

# The Gender Reveal

Be a Responsible Guinea Pig Owner  
Identify Your Pet's Sex



Correct gender identification also known as "sexing" helps avoid unwanted and unplanned pregnancies

## FACTS:

- Guinea Pigs do NOT change sex
- Males are known as boars and females are called sows
- Scientific studies have shown that young males on average begin producing viable sperm between 45-55 days old, and puberty is normally reached by two months of age in both sexes
- However, it has also been reported that males as young as three weeks have produced viable sperm to successfully impregnate female guinea pigs, including family members
- Early sexing is important so males and females can be separated to avoid surprise pregnancies that can risk the lives of mother and babies
- The appearance of genitals can vary between individual animals

## HOW TO:

- While seated, place your guinea pig in on your lap using one hand to secure it and your other hand to turn it on its back exposing the stomach
- With that hand separate the back legs to expose the genital area
- You will then be able to view the genitals to determine sex

## NEWBORN:

- Sexes can be identified at birth, even if the process is new to you
- Remember the younger the baby the trickier it can be to correctly sex the animal because of the influence of maternal hormones in the womb and other physiological factors
- Sex identification can be confusing as similarities in appearance can arise when the vaginal area in a newborn female is swollen and a male's testes (contained in the scrotum sacs) are small and underdeveloped
- A simple rule of thumb is a boar's genital region looks like a dotted "i" and a sow's genital area looks like the letter "Y"
- If in doubt consult a vet, Queensland Cavy Council affiliated club or RSPCA recommended rescue

### NEWBORNS



MALE/BOAR

FEMALE/SOW

## TWO MONTHS OLD:

- Sexing becomes easier as male and female reproductive organs become more distinctive
- With very gentle pressure just above the organ, the penis will easily "pop" out, verifying the sex of the animal
- The vulva can start changing in appearance depending on whether the sow is in season (estrus)
- Sows have a mucus plug that covers the vulva and this dissolves during estrus changing the appearance of the genitals

### TWO MONTH OLDS



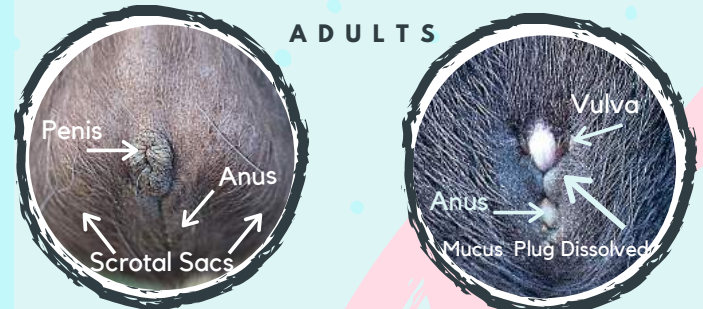
MALE/BOAR

FEMALE/SOW

## ADULT:

- At full sexual maturity, even a beginner should have no difficulty sexing male and female guinea pigs
- Boars have two large scrotal sacs, each containing one testicle, that run the length of the pubic area just above the penis to below the anus
- Adult boar testicles may range in size from 10 cent to 20 cent coins each
- In sows the estrus cycle occurs every 10 - 21 days depending on the individual female, and she is only fertile for about 24 - 48 hours

### ADULTS



MALE/BOAR

FEMALE/SOW  
(IN ESTRUS)