Celebrating Spring 2017 At Shepherd's Green
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Recognized since 1996 by the IRS
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Financial and other information about our organization can be found at GUIDESTAR.org and GIVING MATTERS.org, a directory of state certified charities.

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Dear Friends,

It’s the time of year when the warm spring rains and sunshine make everything possible. Pigs sprawl across the hillsides and under trees in an expression of total bliss.

Ahhh, spring!

And I get out the mower and start early with intentions to keep it trim all summer..

The gardening this year is all in raised-bed style, with the greenhouse in containers and a long hoop garden for bigger plants. It will provide plentiful fresh vegetables for pigs who don’t get out to forage much.

We had such a mild winter that everything bloomed early. Nobody complained but we all feared a late winter blast would follow. It did not and soon we had fruits set, leaves on trees and it was only March.

This year we have many more pigs at the main facility as we close down the KY site. They are all adapting well, enjoying the rich variety of hills and meadows, woods and waters.

Wherever you are this spring, I hope it’s warm and beautiful!!

For the pigs,

Peggy
Tusks

More of what you need to know about that cute baby pig’s future needs.

Tusks on male pigs can be a life threatening problem. Be prepared to examine him regularly and respond to it with a skilled vet clinic and the equipment to get him there. Visit our website for details of safe travel. Many horror stories end up in my Email. Some times it’s too late to help.

Tusks that grow long and outside the mouth like shown above, are easy to see and have the vet trim before they get into the face. Once into the face they develop infection and if not corrected can grow into the jaw and actually “lock” the jaws and the pig can no longer eat. Infection in the teeth can lead directly to jaw bone infections and internal abscesses in the liver. Both can be deadly.

Another hard working drug to add to your “list of things that actually work!”

Gabapentin: for pain relief when nothing else helps, like the terrible pain of jaw infections and tusk infections before and after surgery. Open the capsule and sprinkle it into food.
Tusks that curl up and into the jaw INSIDE the mouth are much more serious for your pig because you may not see it. And if you vet doesn’t do a lot of dental work, under FULL sedation, the mouth will never be open wide enough to see the problem. We have taken in several from people who knew there was something wrong and did see their vet but the pig continued to decline. Some times they develop an infected hole on the side of the face where an inner abscess grew and ruptured. (Photo, left)

Our vets do dentals and diagnostics every week. The high white counts tell us of the infection and the dental exam often shows the origin. Pigs as young as 5 years old can have dental problems.

People often ask: “What happens in the wild?” If these pigs were the original genetics brought in from Asia, they wouldn’t have the problems we see. The inbreeding for the past 20 years to make them smaller has a price tag. And the pig pays with his health and often his life. Dental problems are only the beginning of the tragic story of the Teacup. With irresponsible breeding hybrid vigor is lost.

Case study: Aiden, a 5 year old pampered pet, was brought here for routine vetting. I noticed his face looked a bit swollen and the vet took a look. Inside, unseen and unexpected at such a young age, the upper tusk was growing up into the nasal passage, causing infection, blockage and pain. Further inspection found a tiny growth which was removed and biopsied. It was Squamous cell carcinoma, a common cancer in pigs. We have lost 3 to it in a year. And several have been caught early enough to treat successfully. Aiden has returned for a checkup and is cancer free so no chemotherapy is needed.

Stranger poses for his selfie.

Levi checks on the fruit trees. “What? No apples yet?”
Suddenly, it’s Green! Homer-T, Luther and Nellie enjoy the twilight grazing.

Bart, above, and his lifetime mate Bess, above right, are knee-deep in buttercups as spring bursts into bloom.

From a farm in Tennessee, now 9 yrs old, they have had the idyllic life, doing what pigs do when free to choose.
Sanctuary Walkabout: A special spot for our visitors

The pigs weren’t happy to give up this acre of excellent fall “nutting land” but it was the perfect place to build.

Nearly 50 pine logs were cut and removed to use for building as soon as they are milled and dried.

The backhoe worked between rains for over 3 weeks to clear out the old dead trees and underbrush.

The result is a unique spot overlooking the ridgeline of the Cumberland Plateau, a Currier & Ives farm view and a lake where Canada geese migrate to raise their young.

A camper has been purchased and will have a wrap around porch for enjoying the Tennessee experience. Or sit in the breakfast nook and enjoy a cup of coffee with the birdsong and beauty.

It’s been a long time in the planning and we are anxious to get it finished and welcome our first long term visitor in July.
Seniors Will, Eric, Jerry and Ryan laid claim to the woods cottage as soon as it was delivered. These cottages were purchased from an estate sale, all insulated, with electrical wiring and hardboard inner walls. Just perfect for a group of friends to use for an all-season home. Filled with hay the pigs snooze through the snow or rain in comfort.

The pigs who live in this cottage are part of the Garden Barn complex and share the big pond, orchard and grazing area, when they aren’t sleeping!!

Mr. Monday, a 2 year old white pig, was found abandoned in a deep ditch down by the river a few miles from here. The people who found him couldn’t get him up and thought him hurt. It took them a couple days to find us and they were very concerned someone would harm him, so took turns staying with him. (What nice people!!!) When we arrived with the trailer and a loaf of bread, Mr. Monday was up and out of the ditch in no time, into the trailer and on his way to the vet to be checked out.

Pigs dumped out of cars will stay where they are left. They have been taken young from pig parents and thrust into being people pigs, it’s all they know, that person is their life. He grieved for a while but has adapted to being Gertie’s special friend, spending long hours in the woods and pasture. He will recover the abuse and live a happy life.
A New Love for Porky

Pigs’ emotions are not greatly different from ours. When Marilyn died last year at 16, Porky was suddenly alone in a herd of pigs. His companion, his sleeping buddy, his friend and mate.. was gone forever.

He grieved for weeks.

This spring we brought in Ava Kay from our other sanctuary, a lovely, sweet girl whose life has been much like his, a lot of changes but always loved.

Porky and Ava quickly “found” each other and are inseparable. Belly to belly as they sleep, wandering the woods and sharing the mudhole on a hot day, they are a picture of the happy senior couple.
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 for $45/month
- Provide for a farm pig for $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. Ava Kay needs Adequan!!

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. And up!! Prices keep climbing.
- Provide for foster care at our long-term foster farms at $25/mo.
- Put a bit in our Outreach Fund for pigs who need vet care and have limited funds. We spend thousands every year on private medical needs, not just spays and neuters.

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

Our Shepherd’s Trust account is the perfect place to add funds for the long haul to assure that pigs in need always have a chance at a good life despite changes in the economy or the whim of fate.

Hoss, left, and his 163 herdmates from the MO sanctuary, would have had no chance without the Trust.
All kinds of Pigs
All kinds of reasons
They find a home here
where they live a full life.

More Than Survival.

Frances, a 9 year old farm pig mix, found the good life here in 2013.