It’s Summer

at

Shepherd’s Green

JULY 2017
Medical Advisory Board

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Accredited by:
The American Sanctuary Association
2002-2017

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 at GIVING MATTERS.org, a directory of state certified charities.

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Dear Friends,

It's Summer! For the pigs the best season of the year. All the mud holes, creeks and ponds are their spa. As I mow the acres of open land I see them scattered throughout the property, in the woods, under a pear tree, in the mud, making the most of the season.

The big news is that our Sanctuary is now all under one roof again. It is a full house, with our capacity cap reached. When we moved from the valley to this plateau ridge property in 2004, one reason was to increase our useful space. And it’s full.

The future of all these pigs is in our hands and the first step is to assure that what they have isn’t destroyed in its use or through neglect. Sustainability is their future. We are committed to active land stewardship. And in the here and now, it’s just good economics. Well kept grass and forage, along with our fruits, provide 1/2 of the summer food to many of the herds.

This year we have moved 140 pigs, bought a second work cart and set a camper to provide a place for visitors and interns. A lot of check writing!

Your doubled donations this summer will keep us in the black.

Thank you for caring and making it all happen,

for the pigs,  Peggy
Their Good Health depends on us and it’s scary when the pig is sick and you need to move him by yourself

First, take advantage of animal shelters, FFA, college AG or vet schools and even your volunteer fire dept for emergency help. You would be surprised how generous these people can be with their help. One of the best resources I have found are Horse Rescues.

Being prepared with a ramp, a chute and a loading area is good plan! And not that costly to build. But when none of those things are at hand.. there are ways to do the impossible.. Because only the impossible is enough.

First, plan what you are going to do because any delay in the process is an opportunity for him to change the game plan. If moving him by car or trailer, find a spot where you can back up to a porch, a high driveway side, or alongside a building that can make a solid wall on one side. Erect a chute, a long alleyway with a 90-degree turn in it. Your goal is to walk him into a wide, unthreatening end and when he goes around the 90 bend, be in a more solid chute where he cannot get away and has to load. The chute can be hay bales, temp fence posts driven and plywood or even cardboard making a “wall”. Getting him up into the van may require help if you do not have a ramp. Ramps can be purchased (before you need one!) from pet supply places.. Get one for extra large dogs. We have a builder friend who builds ramps that you can take apart for travel for under $200. Email me for his contact info.

Can he walk? If yes you can get him close to a loading spot on his own power. We use a bent fence wire section, shown at right. It’s light and easy to handle and it’s not as scary as a solid “pig board”. About 4 feet by 2 feet is a good size.

Even with a ramp, he may be unwilling to load. Use the bucket trick on resistant pigs in a confined space (a chute like shown). Put a feed bucket over his face and back him in. Not effective? Call in the neighbor or the FED EX driver off the street. Lure the pig with cookies onto a sturdy blanket and quickly “pocket” him in it, lift and set him into the van. If you are unable to get any help at all, crate him where you have him. Make a ramp you can drag the crate up with a comealong and a sturdy rope wrapped around the crate or just toss the end of the rope into the van, go to the side door and using the leverage the van can provide, PULL!!
Can’t walk? In many ways this is much easier. I use a Half crate. (shown) Tip it onto its side beside the pig’s back. Roll or slide him over the tipped side and then tip it back upright, put the door back in place and pull it to the closest loading spot, preferably an embankment where it’s level enough to put a board across and slide the crate. Cover him with a blanket in the half crate and he won’t struggle to get out. A half crate is the best tool you will ever have to move a pig. Just take it apart and equip it with pulling ropes and you can get that pig where you need him, even if he outweighs you 2 to 1.

Use hay under a drag area makes it easier to slide a pig or crate.

Safety Rules:

Don’t carry a pig in the back of a pickup truck. The stress alone can kill him.

Do not trailer pigs outside the safe temperature margins of 40 °F - 75 °F.

Always put a solid rubber mat on the bottom of a crate. Slipping can cause panic and injury to the back.

Best vehicle is an AC van. Don’t have one? Call Enterprise Car rental and rent one. For under $100 you can do this life saving trip easily. Fold down the seats. Put down tarps and blankets to keep it clean. We can help with vet costs from our Helping Hoof fund. Helping Pigs where they need it. It’s what we do.
Merlin; am I handsome or what?

Frances

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Joey’s Rooting For Summer

He’s one of our most social pigs and always looking for a photo op. How can I resist?

What treasures he finds in the summer, digging with his tusks along the creek to find hidden snacks, (he claims grubs are nice!), climbing up onto the top of the ridge for a nap, and racing to breakfast like a torpedo.
Did I hear right? In some places there are front yards with NO pigs?

I cannot imagine it!

It’s well populated here when the hospital gates are open for the day. Even the crippled ones enjoy some grazing and wandering, peering into the garage to see if they can reach the cookie box. This morning Elmer, Skipper, Daisy-K, Two Bits, Maggie H, and Puppy are all out for a stroll. They enjoy life despite age and infirmities.
Finding Themselves (again)

There is no one more territorial or set in his ways than a pig. Bad habits or good ones, lifestyle of good health or abject neglect, the pig has adapted, settled or made himself at home. He is not only self aware but pretty darn sure he is worthy of respect and you shouldn’t mess with his “stuff” or his ways.

These two girls came from far different lifestyles and geography, Abigail from Kentucky, Truffles from Missouri. And each had a life they accepted as their given place in the world. Neither was in an abusive condition in life threatening terms, but neither had a full view of the world’s options and opportunities either.

Today, both enjoy a lifestyle that we hope will be theirs for another decade or more, one we get as much pleasure in giving as they get in receiving.

Born in 2005, Truffles spent her first year in a bare lot shelter. Then went to a sanctuary where few fences and a lot of freedom taught her some good skills for survival. As the years went on, the sanctuary felt the economic pressure of too many pigs and her meals were cut back to a couple a week. She managed to find enough wild food. In 2015, she moved to the Green and found the dining schedule a big improvement! This year, as we moved everyone to the main sanctuary, she was reunited with some of her kin in a bright new world. She and her brothers quickly found each other here, after being separated for a year.

Born in 2008, Abigail spent her first 7 years in one room of a home. After being brought to the sanctuary in KY, she looked out the door of her new house and saw sunshine, grass and what are those? pigs? For the first couple days she sat on her porch and just gazed in wonder. Then she started her makeover, becoming a very social country girl enjoying all its new pleasures. With a sweet disposition and an optimistic view of the world, she has a whole new life.
Potbellied Pigs are wild animals. Put them in a stressful situation and the lure of a cookie or a belly rub will be totally gone, replaced by the traits they share with their ancestors.

Meet BJ, one of the Pippin family from Missouri. A handsome, social boy .. Most of the time!

Pigs Fight

They are extremely territorial, have well defined hierarchies and two adult pigs will seldom meet that they don’t have to have a few “words”. BJ fought with another male, as is evidenced by the marks criss-crossing his shoulder from another male’s tusks. Females will fight but don’t leave these scratches.

If these two boys had been unneutered they would have fought long and hard and blood would have been spilled. With an unneutered boar the shoulder pad (right under the tusk marks) would be very thick and as strong as an iron plate, a formidable defense against another boar’s tusks.

This skirmish was over as quickly as it started. Everybody went back to the pool and forgot it. Boys will be boys.
Our Land, Their Future

Rolling green meadows, woods, wetlands. It’s a rich and healthy environment. With the promise of Stewardship, what is here now will be present on into their future. We run the farm in a sustainable, organic manner. Pastures are dragged, over-seeded and allowed periods of rest. The bare “sacrifice” zones seen below (in Agri-speak, defining areas we have to give up to manage feeding large numbers) are put into recovery on a rotating basis with simple methods of changing what areas we feed in each year and what gates we use to come and go. Erosion is controlled by a variety of methods, some more successful than others. From riprap stone in gated areas where the soil is always exposed, to drainage ditches, culverts and levees to protect the wetlands from flooding and washing away. Sometimes as drastic as moving fences to totally change the profile of an area overwhelmed by too many torrential rains and all those little feet. We use our 2 and 3-year compost to enhance soil areas in recovery. The orchards provide food for birds as well as the pigs and keep spots of shade dotted across the fields. The abundant wildlife add much variety and no doubt some balance. And sustainability is all about bal-

Look in any direction and you will see trees. They are important to our life here. We remove trees only if they meet the “4D” criteria of dead, damaged, diseased, or dangerous. The rest stay, cooling our summers, defending from winds, keeping moisture in the soil and providing homes for wildlife and adventure for the pigs.
How much Space is Enough?
The answer depends totally on where the land is situated and how it’s been managed and how you plan to manage it. Agricultural standards exist for different species and different geographic areas. While in Tennessee you would need 1 acre for a couple of farm pigs, in Florida that could easily be 10 acres. And you might still buy hay. Chart at right is for our area.

These standards are available by searching Google for grazing standards for the region in which you live. Or ask the local Extension agent. He knows! The calculations are complex to get down to your actual land.

Even without any charts, common sense tells us that bare ground serves little function to animals dependent on foraging for their good health. And even beyond the basic need for green foods is the psychological need for privacy and space to explore. Healthy pigs need space and mental stimulation. They can’t grow up strong and well adjusted in a laundry room or a kennel. Or a cramped dirt lot elbow-to-elbow with dozens more hopeless little spirits.

They came from the huge expanses of rainforest in Asia. Being born in Pennsylvania or Missouri didn’t change their genetics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Animals per acre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow/calf</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull</td>
<td>0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potbellied pig</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>5</td>
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The Stockman’s Handbook, the tome that Ag schools have used as their textbook for 50 years or more, is still available from used book dealers. The first $50 any sanctuary has in its pocket would be well spent on a copy. From feeds to fences to poisonous weeds.. It’s in the book.

Chart from the Handbook. (PBP extrapolated by size / feed intake)
Keeping an Eye on the old folks at the Garden Barn

We have a big farm. I can be far away when a storm breaks. We aren’t worried about thieves in the night, but a cold rain on a pig who can’t get up easily, caught outside, can be serious. No matter how many trips we may make to check on things, there is nobody there all the time. So putting today’s technology to work has made a lot of sense here.

Cameras can now record which pigs have a cough and medications may be started sooner. I can forward one of the camera videos to the vet for his advice.

During a storm of the kind we have so often now, with trees falling and high winds, I can know where I am needed and if there is a need for added help. And when it’s important to know if a pig with “rambling” tendencies is in bed for the night, I can keep up with his moves.

The little cameras do a big job.

Wireless, they stay out in the weather, are self-illuminating in the dark and motion activated to record events. The WIFI setup at the big geriatric barn gives me a good view of everyone so I know, without disturbing a sick pig, if he is getting up to drink or move around at night.

Our economic Pinkerton Guard!

Seniors, Maria and Max (left), were newly arrived from KY when my phone alerted me to a tornado warning one sunny afternoon. Would they go into their little barn before the wind and hail started? Easy enough to find out, from the other side of the property or from the dentist’s chair 20 miles away. Just look on my phone at any of the views set up as critical. (yes, they went in)
This summer we said goodbye to Christopher, a unique little boy who always went left when his brothers, Soda, Pepper and Lion, went right. Christopher took the word *shy* as his personal banner for 20 years, hiding himself behind it. As a piglet you would see a black dot race along under the grass and know it was him. His mother, Susan, and his brothers all came up for cookies and pets, but never Christopher. He stood behind a tree, watching.

We respected his choices. Christopher never altered his ways, even when he needed help to rise this last few months. He tolerated the help, no more. He lived his life his way, always half-hidden.

I am sure he dreamed he was wild and free.
Babe was born in 2003. She was used by a local University for medical testing.

A pre-vet student intervened on her behalf when her usefulness was over and it was time to dispose of her. Unlike most lab animals, Babe was permitted to be adopted by Safe Harboar Farm. She lived there in peace and comfort until she was left behind by the owners when they sold the property in 2015. Since we were the buyers, she continued to live there without any disruption with the rest of the abandoned pigs.

When all our pigs were finally moved to our main sanctuary, she came with her family to her new home. Since her arrival she has become very content with her new surroundings. Most days she is found near the wetland pools. She is hand fed there since she has difficulty walking. Most farm pigs have leg problems as they age and she is no exception. But at 14, she is doing very well indeed.

A tale of good fortune and very good timing.
You are a Part of Something Very Special

It’s Our Summer Fling! We get to Double up on every donation made in August!

Come dance to the ching ching ching of quarters found under the seat of the car, behind the couch cushions and in that piggy bank!

Support the cost of daily pig care:
- 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 or Sashay for $20/month.
- Provide a case of apples for $20.
- Provide Adequan for a pig with arthritis; he can walk without pain for $70/month. Ava Kay and Emmett are both on 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.
- 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 help with private medical needs, not just spays and neuters.

Provide long-term financial support by endowments, wills and other financial instruments. Our Trust fund is the best way we know to promise a pig a future. Add to the Trust monthly or with a single bequest.

Our new Credit Card processing begins this summer. It goes through US Bank and will save us on fees and assure security. Sign up this summer for a monthly charge by credit card, or ask for details on ACH direct bank drafts if you prefer to not use a card. Saving on processing fees just makes sense for all of us.

We always look to the Summer Fundraiser as our safety switch for winter. All that hay, extra fruit and electricity for heating the barns is secured by the summer fundraiser. You make it happen!

Dig deep, add a couple extra $$ if you can.

We will use them wisely.

Our Trust fund is the best way we know to promise a pig a future. Add to the Trust monthly or with a single bequest.
All kinds of Pigs
All kinds of reasons
They find a home here where they live a full life.
Where it’s
More Than Survival.

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38506

Phone: 931-498-5540
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Spread the word about Pigs. Leave this on the train, in your vet’s office or at the feed store. Word of mouth (and newsletter) saves lives.

Thank You for Making it Possible to do so much for so many