

SGPR NEWS

January 2016



Issue 1 – January 2016

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Welcome

A very warm welcome to the first ever edition of SGPR News. We intend to use our newsletter to share news from around Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue as well as provide welfare advice.

This is your newsletter and a new communication tool for Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue so should you have any suggestions or comments please email us:

sarniaguineapigs@gmail.com

Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue was founded in October 2012 and provides a safe haven for the many unwanted and neglected guinea pigs in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Leo Thomas – Founder of SGPR

Around SGPR

December 2015 was a rather hectic month for the SGPR team of trustees with various administrative tasks to complete such as finalising the 2015 finances, renewing our charitable status and sorting out the masses of stamps kindly donated by our supporters.

December saw two guinea pigs surrendered to the care of the rescue. Pipoca, along with his brother Juba were surrendered in to our care due to changes in their owner's circumstances.



As we move into 2016 we can start the countdown to the reopening of our ranch style outdoor enclosures. We intend to re-open our enclosures on Sunday 1st May 2016. But between now and then we have lots of work to carry out, reseeding/planting the enclosures, and create guinea pig enrichment areas.

Animals at SGPR

As of December 2015, Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue was a safe haven to 24 animals.

23 guinea pigs
1 rabbit

Donkeys

In late December 2015, Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue was contacted by the owner of several donkey's requesting assistance with the day to day care of their pet donkeys due to suffering from a deteriorating health condition. The health conditions mean that the owner can no longer perform many of the manual tasks associated with keeping donkeys.

Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue is now working with the owner to provide this day to day support so that they can enjoy the companionship of their pets.

The founder of SGPR has a personal interest with donkeys and is pleased to be able to offer this support by volunteering his time, no funds from SGPR are being used for the care of these animals.



Winter Care Advice



So far this winter has been rather mild, but we have had periods of cold wintry weather.

Sadly winter isn't a good time of year for many guinea pigs. Sadly, some people don't want to go out in the dark/cold/wet/wind to clean out the hutch, feed the guinea pig, and spend some time giving it a cuddle and a quick health check. So they get neglected, water bottles get iced up making it impossible for guinea pigs to get a vital drink, hutches end up stinking and soaking, and guinea pigs fall ill and could even die.

Here are some important things to think about:

- Make sure you cover your guinea pigs hutch at night, make it draught and waterproof.
- Change the bedding frequently as wet bedding can freeze.
- Get a spare water bottle, also consider purchasing a bottle snug.
- Older guinea pigs can suffer from arthritis so make sure they are snug and warm.
- Put a thick layer of newspaper on the base of the sleeping area, this helps to insulate.
- If you can, move the hutch indoors to a shed or unused garage – Please DO NOT move your guinea pig hutch into the garage if it is used to store your car, the fumes could easily kill your guinea pig.
- Keep an old towel handy to dry your guinea pig just in case it unexpectedly gets caught in the rain.

Used Stamp Appeal



Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue is raising money by recycling postage stamps. Whether they're British or overseas, new or used, send them to use and we'll turn your old postage stamps into funds that will allow us to care for the animals that call Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue home.

Stamps are sold by weight. As a general guideline we can expect to receive around £20 for one kilogram of stamps, so do please encourage your friends and family, at home and abroad to save their stamps for us.

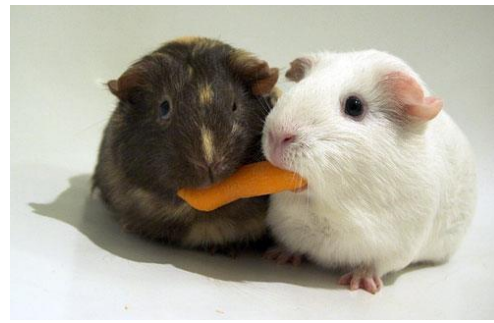
Collected stamps should then be sent to:

Sarnia Guinea Pig Rescue - Recycling Appeal
Kinneer Cottage
Rohais De Haut
St Andrews
GUERNSEY
GY6 8YX

Guinea Pig Food Fact

Guinea pigs thrive on a well-balanced diet of hay/grass, pellets and fresh produce. While most guinea pigs love to eat carrots or carrot peels, the crunchy vegetable isn't as healthy as you may think. Carrots are packed full of sugar, although it's natural sugar it still is not healthy for your guinea pig and could lead to health problems linked to obesity.

Like most fruit and vegetables feed to guinea pigs, moderation is key.



Please remember that a guinea pigs diet should consist of 80% hay/grass, 10% pellets and 10% of fruit/vegetables.



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