



**Edition 22 - March 2016**

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***Around the Refuge***

The Refuge is still having a number of guinea pigs being surrendered, many of them with various medical conditions that require expensive vet treatment and some with weeks or months of aftercare. Our vet bill for last month alone was over \$2,000. Please consider donating so we can continue to help the guinea pigs in our care.

We are also expecting a large number of guinea pigs to be coming to the Refuge in the next week or so due to a rescue of dumped guinea pigs that QGPR is working with another shelter to save.

Easter/school holiday boarding places are filling up fast so please make sure to book your guinea pigs ASAP so they can be looked after while you enjoy your holidays.

*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, 19 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... Qld Guinea Pig Refuge

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## Guinea Pigs for Adoption



### Bronx and Nox (2 years)

Bronx and Nox are two beautiful Abyssinian brothers looking for their furever home. Bronx and Nox have been in foster care for many months now learning how to behave when having cuddles. They both get a little bit excited when being picked up so are best suited for an adult only home. Their favourite time of the day is grass time and getting hand-fed veggies through their cage.



### Summer and Trixie

Please meet Summer (white) and Trixie (black and brown), a mum and daughter pair who get along very well. Summer is approximately 10 months old and Trixie is only four months old so still has lots of baby energy.

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

Buttercup (Himalayan) and Marigold (brown) are both around 8 months old. They were surrendered to QGPR with severe dental issues. Buttercup had lost three of her incisors and Marigold had no incisors remaining. Buttercup and Marigold underwent dental surgery to clean up infections and trim down their molar teeth while their incisors grew back. Marigold is still having a few dental issues, her incisors are growing back misaligned and she has lost one of her top incisors due to infection for the second time. Marigold also has "shards" of broken tooth or bone which erupt from her top gum near her incisors. Buttercup's incisors have grown back better, although her back molars needed filing down a second time and she has had gastrointestinal issues from not being able to eat a correct guinea pig diet.

Although both girls have already come a long way on their road to recovery, Buttercup and Marigold will need ongoing dental care, monitoring and support feeding.



If you can help cover Buttercup and Marigold's vet costs, donations can be made by PayPal at [qldguineapigrefuge@live.com](mailto:qldguineapigrefuge@live.com), or into our 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.

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## QGPR Piggy Shop

Did you know that you can get all your piggy's needs at our open days? This includes hutches, bedding, water bottles and food bowls at very competitive prices.

We recommend any guinea pigs living permanently on grass should have a hutch with a second level. This not only gives them more room, but also allows them to get up and off the grass, away from the cold and wet it can bring. These hutches are often not predator proofed, having only bars and will need snake proof wire attached to them to ensure your guinea pigs are safe. When considering this style of hutch, it's important to note that guinea pigs love grass and will eat the bottom area to the roots in two days on average.



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

## Meet the Team - Chris

### A little about you?

I had guinea pigs when I was growing up and last year decided it was time I remembered what it was like to have these tiny friends. I found QGPR and went to an open day. Within minutes of holding some of the adoptable pigs, I remembered my love for them and begged the boss to let me buy all of them. The next open day, I returned with my fiancée, and we

immediately adopted two babies now named Pumba and Henry.

### How did you become a volunteer?

I saw that QGPR was asking for volunteers and the next open day saw me learning the ropes. Initially helping set up cages and gazebos, I slowly started to learn how to groom and provide medicine to the piggies. Twelve months on and I foster six guinea pigs and am getting confident enough to provide basic advice and adopt piggies out to their forever families.



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

One fact I learnt recently was that guinea pigs are one of the few animals not affected by domestication. Research shows that common household pets such as dogs and cats have a smaller brain due to domestication, whereas guinea pigs stayed just as smart as they were!

## Weekly Tip



## Medical Facts

### Grease Glands

The grease gland in a guinea pig is located just above where a tail would be, if guinea pigs had a tail. Some females and males have active grease glands that can be difficult to clean as the grease builds up. If not kept clean, the area can become raw, irritated or infected.

Malaseb Shampoo can be used to clean the grease gland. Apply the shampoo, let it sit for ten minutes then rinse off.

Cheap dishwashing liquids are also effective, using the method outlined above.

Coconut oil can also work when applied twice a day for a number of days.



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

### Kale

Kale is an amazing vegetable, it is 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 their health and happiness.



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	jlc8330@hotmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Bracken Ridge	oetjodie@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓
The Gap	ackkruse@live.com.au	✓	✓	✓
Browns Plains	aaronskywros@hotmail.com	✓	✓	✓
Mt Cotton	natalie.garden@qimr.edu.au	✓	✓	✓
Wynnum	chris.rollie89@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓



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