



**Edition 8 – January 2015**

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***Around the Shelter***

Welcome to another year filled with piggie love and rescue at QGPR. We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Over the holiday season, things continued at full steam and we've entered 2015 well and truly over our maximum capacity. With lots of pregnant females and males in need of desexing, QGPR has been a very busy place!

We are currently looking for markets, fetes and other events where QGPR can hold stalls to help broadcast our name and sell our products. If you know of any in your area, or are organising some yourself, please send us an email at [qldguineapigrefuge@live.com](mailto:qldguineapigrefuge@live.com) and we would love to get involved.

*Tabitha – Shelter Manager*

***Welcome!***

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of the QGPR Weekly for 2015. I hope you enjoy reading our news and find this edition interesting and informative. Please let us know if you have any suggestions and/or contributions for future newsletters.

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***

**next OPEN day**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9am-4pm**  
 Please note that adoption requires 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 2 days prior to open day for processing.  
 More details... QLD Guinea Pig Refuge

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## ***Piggies for Adoption***



### **Stewie (1 year 3 months)**

Stewie is a single male looking for a forever male friend. He is a bubbly, outgoing piggy with a lot of love to give not only to a piggy friend but to an owner as well. He especially likes a scratch between the ears and a quick brush on his back.



### **Kelly and Fidget (both 1 year 11 months)**

Kellie and Fidget (desexed male) have recently become friends. Both piggies enjoy a cuddle

and are outgoing. Kellie especially loves to snuggle up.

These piggies, and many more, are looking for their forever homes and are \$15 each, and desexed males \$30 each. They come fully health checked, worm and mite treated, and have been living at their foster carer's home where they receive lots of handling time. If you are interested in adopting these, or any other guinea pigs, 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 in need.



Miranda was rescued on 29 November 2014 from a large scale backyard breeding situation. A total of 73 guinea pigs were rescued, but Miranda's condition is definitely the worst. Miranda arrived with a severely broken and infected back leg, covered in mange, and possibly pregnant. She was in pain and was quickly taken to the Albany Creek Veterinary Surgery for treatment.

Miranda has since had her leg amputated and is in a bandage full time to protect her skin, as well as stop her from continuing to scratch. She's on pain medication and antibiotics as well as having products applied directly to her skin.

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

## **QGPR Online Shop**

We are excited to finally be able to provide Hound Houses via our online shop! Many supporters have asked when they will be available.

We will have green and blue houses in stock from 12 January 2015. One house is \$20. Postage costs for up to four houses will be \$13.40.

This is a great option for something for your piggies to hide in during the warmer months.

All profits from these sales go directly back into the rescue, rehabilitation and care of QGPR guinea pigs. We post within Australia only, using pre-paid satchels. For more information, go to our [online shop](#).



## **Meet the Team**

**Amy**

### ***A little about you...***

I am a high school teacher at an all boys' Catholic college. Despite its challenges, I really love my job!

I currently have nine of my own guinea pigs including my beautiful, blind girl Sugar (pictured). They are all rescue pigs or babies born on foster care.



### ***How did you become a piggy volunteer and foster parent?***

I had guinea pigs for a number of years before I moved to Brisbane. When one of my older piggies became ill, our vet recommended a local shelter to find a friend for her. After a while, I became a foster carer and volunteer. It didn't take long for me to fall in love with many of my foster pigs!

### ***Most memorable piggy moment?***

Over the years I have fostered many guinea pigs through various pregnancies. While that seems like a great experience, it can also be very hard. Guinea pigs who are on second or third (or more) back-to-back pregnancies are at extreme risk. We have gone through two emergency caesareans and unfortunately a few stillbirths. I have spent some many hours watching pregnant pigs for signs of labour, but have always just missed out on seeing the actual birth.

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

Guinea pigs are very different to cats and dogs to treat. They are actually classed as exotic pets. Because of this, when your piggy needs medical attention, it is always best to see an exotics vet who specialises in guinea pigs.

## Medical Facts

### Barbering

Barbering is a condition in which a guinea pig loses hair due to fur-chewing, either by the pig itself or by a fellow guinea pig. Barbering may be a result of boredom, lack of hay, stress, or other unknown factors.

Sometimes barbering can be reduced by giving your guinea pigs more hay or providing it with safe toys like toilet rolls filled with hay or tunnels, etc. In other cases it can be very hard to cure and is just a habit of the offending guinea pig. Barbering doesn't hurt the guinea pig being barbered or the offending guinea pig.



Photo from [guinealynx.com](http://guinealynx.com).

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.

## Piggie Food Facts

### 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](#).

### The Great Guinea Pig Wordsearch



CUCUMBER  
LETTUCE  
CABBAGE  
BROCCOLI  
CARROT  
HAY  
SWEETCORN  
PELLETS  
GRASS  
DANDELIONS  
GRAPES  
TOMATOES  
KALE  
CELERY  
PARSLEY  
CORIANDER



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