

March is Adopt a rescued Guinea Pig Month

Did you know that every year, hundreds of guinea pigs find themselves in shelters when their owners decide they no longer can or want to care for them? To combat this abandonment, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and Petfinder.com sponsor "Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig" every March.

Domesticated guinea pigs, also known as cavies, are generally gentle animals that make good family pets, especially for children over six years of age. Small children should always be supervised by an adult when interacting with a guinea pig or any other pet.



Guinea pigs may live to be 10 (human) years old, so the decision to adopt one must be made carefully. Guinea pigs require daily care, including feeding, watering, cage cleaning, exercise, and companionship. They are social animals and definitely want to be a part of your family.

There are 13 breeds of guinea pigs, differing in hair types, colors, and markings. Their variety certainly is remarkable.

In most cases, the process of adopting a guinea pig, or any animal, involves an application process and an application fee. Shelters and rescue organizations want to be sure you understand the commitment you are making to the cavy and to giving the appropriate care that your guinea pig requires:

Housing: Guinea pigs enjoy play and can jump up to 12 inches high. Therefore, the ideal habitat should provide a minimum of 7.5 square feet (30 inches by 36 inches) for one guinea pig and soft roofing.

Toys: Guinea pigs love to hide, so include cardboard or PVC tubes or other types of hiding places in the cage.

Grooming and general care: Guinea pigs' teeth grow continuously, and they need to chew to keep their teeth the proper length. Provide your pig(s) with a piece of wood to gnaw on.

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March Calendar of Events

March 1st – National Horse Protection Day
March 1st – Pig Day
March 11th – Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
March 14th – ASC Meeting – 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd Floor
March 14th – Save a Spider Day
March 16th – Panda Day
March 17th – St. Patrick's Day
March 23rd – National Puppy Day
March 25th – Palm Sunday



ZIP

OUR TAKE



ZAP

A look at animal welfare from the eyes of ... these two!

ZIP: YEAH!!! St. Patrick's Day! Woohooooo! Green....umm.....water....yeah!

ZAP: Zip....do you understand what St. Patrick was most famous for?

ZIP: Sure do. Playing flutes and drinking green.....ummm.....water.....yeah!

ZAP: Oh My!! Not even close....well....sort of..... in a way.

ZIP: That's my plan!

ZAP: OK So St. Patrick was an almost mythical character who is said to have gotten rid of snakes in Ireland while on a 40 day fast. The whole "green water" thing arises from the fact that Ireland is almost all greenery. Here in America....everything turns green for one day....including rivers!

ZIP: REALLY????? I had no idea.

ZAP: All true. Now what's important to you as pet lovers and volunteers: do not make green water unless you are using food coloring that is sugar free. We have no need for sugar in our systems.

ZIP: Not even pie?

ZAP: NO!

ZIP: But we also celebrate by having corned beef and cabbage on this day.

ZAP: Well.....beef.....mmmm...sounds good.

ZIP: No, it's not good for us. Corned beef is chock full of sodium, and in that amount, sodium is really bad for us. Never feed us anything with large amounts of sodium. Cabbage may not be too bad alone, but paired with the corned beef, it would adversely affect us.

ZAP: You're always so cheerfully full of bad news.

ZIP: But, see....you will try and eat everything and not care what happens. Remember the day I swatted the chocolate donut outta your mouth?.... You barely got a bite in and you were sick for days.

ZAP: Yeah.....I know.....but it was still good.....until I started to.....eh.....never mind.

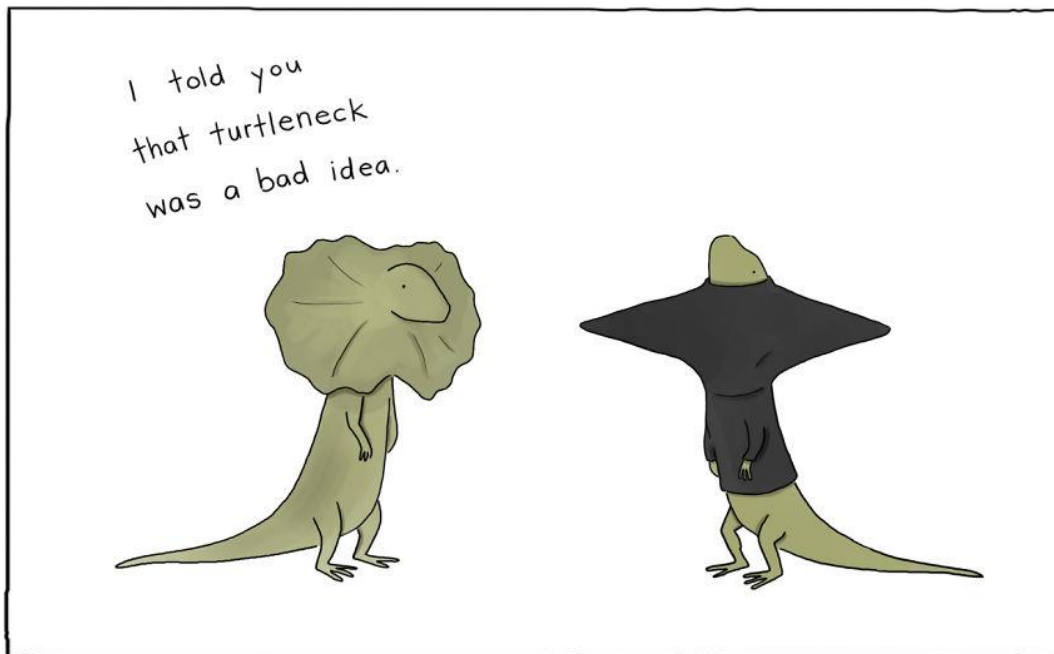
ZIP: Have a great month everyone.

NEWS & NOTES

MILESTONE HOURS	
(as of Dec. 31st)	
Rhonda Montgomery	2445
Julie Langers	1349
Shawn Fernberg	1078
Barbara Fowler	966
Megan Reyes	856
Jean Absher	767
Crystal Struckhoff	696
Danny Spanks	564
Ben Neal	561
Tricia Lamas	554
Nancy Apodoca	549
Teddi Rawles	504
Rhonda Smith	460
Stan Cameron	438
Rowena Yong	435
Tabitha Sanchez	321
Sarah Abate	302
Maggie Sanchez	297



MARCH BIRTHDAYS	DAY
CHEYENNE MUNDEHENKE	5 TH
AMBER CHRISSAKIS	12 TH
TORRI RAWLES	15 TH
PEGGIE SOLTIS	16 TH
FRANK ESPOSITO	18 TH
KASSANDRA NAVARETTE	21 ST
TAYLOR LAZARUK	22 ND
KATHY BERCKES	24 TH
CRYSTAL STRUCKHOFF	25 TH
JUAN MEDINA	25 TH
MARCY GONZALEZ	28 TH





Coordinator's Corner

Another wonderful month has passed us by, but that's ok. Another month of many dogs and cats going home to forever families!

I sent out a couple of major emails this past month regarding some serious issues.

Confidentiality Agreement

We all have signed a confidentiality agreement which means that if you see or learn of any Personal Identifiable Information (PII) and use it in any way outside of the shelter environment and you're found to be misusing this information, you could be charged with a misdemeanor that potentially can be elevated to a felony charge against you. For those of you who are looking at college or job applications, even misdemeanors can negatively affect your prospects.

I urge and warn you to be very careful about sharing what you see and hear and take pictures of.

Scheduling & no-shows

A schedule is built weekly for you to see and make changes as needed. The first draft is usually sent out on Friday afternoon and the final draft on Saturday afternoon.

What has been bothering me so much for these last 30 days is the number of unexplained volunteer no-shows. Not only are there too many no shows, but often, no reason is provided for not coming in.

One reason that has been suggested is that volunteers don't see their names on the schedule. Now, the schedule can change a lot between first and final drafts, so this can be more of a challenge to new volunteers than it is to you veterans, but it only takes a few minutes to review the schedule and to let me know if it presents a problem for you.

PLEASE PAY CLOSER ATTENTION. THE ANIMALS AND STAFF NEED YOU VERY MUCH!

Have a great March!