



**Edition 9 – February 2015**

***In This Issue:***

Welcome! ..... 1

Around the Shelter ..... 1

What's On ..... 1

Piggies for Adoption ..... 2

Sponsorship ..... 2

QGPR Online Shop ..... 3

Meet the Team ..... 3

Health Facts ..... 4

Piggy Food Facts ..... 4

***Welcome!***

Welcome to the February edition of the *QGPR Weekly*. Another busy month ahead with big changes at the Refuge!

I hope you enjoy reading our news and find this edition interesting and informative.

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 Shelter***

We are moving! Our open days from 7 March 2015 will be held at our new location in Bracken Ridge. The two February open days will still be at our Deception Bay address.

To help with the move, we are having moving day sales at the 7 and 21 February open days, with great bargains to be had, especially with our second hand cages. So be sure to get there early for some great specials!

The opening time will also be changing to 10am from the March open day. To find out the new address, please send a PM after the 21 February open day to the QGPR Facebook page by clicking [here](#). We look forward to seeing you at our new location!

***What's On***

**next OPEN day**  
**Saturday 21st Feb. 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**

---

## ***Piggies for Adoption***



### **Molly (2.5 years old)**

Meet Molly! She is a cuddly piggy with a beautiful nature. She loves cuddles and especially loves getting her butt rubbed! She isn't keen on other girls so she is on the lookout for a desexed boyfriend. Who can resist those eyes!



### **Snowy and Flake (2 months old)**

Snowy and Flake are young brothers. These boys are very active babies who love playing tag in the cage, running through and on top of their teepee. They sit very calmly in your hand and both enjoy a scratch behind the ear.

Snowy will be long haired as he grows older while Flake will stay short.

These piggies, and many more, are looking for their forever homes and are \$15 each. Desexed males are \$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, please fill out our [Adoption Enquiry Form](#).

## ***Sponsorship***

Sponsoring allows you to help us help piggies in need.



Heidi has severe mange. She is having seizures from the pain and is on medication to help with this, including cortisone and antibiotics as well as soothing products applied directly to her skin. Heidi needs to be bandaged to stop her from scratching herself to the point of bleeding, which in turn brings on the seizures.



---

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

## **QGPR Online Shop**

Coming soon! Look out for our new range of QGPR t-shirts and singlets! Details will be posted when the stock arrives!

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**

**Rebecca**

### ***A little about you-***

I am a mum of two, with the recent arrival of a daughter! I have a biomedical science background and work within this industry. I

have had an affinity and love for animals my whole life, of which guinea pigs have been a big part. I currently have two little boys, Rupert and Babu.



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

I adopted one of my boys from another shelter from which QGPR branched and wanted to do more to help the piggies. I sew items for the piggy shop and donate what I can to this wonderful cause.

I would love to be a foster parent, but my husband is highly allergic to guinea pigs, thus I only have my own two.

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

I have so many, but piggy kisses and cuddles always pull at my heart strings. But if I have to pick one, when Rupert came into my life at a very difficult time – this little man of mine talks non-stop and I could not help but smile all the time around him! Piggies change your life in ways you never expect.

### ***What is something people may not know about Guinea Pigs?***

They each have a very unique personality and character just like humans and can give as much if not more love than your classic pets like cats and dogs. They are very good at hiding when they are sick, so picking up the smallest change in them and rushing them to a guinea pig specialised vet is a must.

## Health Facts

### Male Guinea Pigs

Many may not be aware that their boys need a bit of extra care. Below is a guide of what you need to do to keep them happy and healthy. The impaction poster will be coming soon!



### Monthly boar cleaning

What you need to do for the boys

- ★ Needed for complete and neutered boars

#### 1 CHECK FOR IMPACTION

- ★ Impact interferes with the piggies digestive system, and prevents absorption of the necessary vitamins
- ★ See the impaction health poster for more details



#### 2 CLEAN THE PENIS

- ★ Check & clean the piggy's penis to remove the smegma that builds up
- ★ Hold your piggy on his back resting securely against you
- ★ Push down on both sides of his penis so that the shaft comes out
- ★ Remove any white debris with a moistened tissue or warm water



#### 3 CHECK THE GREASE GLAND

- ★ The dime-sized area located approx half an inch up the anus; it is leathery and often has a greasy feel. Clean it to prevent infection.
- ★ Use a substance like coconut oil to break up the build-up, and wash off

Any concerns about your piggie?  
Contact your **cavy savvy vet** now!

Information Source: Glynneath Guinea Pig Rescue, Piggy Bank, Guinea Pig Today, Guinea Pig Forum



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.

## Piggy Food Facts

### Corn on the Cob

Corn on the cob is popular with many guinea pigs and it is all edible! The best parts however, are the husks or leaves and the silk of the corn. The husks have a similar nutrient content to grass and hay as they are high in fibre and low in protein. The outer leaves

should always be removed as these pose a pesticide danger, plus are usually quite dry and hard in comparison to the soft green leaves underneath.



The silk is great for guinea pigs' bladders. Always make sure that they are cut into small pieces as they can cause a choking hazard. Husks and silks can be fed on a daily basis as part of a varied diet. The corn kernels, although fine to give to guinea pigs, are low in nutritional value and are quite starchy so are best only given once to twice a week.

Too much corn can cause impaction, bacterial bloat or peritonitis, and bladder stones in some guinea pigs because they cannot easily digest large starch molecules. If corn has never been fed, it is recommended to always introduce the corn kernels slowly in small bits to see how the individual guinea pig reacts. Baby corn is better for guinea pigs as the starch has not yet developed.

Never give cooked corn on the cob as guinea pigs are unable to digest these. Tinned sweetcorn is also not suitable due to the high salt content of the preservatives used.

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



© Qld Guinea Pig Refuge