for Adoption



### Hugh and Annabelle (12 months old)

Hugh (desexed male) and Annabelle are the perfect husband and wife team. They are both very adventurous and talkative and love a good cuddle.



### Hollybelle and Bali (12 months)

Hollybelle (Abby) and Bali (short coat) are two very beautiful piggies. Bali and Hollybelle are very close and have lived together their whole lives. Hollybelle loves her cuddles, while Bali is still a little shy but likes to have a cuddle.

These guinea pigs, and many more, are looking for their forever homes and are \$20 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.



This is Carrot. He was surrendered to QGPR with his friends Cabbage and Parsnip. All three guinea pigs had bacterial mange.

Carrot died having a seizure while his bandages were being changed. His owner was treating him with pet store products, rather than seeing a vet. Despite being told the condition was life threatening and being contacted numerous times by QGPR volunteers, she waited a further two weeks to decide to surrender them. Carrot's death could have been prevented had he been treated earlier with the correct medication. Cabbage and Parsnip are still receiving treatment, which will be ongoing for some time yet.

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

## Weekly Tip

Did you know that QGPR offers boarding services? Unlike many shelters, all of our boarders are placed with a foster carer most local to you. This means that your guinea pigs are able to enjoy the family life they're used to. While boarding your guinea pigs, QGPR will provide all food and bedding. Not to mention and endless supply of love, cuddles and care.

### Boarding Costs:

One pair sharing a cage: \$5.00/day

One extra guinea pig in the same cage: \$2.00/day

One guinea pig in its own cage: \$3.00/day

Extra charges may apply for a pre-existing medical condition requiring treatment or special dietary requirements. It is recommended that you bring along your own water bottle, food bowl, and any cosy items your guinea pigs normally have, i.e. cuddle sacks or strawberry houses.

If your guinea pig requires medication, please ensure you let your boarding carer know when you drop your furry friend off and ensure you bring the medication.

**The Guinea Pig Community**

## Holiday time

What to do when you go away...

**There are 3 options:**

**Boarding**

- ★ Do they disinfect between guests?
- ★ Are they knowledgeable?
- ★ Do they have adequate sized accommodation?
- ★ Do they have a cavy savvy vet (including out of hours)?
- ★ Rescues often offer this service and what better hands could they be in?

**Pet Sitters**

- ★ Are they cavy-savvy? Will they pick up on any illnesses early?
- ★ How often can they visit? Really needs to be twice a day minimum.

**Take them with you**

- ★ If you have a caravan or a bed and breakfast holiday in the UK could you take them with you?

**Who do you trust with their lives?**

Information source: Piggy Bank UK

## Meet the Team - April

### A little about you?

Hi, my name is April. I'm currently studying to become a Vet Nurse, so I absolutely love all

animals. A few years ago, I bought my first guinea pig not knowing much about them at all. I wanted to learn more as I had fallen in love with them, so I contacted QGPR.

I then started as a foster parent and the amount I have learnt in such a short time was amazing. Now I cannot imagine my life without my 14 piggies!

### Most memorable piggy moment?

My most memorable piggy moment was with my boy, Peanut. He had just been desexed and soon after became very sick and unable to eat. For about three weeks, I syringe fed him every three hours, determined to help him get better. The day he started eating again after all that hard work was truly satisfying and a big relief. Now I am dedicated to helping any piggies I can and I love doing it.



### What is something people may not know about guinea pigs?

One thing people might not know about piggies is some of them barber each other! I came out one day and my long haired boy, Luigi, was given a funky hair cut by his friend. It's hard to know why they do this, but it can be just over grooming from their cage mate and doesn't hurt them at all.

I now picture my future always having guinea pigs and I wouldn't want it any other way!

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## Health Facts

### Guinea Pig Poo and Health

You can often tell whether your guinea pig is healthy or not from its droppings. Normal guinea pig poo should be uniform and oval, and medium to dark brown. Some may be aromatic greenish droppings which are caecal pellets. Guinea pigs re-ingest caecal droppings as they contain good bacteria which is necessary for good nutrition.

Healthy female guinea pig poo:



Healthy male guinea pig poo is usually longer than female poo.

Signs of unhealthy poos are:

- Clumped droppings. This may indicate impaction (males).
- Smaller droppings and/or teardrop shaped droppings. This may indicate dehydration and/or eating less food.
- Pitted soft droppings may be caused by an overgrowth of yeast in the intestinal tract.
- Diarrhea as this can be life threatening. If the droppings are merely soft, temporarily withholding vegetables may help.

See a vet immediately for severe [diarrhea](#), which may indicate a serious parasitic or bacterial infection.

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 – Zucchini

Zucchini is also known as a courgette or summer squash. It is a great food to feed guinea pigs as the leaves, flowers and zucchini itself can all be eaten, just make sure it is thoroughly washed and raw. As with all new foods, zucchini should be introduced in small amounts to ensure there are no problems.

Zucchini is high in vitamins and nutrients. It has a high vitamin C content and also is plentiful in Phosphorus. Its calcium to phosphorous ratio makes it a great vegetable to incorporate as part of a guinea pigs' staple diet.

Yellow squash, or golden zucchini, is related to zucchini and has a very similar nutritional content. Although slightly higher in sugar, it can still be fed as a regular food.

Always ensure that fresh water and hay are available for your guinea pigs along with a variety of vegetables for a balanced, healthy diet.



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



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