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Around the Refuge

QGPR is still receiving requests from people wanting to surrender their guinea pigs. We are looking for new foster carers to help us care for these guinea pigs as our current carers are over capacity. If you are interested, please complete our foster carers form at the following link: <http://www.qldguineapigrefuge.com.au/foster-carer-application.html>.

The high heat and humidity over the last month has really affected guinea pigs living outdoors. Please make sure they are in 100% shade, and when the temperature gets over 30 degrees, place an ice-brick or frozen water bottle in their cage to help them cool down. Also make sure they have fresh water, and give them vegies high in water content, such as cucumber and celery, to help them stay hydrated.

Rachel - Refuge Coordinator

Welcome!

Welcome to the February edition of the *QGPR Weekly*.

Open Days are held on the first and third Saturday of each 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

What's On

QLD Guinea Pig Refuge
next open day
Saturday, 5 March 2016
10am-3.30pm
 At the Bald Hills Scout Den, 508 Bracken Ridge Road.
 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... Old Guinea Pig Refuge

Guinea Pigs for Adoption



Scarlet and Violet (3 months)

Scarlet and Violet are two cheeky sisters who love to popcorn around their cage and climb on top of their hidey. They are a vocal pair of girls and will talk to you, especially at dinnertime! They are good to hold, but being babies, may not be suitable for small children.



Bib and Bob (7 months)

Bib and Bob are brothers and the best of friends. They love cuddles together. Bib loves scratches behind the ears and Bob loves scratches under the chin. They squeak for their breakfast and dinner and stand on their back legs to get a better view while their meals are being prepared. A great pair for children.

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

This is Spartan. One of our volunteers received a call from a friend saying a cat had attacked their neighbour's guinea pig, and it was in pain and wouldn't walk. When the friend took the guinea pig to the owner to let them know what had happened, they said that it was ok, as they let him out to die anyway. The volunteer rushed him to an experienced medical foster carer, who administered pain medication, antibiotics and bandaged him to try and stop him scratching himself, as he also has hair loss and an infected wound from an earlier attack.

As Spartan was very underweight, he stayed with our vet for a few days. The wounds were deep, but luckily no internal injuries. Spartan has needed another vet visit to have an abscess on his back drained and cleaned. It was expected he would get at least one abscess following the cat attack, as cats' teeth are very toxic. The wound is being cleaned twice a day by his foster carer until it is fully healed.



If you can help cover Spartan's vet costs, donations can be made into our bank account or by PayPal at qldguineapigrefuge@live.com.

Bank Account details are:

Account name: Qld Guinea Pig Refuge Inc.

BSB: 124 006 Account number: 2207 4473

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

QGPR Piggy Shop

Not only does QGPR sell our own Pig'n'Mix and hay at open days, we also have a large range of products at competitive pricing. This includes hutches, bedding, water bottles and food bowls for your guinea pigs' every need.

Plastic based cages are only suitable for indoor living, and are recommended by QGPR. They are easy to clean and, being inside, allow for so much more interaction between you and your guinea pigs. However, it is important that these cages are only used indoors (on a patio is not suitable) as they aren't predator proof and offer no protection from the elements.

Plastic based cages are also easy to decorate and rearrange – you can use igloos, hammocks, tunnels, caves, tents, the options are endless! These cages come in a variety of sizes, so ensure your cage is the right size for the number of piggies you have.



The profits from all sales goes towards the guinea pigs in our care.

Meet the Team - Jeni

A little about you?

Although guinea pigs are often viewed as a children's pet, I got my first two in my early thirties after a friend decided to get some.

At that time, there were no rescue shelters dedicated to guinea pigs, so I got my girls from a pet shop run by a vet (who I soon came to realise knew very little about guinea pigs and their needs).

How did you become a volunteer?

I had just lost one of my original girls and I was searching online to find my remaining girl a new friend. I found an ad for a guinea pig rescue organisation and eventually adopted a girl from them. I then started volunteering with that organisation (which closed a couple of years ago). I kept in touch with several volunteers from there who went on to form QGPR, and I started volunteering regularly at open days about a year ago.

Most memorable piggy moment?

It's very hard to pick a particular moment over the 12 years that I had guinea pigs. However, meeting my 'soul pig' Biddy (that is, a guinea pig that you form a particularly close bond with) was one of the most precious experiences. She was originally a foster pig who came from a terrible rescue case of 60 guinea pigs. After having her for a couple of days, I knew that I couldn't give her up.



What is something people may not know about guinea pigs?

I think many people underestimate the intelligence of guinea pigs. Mine knew their names and came to understand certain words and phrases like "who wants some food?" This would result in them running around the cage wheeking at me.

Medical Facts

Cheilitis

Cheilitis is an inflammation of the lips that often results in scab-like sores on the lips and nose of a guinea pig. It looks just like cold sores. Cheilitis can be caused by a bacterial infection, a yeast infection or fungal infection.

Most cheilitis clears up with the application of oral Nilstat twice a day. Apply the Nilstat to the guinea pig's lips and nose area and also give it an oral dose of 0.1m twice a day. Oral Nilstat can be purchased at chemists.

If no improvement is seen within a week, the guinea pig will need to see a cavy savvy vet for a prescription antibiotic cream.



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

Capsicum

Did you know that both guinea pigs and humans cannot produce their own vitamin C? Without enough vitamin C, guinea pigs can suffer from conditions such as scurvy, rickets and have problems with their immune systems.

It is essential to feed fruits or vegetables high in vitamin C daily to your piggies to keep them healthy.

A great vegetable to feed your guinea pigs for vitamin C is capsicum, especially the red variety. Cos, spinach, grass and parsley also have lots of vitamin C. Feeding your piggies a combination of capsicum and other veggies will help to help keep them healthy and interested in their food.



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

Qld Guinea Pig Refuge...
...is pleased to provide Pig'n Mix, hay and worm & mite treatment at locations and times other than our open days. Please refer to the contact information below for your nearest location to arrange a suitable time. At least 24 hours notice is appreciated.

Pig'n Mix: \$6 per bag ★ Hay biscuit: \$4 ★ Worm & Mite treatment: \$5 per pig
Please ask about our loyalty programs!

Location	Contact	Pig'n Mix	Hay	Worm & Mite
Jimboomba	jlc2330@hotmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Bracken Ridge	oetjodie@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓
The Gap	achkruse@live.com.au	✓	✓	✓
Browns Plains	aaronskywros@hotmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Mt Cotton	natalie.garden@qimr.edu.au	✓	✓	✓
Wynnum	chris.rollie29@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓



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