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### Grease Glands

Cleaning grease glands is a topic that we are often asked about, so here is some information to help you. The grease gland can be found at the base of the spine (where a tail would be), and may feel like a small sticky area. The picture below was provided courtesy of [Reading Guinea Pig Rescue](#) and shows a dirty grease gland that needs some attention.



Some boars are greasier than others, so regular "bottom checks" are in order. Sows can be affected too, but it is usually boars that have more problems in this area. If the grease is not removed regularly, it can be a magnet to insect nasties such as mites. If the gland shows signs of being inflamed, infected or irritated then a trip to the Vet would be in order.

The easiest way to clean grease glands is with Swarfega - a product used by mechanics to remove oil and grease from their hands. It is widely available in DIY shops / Halfords / supermarkets. Pump-top versions are also available which you may find easier to use.



Apply a generous blob of Swarfega to the area, and gently massage it into the grease gland for a couple of minutes - you will feel the grease breaking down. Where the area is particularly sticky, you may need to use a child's toothbrush to massage the area gently with the bristles and remove the grease. Rinse it off thoroughly with warm water and then shampoo your guinea. If you have a particularly greasy boar, he may need attention in-between shampoos. Use the same method described above, but just give the affected area a quick shampoo instead of doing the whole guinea. This will ensure that you have sweet smelling boars:)