Shepherd’s Green Sanctuary is a 501C3 public charity
Recognized since 1996 by the IRS
State certified
Financial and other information about our organization can be found at GUIDESTAR.org and GIVING MATTERS.org, a directory of state certified Tennessee charities.

Contact us for information or assistance:
Ph: 931-498-5540
Fax: 931-563-9383
Email: andpigs@gmail.com

Accredited by:
The American Sanctuary Association
2002-2013

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Shepherd's Green Sanctuary Vet
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Dear Friends,

It’s the time of year the pigs love best and I am happy to report it is a lovely season so far. Lots of rain to keep the woods safe and green and the ponds full and the grass growing. Lots of warm sun to bring out the blush in the apples and fill the berries with the sweetness we enjoy so much. And it’s our best fundraiser of the year, giving us a boost to catch up on vet bills and feed bills. So many of you have been with us for a decade or more and have seen us struggle to make ends meet. The summer Double Donation is our ace in the hole! For every dollar you give, a dollar is matched by a local businesswoman.

So dig down in that sofa and fish out those quarters and dimes for the piggies. The month of August will magically convert them to twice their value!! Send a dollar in August and we get two to bank!

I hope you like our new format. We think it is easier to hold and easier to read.) Let us know what you enjoy most about the newsletters and we will always try to fill the pages with those topics! All in the spirit of caring, which exists in such bounty for the pigs at the Green with faithful friends like you.

For the pigs,
Peggy
Breeding for a single trait invariably results in mutations. With other pets we have long standing regulatory organizations like AKC and CFA to restrain the inbreeding. A new breed is a slow and cautious process of selective breeding within standards and documentation over decades of work. Viability of the young and expected good health are principals of the process. With these little pigs, greed is the only guiding principal and no matter how few live, they will continue. And simply change the names of the “breed” as often as the sales drop off.

The breed, as imported from Vietnam in the 60’s to Europe, were leggy, 170-200 pound pigs with long faces and droopy bellies. The pigs today resemble them very little and have little of their vigor.

From the beginning in 1986 with the importation of 13 sows and 4 boars to the US, the fate of these pigs was in jeopardy. No additional breeding stock was ever imported to strengthen the genetic pool. Tens of thousands of pigs were bred back and forth to sisters and cousins and parents.

All with one single purpose.. Money

It takes both the greed of the seller and the desire of the buyer to keep this nightmare alive. Please don’t be a part of this ugliness. You see the “cute” pictures, we see the suffering.

The genetic problems most common are:

- Reproductive defects: single and bilateral cryptorchidism, hermaphroditism, missing/deformed organs
- Deformed mouths and teeth
- Blindness
- A genetic brain malfunction that causes them to lose each of their senses until they cannot carry out any life functions
- Weak immune function leading to a high incidence of cancers & other disease
- Hyperkeratinization (common to white* pigs)

*White pigs are actually a crossbreed of potbelly with an English domestic white pig; they are very prone to this condition.

Hyperkeratinization is a disorder of the cells lining the inside of a hair follicle. It is the normal function of these cells to slough off from the skin lining at normal intervals. The dead cells are then forced out of the follicle (primarily by the growing hair). However, in hyperkeratinization, this process is interrupted and these dead skin cells do not leave the follicle because of an excess of keratin, a natural protein found in the skin. This excess of keratin, which is influenced by genetics, results in an increased adherence/bonding of dead skin cells together. This cohesion of cells will block or "cap" the hair follicle or clog the sebaceous/oil duct. [excerpted from WIKIPEDIA]
Scarletto is an example of the skin disorder, hyperkeratinization. He is a teacup boy, found sick and alone on the streets of Knoxville. His skin, genetically compromised, sensitized by too much sun, too little nutrition and loaded with mites was one huge scab that covered him, cracking and painful. Typically this disorder only effects white pigs but when the pursuit of specific traits such as diminutive size overrides sound genetics, this is what, happens. This is the first time I have seen it in a black pig and I have been involved with this pig breed since its beginning.

After weeks of veterinary clinic care he arrived here and has slowly recovered healthy skin and pigmentation. What a difference in his appearance from the first picture I received from the shelter (left) and now (right) . He still suffers with digestive problems, allergies and a lingering respiratory condition. Despite a bad start, and being genetically blind, a diet of fresh fruits and juices, vegetables, fish and eggs has encouraged his growth, from 9 pounds to 14. Nutritional deprivation played a significant role in his condition. To be healthy we must have adequate nutrition. Scarletto eats every meal like it may disappear before he can finish. This behavior is typical of long term hunger.

The diet breeders suggest for “Teacups” is starvation. Go to any website selling them and read the instructions to feed them only 1/4 cup of food a day. Would any person with a brain or a heart restrict a child to 4 tablespoons of food a day? And when he cries from hunger, ignore him? Let him slowly starve to death? Sadly, it happens every day. Scarletto was lucky.
Wonder Drugs. They are expensive and they work. Beats throwing money away on cheap drugs that don’t work.

◊ **Draxxin:** If you have pneumonia it’s the only game in town. Usually 1 shot, sometimes 2, for a cure.

◊ **Excede:** Our “reach for” drug for general antibiotic use and skin infections. Two or three shots several days apart.

◊ **Adequan:** If you have an arthritic pig, this is the solution. A couple weeks of building up the drug level in the blood, then a monthly shot. As many as 80% of our crippled pigs improve steadily and stay mobile for the rest of their lives.

◊ **Sebolux medicated shampoo:** look for this label info as they have several on the market. This does a better job than anything I have ever seen on these white pigs with the skin problems.

*Sebolux is a solubilized therapeutic shampoo for dogs and cats. It removes scales and crusts associated with seborrhea. Also for dandruff. Contains 2% solubilized sulfur, 2% salicylic acid. It is keratolytic and antiseptic.*

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**Diagnostics**

The best tool to know his health status, the CBC & Chemistry panels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young (under 10)</th>
<th>Middle aged (10-16)</th>
<th>Geriatric or sick</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assure proper kidney and liver function.</td>
<td>Identify “early warning” signs of major blood and organ dysfunction</td>
<td>Gain broadest overview of health of pigs who are more likely to exhibit multiple organ dysfunction and chronic disorders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assure adequate oxygen carrying capacity and ability to fight infection &amp; platelets for blood clotting</td>
<td>Compare and/or establish baseline values to monitor as the pig ages</td>
<td>Rule out or identify major organ and blood disorders for the visibly sick</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantify the severity of existing dental infections to define treatment</td>
<td>Rule out or identify cause of unusual “just not himself” behavior.</td>
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A big angry boar, 3 years in a small muddy pen, hot wired, a man with a gun, a snowstorm and only a few hours to save the pig. Enough components there to make a fine country song.

There was no place to go with him, the sanctuary trying to get him to safety was up the mountain in NC, there was nobody nearby to load and haul him, the closest vet was 100 miles away and it was late Friday. These are the kind of rescues that push the adrenaline into channels that ignore personal safety, and throw reasonable behavior to the four winds. And so our hero, Jason, hitched his big draft horse trailer to his big truck and headed out for a 3 hour drive in a snowstorm to catch and load a big angry boar and get him to the vet for neutering. And all because the “man of the house” had given a deadline of what time he was going to start shooting this pig he hated and the woman of the house, who professed great love for the pig, figured her love was worth a couple phone calls to rescues but none to stop the murder. A sorry cast of humans but Silver Wilbur was a fine pig starring in this rescue story!

With a decade of pig wrangling experience and the right equipment Jason moved this angry boy into the safety of the trailer and got him to the University clinic. The weather got worse and he could not get back to the farm that night but Silver Wilbur was safe.

When he arrived here he was still in a hostile frame of mind and it took several months for me to approach him without caution. Today he travels over the 12 acre “main herd” territory, enjoys the mud without fear of being shocked, has a best buddy of his own size and age to hang out with and is a friendly and happy pig, throwing himself down for a belly rub when I walk up.

Happy Ever After.. It’s the kind of story we live for.
“Sweet as Tupelo honey”
that’s our girl, Honey

Peter and Josee
sunbathing

Glory

Princeton

Seagram & Prince

Helena
Leon

Sweetie

Shadyland, a summer habitat for white pigs

Templeton

Pumba & Scarletto
Nestled between the new barn and greenhouse, the Perennial garden has produced buckets of strawberries, asparagus and now raspberries. A few sunflowers and a bed of Hollyhocks make it pretty as well.

How many thousands of miles has it traveled? How many hundreds of pigs has it carried to vets and rescued from danger? This perfect little Mini-horse trailer, donated a decade ago, has surely done its job for us. This year, reinforcing welding to keep it strong and 4 new tires added years to its useful life. The trailer manufacturer only made them one year and I have never seen another one so our next trailer will be a different style and not nearly as maneuverable as this little one.
With a brand new temperature controlled barn, where do we find Miracle and Juliet? Napping on the compost pile!!

Last summer I saw the thermometer soar to 112 degrees one day. The sun beat down on the swimming hole at the new barn and pigs looking for the cooling effect of mud were finding hot bath water instead. This new “cabana” provides pool shade from mid afternoon to dark, the hours when the sun is most unrelenting.
Pigs come into the sanctuary on a regular basis. We do not make a practice of adoption so their future is all about adaptation to the sanctuary routine and fitting in with the other residents. Pigs are not agreeable to sharing their homes with strangers. Territory is very important and a new pig would be picked on unmercifully if just put into an existing herd. Our “Howdy” pens are roomy enough for comfort and grazing while the pigs meet & greet (and more often, fight) through the fences dividing them. After a month, 3 months, whatever it takes for the subtle “all clear” signals to come, the gate is opened. For most pigs, there is an uneasy truce as long as he still has “his space” to go back to every time he chooses. Once this introduction to pig society has been working for a few weeks he will be put into his new territory where he will find his place in the herd. In time he will make friends and will live in that herd until some life change makes it inappropriate for his health or happiness.

Here Jack-Jack, a young pig with arthritis, enjoys some sunning. He will stay in the Howdy pen while he loses some weight and gets better use of his front legs through medication. It is likely he will go to the SP2 herd in the fall where pigs of various ages with disabilities live a full lifestyle.
On the other end of the line..

Sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying or pulling your hair out..

Often the caller has been surprised one morning to find a litter of pigs where the night before she only had 2 pigs. Jeesh! How did that happen??

Here are some memorable (and actual) comments

“well I didn’t know they would do that”

Did you think they would play Monopoly?

“they can’t do that! they are brother and sister!”

You haven’t seen Deliverance, have you?

“that’s not possible, I never let them sleep in the same house, they only go out to play together in the day time.”

And play they have!!

“but they are only a year old!”

Wait until next year; can you count to 40?

I thought they were both boys!“

Do you have children? Maybe you need to turn them up and take a look there too!

No matter how they got there, they end up at the Green

The Piggy Match Game

While you sit in traffic, wait for the kids to come in to eat or suffer through any other of those dead spaces... boot up the Piggy Match game on your computer or cell phone and with every game, make a teensy donation to the pigs! Where else can you get entertainment and help feed a pig with just a click? That’s it! Any donation opens the game board and you can play (as many times as you wish) and match up the pictures of pigs who reside here.

Its fun and its unique and it’s brand spankking new! Help us make it a success by playing often.

If you like it, we will keep changing the pictures so over time you get to see everybody here and many of our past “Calendar” pigs.

(Please close your gaming session when you are finished so it doesn’t slow our website down.)

Let’s Play Piggy Match!!
Nigel has the right idea.. Sit there and wait and the pears will fall. His calendar may be off a bit but the fruit is ripening and he is ready!

The long wait for our home grown organic fruit is over. Our trees were planted in 2007, 2008 and 2010. And this year almost every tree has fruit, from a few on the youngest trees to 50 and more on the older ones. Even tiny trees like Nigel sits under have pears. The wait seemed impossibly long when we planted them. Then suddenly one day, apples & pears!. Yay!
Our Summer Fundraiser is our best fundraiser of the year. And it’s all because of you!

Now through the month of August, every donation we receive is Doubled. Ka-ching! It goes into our bank account! And ka-ching it goes out to our vets and feed suppliers! It’s the financial flamenco, the two step dance we do so well!

The many ways you can help:

- Send a donation
- Become a monthly contributor
- Sponsor a pig
- Sign up for our Capital One card
- Get one of our Kroger gift cards for all your shopping, gas and prescriptions
- Create an endowment, include the Green in your will, sign up for matching employee gifts at your place of work

Email or call us for info

Let’s dance! to the beautiful music of matching funds!

When the music ends we will have funds for the winter’s hay and feed and vet bills caught up!!

Thank You!!
All kinds of Pigs
All kinds of reasons
They find a home here where they can live a life that is *More Than Survival.*

**Shepherd's Green Sanctuary**

139 Copeland Lane  
Cookeville, TN 38506

Phone: 931-498-5540  
Fax: 931-563-9383  
E-mail: andpigs@gmail.com

2014 Calendars

We print our calendars in September to ship in Oct/Nov.

If you want extra copies or gifts sent be sure to let us know so we print enough.