Celebrating Spring 2014 At Shepherd’s Green
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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 charities.

Contact us for information or assistance:
Ph: 931-498-5540
Dear Friends,

It’s the time of year when we get the shovel out and start digging in the garden. There is a special magic only gardeners know, that sees those tiny seeds as huge platters of beets, corn and sweet potato vines. A feast every day from summer into fall for the pigs with mobility problems and filling the freezers with organic foods for warm winter suppers.

And so we enter spring with hope that warmer, more stable temperatures and fresh grass will help the pigs recover from the brutal winter and the respiratory illnesses they have had.

This year we are planning a new infirmary area to better control temperatures and contagion issues for the sick. We have found our aging population strains the capabilities of our current hospital.

Our greenhouse is producing lots of fresh greens and new beets and the berry garden has strawberries ready to ripen. It is a very special time of year at the Green.

The pigs sunbathe and enjoy the warm spring breeze that drifts through the barns. Quite a change from the biting cold winds of last winter that blew against every wall and window.

Wherever you are, I hope you are enjoying a wonderful season as well.

For the pigs,

Peggy
**Tusks & Hooves**

*a family history*

**Tusks** on male pigs grow long and need to be trimmed. Or do they? Not always. M’Goo, left, and Penelope, right, arrived at the sanctuary when he was about a year old, she was about 2, and pregnant. She gave birth to 6 children. Coochie Coo, shown in the middle, is the only surviving daughter. Her sister, Little C, died of a congenital heart defect at 5. She has 4 brothers, Alex, Agador, Arthur and Armand. They were neutered at 4 weeks old. This year the “kids” are 17. In those 17 years M’Goo has needed his tusks trimmed only twice and last fall all his boys had theirs done for the first time! Their tusks just never grew. On the other hand, while 95% of pigs here never need any hoof care, Penelope’s hooves curl up and require trimming every few weeks. It’s all in the genes.
In the early years of potbellies, we used bolt cutters and cut tusks off. Then we learned from vets who sedated the pig and used saw wire and cut them down flush with the jaw. Now we know both methods are fraught with short and long-term problems. Unless there’s a problem, leave them alone. Pigs won’t gore you with a tusk. Pigs often die having tusks and hooves done at home by vets who use sedation on obese pigs. And root infections are something you really don’t want and cost thousands of dollars to treat.

If tusks need trimming ask your vet to use Midazolam, the first choice for safety. It will tranquilize your pig and he will wake as from a good nap.

Current wisdom is that trimming tusks can set up root problems and should be done only when tusks are a danger to the pig.

**So when is it dangerous?**
- When they cut into the face
- When they curl under the lip and back into the jaw
- When a tusk or tooth is sharp from breakage or wear and strikes the roof of the mouth or gums so it is painful to eat.

If a pig is losing weight and diagnostics don’t determine a cause, it is often a problem in the mouth.
Is it Spring yet? Yoda

Heidi, 17, and Dolly, 16, share a loaf of french bread.
Breakfast, warm sunshine... And the green of spring returns

Jessie and Zeppo

Abner
The Greenhouse:
Fresh greens survived the extreme cold

Green is our favorite color

Apple blossoms, a promise for this year’s fruit
Sanctuary
Walk About
Woods & Waters

The Woods are Lovely, Dark and Deep....
Robert Frost penned it; Porky lives it.
Most pigs come here as a result of betrayal. They are not given the long term commitment needed and when they become too big, too sick, too inconvenient, they become disposable. And they understand that betrayal very well. Any trust which may have existed between pig and human is shattered and sometimes can never be rebuilt.

Roscoe came to us through a compassionate vet who had been treating his near fatal wounds after he was attacked by dogs. At 17, his human family chose to move and leave him behind. We took him in and nursed him through the wound healing with baths and daily skin care. And treated his broken spirit with popsicles and petting. Then saw him through Nasal cancer treatments. He knew what we were about and gave back his friendship. When this bitter winter brought a viral pneumonia it took Roscoe from us.

The heartbreak of seeing him losing ground as we and our vets struggled to save him was unspeakable. But within that painful time a trust unfolded that was a glorious light in that darkest of times. He knew I could help him with shots and breathing treatments. One very cold night when he felt especially bad he left his heated barn, walked around the house and up the ramp to the front door and waited for it to open. He was too sick to have walked back to his barn and he put all his trust in that door being opened for him so I would help him feel better through the night. It was midnight. I was sound asleep. But something woke me with a start and I went to the door and found him waiting. All was well that night. He was given the help he needed and slept in his inside bed where he felt safe. We could not save his life but he had the comfort of belief.
You are a Part of Something very Special

Support our Mission to help these unfortunate little pigs wherever we find them.

Support the cost of operating the sanctuary

- Provide care for an elder pig on our elder diet $45/month
- Provide for a farm pig $50/month or a youngster like Ivan, Po or Sashay for $20/month
- Provide a case of apples for $20 or a week’s fruit for $90
- Provide Adequan for a pig with arthritis; he can walk without pain for $70/month.

Support the Helping Hoof, our Outreach Program

- Provide a neuter or spay for a pig at a shelter so he or she can find a home. Neuter $90 Spay $200
- Provide for foster care at our long term foster farms at $25/mo.
- Put a bit in our medical assistance fund for pigs who need vet care and have limited funds. We spend thousands every year on private medical needs, including spays & neuters.

Use our Shepherd’s Green Visa card and we get a percentage.

www.cardlabconnect/makeeverypurchasecount

Provide long-term financial support by endowments, wills and other financial instruments. Stock transfers to our Sanctuary Vanguard account, apples and a truck are all deductible donations.

The need won’t go away.. Its just going to be different pigs needing care 20 years from now.

Our new Shepherd’s Trust account will manage funds for the long haul to assure that pigs in need always have a chance at a good life.
All kinds of Pigs
All kinds of reasons
They find a home here
where they live a full life

More Than Survival.

THNK YOU FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO DO SO MUCH FOR SO MANY