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Around the Refuge

Last month, QGPR had a number of surrenders, many of them with medical issues. Due to it being school holidays, we have had low adoption rates and shop sales. As a result, our vet costs are rising and we are in desperate need of donations to help cover our vet bills.

Donations can be made via PayPal at qldguineapigrefuge@live.com or directly into our bank account. Details are:
 Account name: Qld Guinea Pig Refuge Inc.
 BSB: 124 006
 Account number: 2207 4473

Any amount you could donate is appreciated.

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. Come along, say hello and check out our fabulous 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

Saturday 17 October 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

Guinea Pigs for Adoption



Chanel and Rainbow Dash (9 months old)

Chanel and Rainbow Dash are two new friends looking for their forever homes. The girls love snuggling and hanging out with each other. They will both happily sit on your lap and watch some TV shows or just hang out.



Bentley and Mustang (9 and 12 months old)

Please meet Bentley (white) and Mustang (black), these are two beautiful boys that are full of energy and love running around their cage. Bentley is a character and lets you know when he is hungry, but Mustang just hangs back and waits for breakfast. Mustang loves coming for a cuddle; he will nuzzle his nose under your arm and go to sleep. The boys love fresh fruit and veg and aren't very fussy with what they eat.

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](#).

Guinea Pig Food Facts – Broccoli

Broccoli

Broccoli is a great treat for your piggies. It is extremely high in vitamin C, which is important for piggies as they cannot produce their own. It is also very high in vitamin K which is essential for building strong bones.



Broccoli contains 24 important vitamins and minerals, all of which help with the health of your piggies. The leaves contain vitamin A and can also be fed to your piggies. Broccoli should only be given one to two times a week, and in small amounts, as it can cause gas or bloating.

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

Piggy Shop

As summer approaches, QGPR have plenty of products to keep your guinea pigs feel safe and secure but not too hot.

Tepees allow for air flow and are made from light cotton materials. They come in a vast array of colours and we're sure you'll find the perfect fit for your piggy's personality.

They are also easy to clean just unzip and place the cover in the wash. New stock is available for purchase at the open days. Just \$8 per cover.



Meet the Team - Sky

A little about you?

My name is Sky, I'm a fur-mum of 6 piggies, 2 cats and godmother of a doggy. I love all animals and try to cuddle as many as possible.

When I first had my 2 piggies, Abby and Temperance, I felt that there wasn't enough out there for me to spoil them with. So I went to visit QGPR back in Deception Bay, and fell in love with the amazing vollies and all they stood for. I just couldn't stay away. One day I was asked if I would like to be a volly and gladly accepted.

Most memorable piggy moment?

Most memorable piggy moment would be when I first met my babies. They're all special to me and I remember when I first fell in love with them.



What is something people may not know about guinea pigs?

White piggies are just like every other piggy. No they aren't blind because they're white, and yes they can go into the sun. Their eyes are just a little more sensitive than others.

Weekly Tip



Guinea pig tip of the week from The Guinea Pig Community

3 tips for caring for long haired piggies...

- 1) Grooming with the right brush
- 2) Knicker and bottoms trims
- 3) Baths when needed

Looking after long haired guinea pigs doesn't require lots of extra work; they need regular grooming, trimming to keep hair short & knot free; plus a bath when needed. If needed your piggies might be best on vet bed to help hair getting tangled with bedding.

photo source: Glynneath Guinea Pig Rescue & Rachel Neilson & Jessica Mitchell

Medical Facts

Guinea Pig Teeth

Guinea pigs have 20 teeth:

- a pair of upper and lower incisors;
- no canines (instead, a gap called the *diastema*);
- a pair of upper and lower premolars; and
- three pairs of upper and lower molars.

A guinea pig's teeth are 'open rooted' and grow continuously. The enamel is white in colour and the front teeth can be sharp. Fat pads in the cheeks make examination of the molars difficult. Buccal pad separators are designed to hold the cheeks back, aiding examination.



Good teeth are essential to your pet's health. A nutritious diet and adequate vitamin C will help them grow strong. In a healthy guinea pig, the biting, chewing and grinding of food (**especially hays, grasses, and abrasive foods**) will normally keep the teeth at the proper length.

Watch for any changes in how your guinea pig eats food. Examine the incisors regularly for breaks and irregular wear (like slanted teeth) during your weekly health check. Weight loss can be an early indicator of problems like malocclusion.

Maloccluded teeth are teeth that have not worn properly and over grow. Frequently the overgrowth of the front and back teeth occurs at the same time, although it may appear only the front teeth have overgrown. As the ability to chew deteriorates, the front teeth no longer

receive normal wear. Typically the bottom molars grow toward and sometimes over the tongue while the upper molars grow toward the cheeks (see picture left). These overgrown teeth prevent the normal chewing and eating of food and can cause sores and injuries to the mouth.

Some malocclusion is believed to be genetic, especially in cases where guinea pigs younger than two years are maloccluded.

Signs of Malocclusion are the guinea pig may have great difficulty eating, only picking at its food or may be not eating at all. The mouth of a guinea pig with malocclusion may hang slightly open. By the time most owners notice something is wrong, their pet has already lost a substantial amount of weight and may have what has been called "the slobbers". Since the mouth can no longer close completely (due to overgrowth of the teeth), the hair under the chin may be wet.

The most important thing a guinea pig owner can do for their pet is to weigh it weekly! Catching gradual weight loss before your guinea pig is seriously ill is essential.

An experienced veterinarian or animal dentist can help deal with problems that arise.

Information from: www.guinealynx.info

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



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