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In This Issue:

Welcome! 1
 Around the Refuge 1
 What’s On 2
 Guinea Pigs for Adoption 2
 Sponsorship 2
 Piggy Shop 3
 Weekly Tip 3
 Medical Facts 4
 Guinea Pig Food Facts 4

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the *QGPR Weekly* for 2016. We hope all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and look forward to your continued support this year.

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 range of stock and piggies for adoption.

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 Refuge

December was a huge month for the refuge with a large number of adoptions and surrenders taking place. As a result of the surrenders, QGPR now has a number of medical guinea pigs with conditions ranging from dental issues, bumble foot, tumours and eye injuries. Please consider donating as all funds help us to continue to help guinea pigs in our care. Donations can be made by [PayPal](#) or directly into our bank account. Details are:

Account name: Qld Guinea Pig Refuge Inc.
 BSB: 124 006 Account number: 2207 4473

QGPR volunteers have spent a number of days trying to catch and rescue guinea pigs that were dumped at a creek near a sporting field. We managed to rescue five; however, at least two still remain. We will continue to try and rescue these over the next week.





Many thanks to the concerned people who alerted us of these guinea pigs as they don't survive very long in the wild.

Rachel – Refuge Coordinator

What's On



Guinea Pigs for Adoption



Bilbo (4.5 years old)

Bilbo is a very gentle natured boy and loves hanging out with you. Bilbo is lonely and wants a friend to share his life with. What a cute little face!

Stormie and Bolt

Stormie (approx. 2 years) and Bolt (approx. 1 year) are father and son who are hanging out awaiting their forever home. The boys get on really well and make a great team. Stormie is a little timid and likes to be held very securely when carried, but both will sit on your lap for extended periods, enjoying checking out their world.



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

Would you love to foster or adopt but are in a situation that won't allow you to? Or do you simply just want to help more? Sponsoring allows you to help us help piggies!

Cloudy was surrendered to QGPR with a large cyst on his back that he had been living with for around two years, and with it bursting around six months ago.



He has now had surgery to remove the cyst and is recovering in the hands of an experienced medical foster carer.



Please consider sponsoring Cloudy, or one of our other medical piggies who are having a rough time.

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

Piggy Shop

The Qld Guinea Pig Refuge Online Piggy Shop Facebook page has now been closed down. However, stock is still available for sale at our open days at Bracken Ridge. We also sell a variety of brand new hutches, like the one

pictured, and our prices are extremely competitive.

All money raised from the sales of hutches goes back into the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of piggies in need, and towards paying our large vet bills.



Details are: length 1185mm, width 610mm, height 1290mm and the cost is \$130. This hutch can be used outdoors, on a patio or indoors.

However, this hutch is NOT predator proof, having only thin black bars, and will need snake proof wire added to ensure your piggies are safe if being used outdoors. It also needs something like corflute to cover the partial wire base floor to protect your piggy's tiny, delicate feet.

Weekly Tip

Guinea pig tip of the week
from the Guinea Pig Community

Weigh your piggies weekly...
so that you can pick up on any health problems early

Guinea pigs are a prey animal and therefore naturally try to hide any sign of illness. By regularly weighing and recording your guinea pigs' weight you'll be able to pick up on whether there is a hidden illness.

Photo source: The Excellent Adventure Sanctuary

Medical Facts

The importance of having more than one guinea pig

Guinea pigs are highly social herd animals and thrive in the company of other guinea pigs. In the wild, they live in groups and are prey animals. Having at least one friend gives them a feeling of safety. A human can't take the place of a guinea pig companion. If you are going to be away for a large part of the day, it is even more important to have a pair of guinea pigs of the same sex. You will end up with a much happier animal.

Compatibility

It is a common myth that two male guinea pigs will fight. Compatibility between guinea pigs is determined by personalities of the individuals, rather than their gender. A few guinea pigs will fight with any pig you try to pair them with, but the vast majority thrive on company. Introductions should be made in an open area, watching closely for an hour or so.



If they seem to be getting along well they can be moved to a freshly cleaned cage (the larger, the better, as it will improve the odds of making a successful pairing). Watch them closely for another hour or so to make sure they continue to get along. Immediately separate fighting guinea pigs with a towel to avoid being bitten. It is common that a guinea pig won't get on with the first new guinea pig you trial it with. You may need to try numerous guinea pigs before you get a pair that get on. This is the advantage

of adopting guinea pigs through a refuge or shelter as they will trial your guinea pig with others before you adopt. This way, you will know they get on and don't fight when you take your new guinea pig home.

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.

Guinea Pig Food Facts

Kale

Kale is an amazing vegetable, so full of vitamins and minerals it will take forever to list them all. These include iron, vitamins A and C, calcium and it also has antioxidants such as carotenoids and flavonoids.

Kale is used as an anti-inflammatory in humans and contains Omega 3 fatty acids that can help fight against arthritis and auto-immune disorders. Studies have shown kale to have the highest protective effect against bladder cancer.

Due to its high content of calcium and other vitamins and minerals, piggies should only be fed kale one to two times a week to help maintain a good health.



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

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