



A LOOK BACK AT 2011

December 2011 - End-of-the Year Newsletter

*Best day ever: August 13<sup>th</sup> SoCal PigNoc in Irvine*



It was a beautiful day for a Picnic!

Although it wasn't the rescue's first official Pignic event, we hadn't had one since 2003 and this one was outdoors.

It was an amazing event thanks to all the hard work of our volunteers and all the wonderful sponsors who donated items.

We had lots of cool things going on including guinea pig contests, silent auction, raffles, and educational talks, including a diet talk from one of our founding members, Nicole Peeples and a health talk featuring Dr. Tom Greek, a favorite piggie veterinarian of Greek & Associates in Yorba Linda.

It was very successful, with many people coming to the park at the Irvine Animal Shelter with their guinea pigs.

We had over 60+ guinea pig guests that day and about 70 humans!!



Guinea pigs getting cuddled!



Guinea pigs and their humans anxiously waiting for the veggie eating contest to start!





Malcolm enjoys the outdoors while safely in the shade.



Dr. Greek demonstrates on Frieda as he doles out some cavy advice!



Our awesome volunteer Susie 'mans' the grooming station!



Our wonderful PigNic coordinator Michiko shows off her custom Gin Gin cozy!



Queen Gin Gin won best costume!



We had products for your guinea pigs and humans for sale! Pictured are cozies and a C&C cage for sale.



Resident diva Angel takes a time out for a snack.



Oni shared the idea and nibbles on some grass.

# Thank You

Our Sponsors

*OCCH would like to thank all of our great sponsors who helped make our PigNic event such a success:*

- Ann Greene**
- Beauty 360 of Yorba Linda**
- Build-A-Bear**
- Busy Bunny**
- C Jewelry**
- Carefresh**
- Corner Bakery**
- Dave & Busters**
- Disneyland**
- EarthBath**
- Janice Beasley**
- Jeany Aguirre and John Hill**
- Fresh & Easy Market**
- Healthforce Green Mush**
- Jen's Custom Crafts**
- Julie Campion**
- IMC Computer Consultant**
- Kaytee**
- Kleenmama's Hayloft**
- Knott's Berry Farm**
- Leiana Swadish**
- Melissa Taylor**
- Mindy Michaela**
- My Lip Stuff**
- Oxbow**
- Pearl Paradise**
- PF Chang's**
- Pier 39**
- Primal Strips**
- Red Robin**
- Rubio's**
- Sanctuary Salon of Malibu**
- Six Flags Magic Mountain**
- Sprouts**
- Souplantation**
- Sweet Meadow Farm**
- Tiffany Picard**
- Trader Joe's**
- Universal Studios**
- Veggie Grill**
- Vons**
- Yard House**

# 175+ Guinea Pigs rescued in one month!



This year, Orange County Cavy Haven was able to rescue more guinea pigs than ever before in previous years, thanks to support from people like you.

The bad news?

The majority of these guinea pigs were not only abandoned at high-kill animal shelters but neglected and in poor shape.

This past September, a homeowner went to check out the property of their recently evicted tenant and found two dirty tubs filled with 23 guinea pigs.

The guinea pigs were not only without food or water for who knows how long, but they were caked in dirt and their own poop.



Almost all of the sows were pregnant or had recently given birth. One of the guinea pigs died shortly after the homeowner brought the guinea

pigs to a Los Angeles-area animal shelter.

With some quick networking and several people who offered to foster, we were thankfully able to save all 22 (plus the unborn babies)!

But yikes, just as this group was safely in our rescue, the same animal shelter received a call from a woman who had 60 guinea pigs she wanted to surrender.

She brought in 80+ guinea pigs in the back of her pick-up truck on a hot afternoon. She came back the next day with 70+ more. She had placed them in plastic shopping bags, and they were starting to show signs of heat stroke.

They all had mites and scurvy, and were dehydrated. Many were wounded as well from infighting for scarce food sources.

Some had very bad injuries from predator attacks as they had been living outdoors without any protection from the elements.



**A nursing mom and several babies find safety in a foster home.**

Pretty much all of these guinea pigs were malnourished and had scurvy but are now doing much better after a lengthy

recovery period. They were not handled much as is usual with larger dumps, but our foster homes have been working hard to tame them.

*Some have been adopted but many are still looking for loving forever homes:*



**Chip and Dale - two cute young agouti brothers**



**Tiger - a pretty young agouti sow**



**David**



**Hershey & Snickers**

With the conjoined efforts of Wee Companions, Arizona Piggie Poo Rescue, and OCCH, we were able to save all 152 of the guinea pigs from the animal shelter. Many are still available for adoption through all the rescues.

Here is the original news story piece from KTLA news:

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-guinea-pigs-rescue,0,3687557.story?track=ss>



**Krusty was one of the guinea pigs in the worst condition from the bunch. He was covered in crust, could barely walk, and couldn't even sit or lay down because he was in so much pain.**

Here he is about a month later:



And now:



Cowgirl's story is especially touching. She had been badly attacked by a raccoon and been left to fend for herself with gaping wounds that filled with maggots. She also had mites.



She was just a baby herself but she was pregnant to boot.

She could barely hold her head up and wouldn't eat or drink. After many vet visits and daily hand feedings, she slowly got better.



An ultrasound revealed that she had two babies inside her but volunteers worried that she wouldn't be able to have the babies let alone nurse them.

But it was a miracle!



**Surprise! Cowgirl with her day-old babies, Annie and Wyatt**

*Help us save more guinea pigs like Cowgirl and Krusty!*

*OCCH is always in need of donations towards care of the guinea pigs in our rescue. We also need fosters and volunteers if you can spare the time!*

# 2011 Events

OCCH was out and about all over Southern California this year, educating the public about the plight of homeless guinea pigs and promoting guinea pig adoptions. Here are photos from some of the events:

## WHOLE FOODS ADOPTION EVENT IN HUNTINGTON BEACH



A lot of people coming out to see the guinea pigs and us!



Raccoon gets cuddled by a potential adopter.

## PET FAIR IN PASADENA



## PET EXPO AT THE OC FAIRGROUNDS



Marv was adopted after a family fell in love with him at an event!



## PET EXPO AT THE POMONA FAIRGROUNDS



*Our bi-monthly Supply Days are always lots of fun!*



**With lots of guinea pigs!**



**With lots of goodies for your guinea pigs...**



**We carry fresh orchard and timothy hay, Oxbow and Kleenmama's hay pellets, and Thoroughbred**

**Shavings, as well as cage accessories like Pigloos, Chubes, handmade cozies, water bottles, and more!**

**Our supply prices are usually lower than your local pet store and all proceeds go to the guinea pigs!**



**You can also bring your guinea pigs for grooming services!**



Jeany - a very special and fabulous volunteer - was honored for her work with the rescue at the 2011 Spirit of Volunteerism Luncheon.



Want to join in on  
the guinea pig fun?

Upcoming Events in 2012:

**Saturday, January 14**

Guinea Pig Adoption Event  
\*new adoption venue\*  
11am to 2pm

**Pet Supply Store**  
18545 Brookhurst St.  
Fountain Valley, CA



**Saturday, February  
TBD**

Supply Day Fundraiser -  
Anaheim  
11am to 1pm

Check the website soon for  
the date!

**Friday - Sunday  
April 20 through 22**

Join OCCH at the America's  
Family Pet Expo at the OC  
Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa!

We will have cute guinea pigs  
for adoption and goodies for  
sale!



## Letter to the Guinea Pig:



*Hi Cecil!  
I hear you are a very wise  
guinea pig. I hope you can  
help me.  
I am a single boy guinea pig.  
I am lonely most of the time  
even though my humans give  
me lots of attention. I  
sometimes wish I had  
another guinea pig to squeak  
with but I hear my owners  
say I will fight with another  
boy guinea pig?  
I don't think I will. I would  
play with them and be nice  
to them, even share my  
food. Can you help talk to my  
people?*

*- From, Lonely in OC*

Hi Lonely in OC. Thank you, I am very wise. That may be because I am partially blind. It sounds like your people have fallen for the old myth that boars will fight. I have a cage-mate named Timmy. He bugs me sometimes and I bug him but we also have lots of fun together too. Have your humans contact Cavy Haven! They will help you find a friend! – Cecil D. Pig



## GUINEA PIG TIP: OF THE DAY

Guinea pigs are susceptible to Scurvy, vitamin C deficiency as they cannot manufacture their own Vitamin C.

We recommend feeding veggies high in C. Many people use fresh oranges instead but they actually contain little vitamin C. Fruit also shouldn't be fed daily. It is too much sugar and can lead to Cheilitis.

There is a vitamin and mineral chart at Guinea Lynx:  
<http://www.guinealynx.info/chart.html>

But for older pigs, compromised or sick pigs, a little supplement is helpful.

We recommend GNC Chewable Vitamin C tablets. They are fruit-flavored.



Or Child Life Liquid Vitamin C, Orange Flavored. Most health or drug stores carry other brands of plain Vitamin C supplements as well.



# Happy Adoptions

Many of our guinea pigs found their forever homes this year. Here are just a few of the lucky ones:



**Peabody**



**Potsie & Wyatt**



**Lily**



**Fen**

We have so many more cute guinea pigs looking for their forever homes still:



**Camilla**



**Cookies & Fiyero**

Please contact us if you are interested in adopting!

Cavyhaven\_adoptions@yahoo.com



Recommended care links:

<http://cavyhaven.org/care.html>

<http://www.guinealynx.info/healthycavy.html>

<http://guineapigcages.com/>

<http://www.pigloo.net/forums/index.php>

<http://www.guineapigzone.com>

Recommended cavy products:

Oxbow Health  
<http://www.oxbowhay.com/>

Kleenmama's Hayloft  
<http://www.kmshayloft.com/>

Sewing 4 A Cause  
<http://www.windespirit.com/>

Jen's Custom Crafts  
<http://www.jenscustomcrafts.com/>

AZ Crafty Crew  
<http://www.azcraftycrew.com/>

Many guinea pigs were dumped in animal shelters this year. Below are just a few of them... some we were able to save, some we weren't. Help us save more like them...



# IN LOVING TRIBUTE



The loss of a pet is never an easy one.

*We just want to take a moment to remember some of the special guinea pigs we have lost this year:*

Deputy Doofy



Rose and Daisy



Rain



Kiara & Naomi



Kayla



Lela



Our little lethal babies defied the odds and lived longer than many Lethals do but still not long enough:

Frankie



Casper





Want to stay updated about OCCH news and events?



Join us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/cavyhaven>

Join us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/#!/OC CavyHaven>



Or e-mail [cavyhaven\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:cavyhaven_info@yahoo.com) to be added to our e-mail list!

### Help support **Orange County Cavy Haven!**

We are a small non-profit guinea pig rescue entirely run by non-paid volunteers.

All of our funds go towards the guinea pigs.

We have more guinea pigs in our care this year than ever before, and many sanctuary guinea pigs that have recurring medical needs.

You can always send donations to our PO Box:

**9877 Chapman Ave Ste D,  
PMB #124  
Garden Grove, CA 92841**

Or via Paypal:

<http://cavyhaven.org/help.html#pp>

Any donations are greatly appreciated and make the guinea pigs very happy,



**Please. I need more carrot!**



**I need more hay!**



If you have donated this year, we thank you for your support!

Unable to donate?

Please consider giving some of your time to volunteer. We need foster homes, event helpers, and transporters!

