

Guinea Pig Information

Did you know?

- Guinea pigs can't make their own vitamin C which is why they need fresh food to prevent scurvy
- Guinea pigs are also known as 'cavies'
- Guinea pigs can live for an average of 5 – 7 years, but can live up to 10 years old. The oldest pig we've had in rescue is 8½!
- Boy pigs are known as boars and girls sows
- Sows can become pregnant as young as 4 weeks of age; they can be mated within minutes of giving birth & boars can be sexually mature at 3 weeks of age so must be separated from their mother & sisters at this age
- A pig's teeth continue to grow for its entire life
- Guinea pigs jump about when they are happy, it's called 'popcorning'
- All guinea pigs have a bald patch behind their ears
- There are thousands of guinea pigs in rescue, please don't breed your pigs

Rescue Wishlist

Donations are always most welcome – here are just a few of the ways in which you can help the Rescue.

- Good quality bales of hay
- Fresh veg – kale, cucumber, romaine/cos lettuce, herbs, carrots
- Burgess excel nuggets
- Aubiose bedding
- Heavy duty black sacks
- Vetsect shampoo
- Sponsor a resident – some pigs can never be re-homed & become permanent residents – for further details see our website
- If you would like to make a monetary donation please visit our website or contact the Rescue via the email address below for payment details
- Amazon wish list – a link to our wish list can be found on our website

Contact Details

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Guinea Pigs & Us East Peckham Guinea Pig



East Peckham Guinea Pig Rescue
in a home based, independent
rescue based in West Kent

Sandra opened East Peckham Guinea Pig Rescue (EPGPR) in 2012 after fostering piggies for Crawley Guinea Pig Rescue for several years & keeping rescued guinea pigs as pets for many years. Having seen the plight of unwanted piggies whilst fostering for Crawley, she felt she needed to do more for pigs in need.

EPGPR is funded by Sandra & kind donations from her supporters & adopters. This money covers food, hay, bedding, vet bills, accommodation/runs, cleaning materials, electricity, petrol & everything else!!

EPGPR has no salaried staff; the only time someone is paid for their time is if cover is needed in the case of holidays & in this instance this is funded by Sandra. Anyone that is kind enough to make a donation can be assured that their hard earned cash will be spent entirely on the welfare of the piggies.

So what does it cost to run a guinea pig rescue? As a rough estimate, the basic running costs of the rescue per week are:

- Dried food- £12.00
- Vegetables- £30 when she can, Sandra collects unsold veg from the local market stall
- Bedding & hay- £25

That's a minimum of about £268 per month & that's before any vet bills!

EPGPR takes in guinea pigs that, for one reason or another, can no longer be cared for by their owners. The Rescue also takes in neglected piggies, treats them as necessary, gets them back to full health before offering them for re-homing whenever possible. The Rescue also offers help & advice to piggy owners & many pigs have already found wonderful forever homes with help from EPGPR.



EPGPR also works closely with other guinea pig rescues around the country & is proud to be an approved member of the Piggy Bank. Sometimes we are asked to help in situations where 100's of guinea pigs are in need of help, a number we wouldn't be able to house alone. With assistance from PB volunteers we are able to find safe places with other trusted rescues, where we know the pigs will get any treatment they may require. Rescue situations like this take a lot of organisation & resources, something East Peckham Guinea Pig Rescue is proud to be a part of.

How to Adopt

Guinea pig ownership is very rewarding but it is a long term commitment both in terms of time & money. It is the policy of EPGPR not to re-home to families with children under the age of 9. This was not a decision taken lightly, but one based on the welfare of the guinea pigs. Older children/teenagers can benefit hugely from taking on the care of small animals, but it must be remembered that the ultimate responsibility for them remains with the parent/s.

So, you are interested in adopting what happens next? The first step is to get in touch to have a chat about what you are looking for, tell us a bit about yourselves & we will be able to tell you a little about the pigs in our care. The next step is for us to carry out a 'home check', this is purely to make sure you have the right accommodation for the piggies.

We have a set minimum donation fee which enables us to continue our work. If you have a single piggy that is looking for a new friend we are able to offer 'piggy bonding'. This is not something we recommend doing yourself as it is important to get the right match & to bond in safety.

Finally, we do not support breeding or showing & will never re-home for these purposes. Pregnancy is very hard on a young sow – please choose to adopt.