It’s Summertime at Shepherd’s Green
Medical Advisory Board

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Accredited by:
The American Sanctuary Association
Since 2002

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.
Contact us for information or assistance:
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Dear Friends,

It’s Summer! For the pigs the season of easy living. Sprawled under trees and half immersed in muddy waters, they smile and enjoy. It’s always a joy to park the UTV on a busy day and watch them be so totally un-busy! The woods provide much cool shade for them and for me, a place with no mowing.

After the late cold I was worried about our fruit trees, but they are loaded with young fruit so another good harvest is expected. I need to freeze more of it for winter this year. It’s all gone already and no more to pick before July. With no local produce distributor any more, it’s hard to keep them in fresh fruit. We do have the occasional gift of a truckload of apples or pumpkins which is the best gift ever.

Your constant support and good wishes make it all possible. Thank You.

for the pigs, Peggy
**Weight Abuse**

It’s the most frequent health problem we see in inbound pigs.

Starvation and obesity both cause suffering and death. We see both here with incoming pigs. Below is Shortcake, on arrival in March looking skeletal, and in early May after two months of normal healthy eating. His two tablespoons a day became a cup a day and all the grass and roots he wanted, with a few cookies and apples to boot. Gone are the exposed ribs and hip bones. He has a visible jowl and his shoulders are padded nicely. He even has a little potbelly.

Starvation hurts. Not only physically but psychologically. He is still having a hard time realizing he can eat until he is full without choking it down before someone takes it away. He cannot fit into a herd until he can accept his new life, a life of feeling full after each meal and not having to fight for it. A life without everyday hunger. It takes time.
Obesity: the Other Side of the Deadly Coin
Most pet pigs live to be 12 or so. Why, then, do we have a feature this month on pigs 20 and older? One really BIG reason is because they didn’t die of obesity. Our 17-20 year-olds are frequent visitors at the vet. Our comprehensive preventative and maintenance vet care is certainly a huge factor, but no vet can safely anesthetize a pig who is 200 pounds overweight. So even if someone has an excellent pig specialist, how will the pig get the vet care he needs routinely or as a life-saving surgery? He probably won’t.

When Freddy Mac became homeless in 2008, he was 200 pounds overweight. And that weight was laid down by the worst, most dangerous, least nutritious feed on the market, corn. If you are raising a pet pig and you want him to be healthy and live a long life you will feed a high quality pig feed, balanced for a pig’s metabolism and nutritional need. Not horse feed, cat food or All Stock. Feed only pig feed. But overfeeding ANY feed or snacks will cause obesity. The only thing he can eat freely is what he can forage for in fields and woods.

Freddy was 5 years old. It took 5 years to get enough weight off him to have his first dental care. By then he was at 160 pounds. Still 40 pounds overweight but the red warning lights and sirens were off.

If early death isn’t enough to curb the urge to overfeed Wilbur, maybe this will. Almost 100% of fat pigs are blind and deaf from it. Imagine spending most of your life needlessly blind and deaf. What cruel caregivers we are to do this to our pets. And not one in a hundred people even know the pig is blind or deaf. The pig’s senses are so keen that air movement, temperature and scent guide him. Intentionally blinded. Really? We humans do that!!
Merlin; am I handsome or what?

My Space

Pippin

Rocco

Karter & Zoey

Connie
When a pig reaches 20, he has lived as long as a 100-year-old person.

Viva les PIGS!
Apple blossoms, a promise for this year’s fruit.
Sanctuary Walkabout
Recovery in action for overworked pastures

In March, I planted the worst of the bare eroded area and hoped for good weather. We got bitter cold, frigid wind, dry, then heavy rains. By early May, I about gave up hope. Then, eureka! It started popping up everywhere. New grass in the front and behind it 3 years of barn waste composted for filling an eroded area. Nutrients and compost will migrate down to the new grass with every rain.

New feeding method for the Hill herd
Feeding large groups is a challenge. Keeping the feed clean and at a good height for eating and easy cleanup in muddy weather. These raised concrete pads are doing just what I hoped. Each one will feed 20 pigs with minimal shoving and pushing. Feed is not lost to the pummeling of little feet. When they are done, a quick spray with the hose is easy.
Planning that Pays Off

From the end of June into October, the apples and pears from the pigs’ orchards keep them in abundant fruit. It is such a thrill to see them walk through the trees and find the fallen fruits. In September, I fill up the freezer with fresh fruit for the long winter and cook it on a cold morning.

The payback is incredible. Each mature tree will produce 400 to 600 pears or apples for 20 to 30 years. Priced an organic apple or Asian pear lately? One tree can easily be producing $500 in fruit every year. We have some hard winters and iffy springs but never see much change in the fruit output. We planted over 100 fruit trees. Early weather losses and a few lost to careless volunteers over the years, we still have a supply to make any pig the envy of his FB followers! Each year they get to indulge themselves in 40,000 or more apples, pears or Asian pears. At no cost other than some incidental pruning, they get nothing but my appreciation!

Don’t wait; this year, plant some domestic pear trees for your pigs. (Pears produce early and bear heavily.)

Buy only high quality, disease-free trees. We always buy from Adams County Nursery in Pennsylvania.
The Future Beckons

It’s time to be looking for a partner to help run this operation in the years to come.

Lots of people have said over the years that when they retire they want to move to this area and help further the mission of the Green. This year is an excellent year to make that happen! The future is on the horizon.

We need a few qualified, committed people to work on Pig Care, Administration and Farm Operations. A few hours a week by someone trained in our Green methods can do absolute wonders. Our two backup people, totally committed and able after years of training to do what it takes here, both now have physical disabilities. Not discounting the hope that they can still participate, planning relies more on concrete dates and places than wishes. I rescue pigs, that will teach anyone to be a realist!

Come help me keep the light in the window for pigs everywhere. My friend, Tracey, stated it clearly in a recent discussion.

“Whether we are there or not, the need will be.”

The SG Library is in the Works

Meet Lisa, my right hand in all publications. She is the best editor I’ve ever known.

A few months ago, she and I decided we could tackle the much requested health care database and compile everything into a printed booklet and online searchable data file.

We are combing through every newsletter since 1998 and every article saved and filed away, updating and categorizing. While we were at it we decided to do a Stories and a Features section, and then, why not a Husbandry section? So we are knee deep in files and by winter we will publish our SG Library.
The chances were essentially zero that Alvin, the 4-month-old, already growing fast Chipmunk pig, would find a home. He will be big and nobody wants an adult pig. Even one of normal potbelly size. I worked with the owner, and we got him neutered and I searched...and searched. But nobody responded. One day as I was checking on another pig to see how he was doing and how the second addition these good folks had taken in was doing, I mentioned Alvin as he was close by where they lived. I hoped they would circulate the admonition that Chipmunks are small furry rodents, NOT PIGS! She said she had a friend who had a little girl pig and was looking for a companion for her. I explained about Alvin’s breeding, and she said her friend would probably be happy to help him out. It seems her girl, Piper, is ALSO a chipmunk pig! What were the chances? And when the owners met and decided Alvin would be a great pal for Piper, well, the rest is history. Two happy pigs to grow up as big as they will, and be together for their long lives, kind of makes magic a real live thing.

Alvin, left, and Piper, right, both safe. Alvin from an inappropriate home and Piper from being handed around as a tiny piglet, given away in a Walmart parking lot. The lady who raised her loves her dearly and loves Alvin being her BFF.
Cinderella, Dance!

From rags to riches, Cinderella is a timeless tale. From a poverty stricken area of west Tennessee, abandoned when the owners sold their place, this poor pig hadn’t a prayer to even live through the cold winter, much less be the Belle of the Ball. It was a cold snowy spring day when Tammery and Anna set out to rescue her. Without a murmur of protest, Cinderella was loaded and transported to where we met up outside Nashville to bring her home. At home, she quickly checked out her house and isolation pen and declared it OK. Over the next two months, as her isolation and vaccination period was finished, she began to meet and make friends with other pigs. As social as any pig I ever met, she now waltzes around from pond to pond and settles into her wooden cottage for naps, greeting everyone with the best of attitudes. Despite being unwanted, she is a beautiful spirit. As her extreme weight diminishes with a lot of hillside walks, she will emerge as physically beautiful as her personality.

And she will Dance! It’s the Green! Magic Reigns.
You are a Part of Something Very Special

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

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

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 foster farms at $25/mo. When we cannot take them, these fosters step in and, if they have room, give a long-term home. Can we put a price on a life?
- Put a bit in our Outreach Fund for pigs whose families have limited funds. We help with private medical needs, habitat improvement and feed.

Support the cost of daily pig care:

- Provide care for an elder pig on our elder diet for $45/mo.
- Provide for a farm pig for $50/month or a youngster like Ivan or Sashay for $20/month.
- Provide Adequan for a pig with arthritis; he can walk without pain for $70/month. Ava Kay can’t walk far without her shots. But with them, she does great, climbing hills and getting in and out of the ponds. (See back page)

Thank You! for all the replies to the survey!! Like everything else you do, this was way over the normal expectation for a survey response. We got your message! We hope this newsletter fits your idea of exactly how it should be! And we are scheduling one more newsletter this year at your request! It will be published in September so our Summer Newsletter has been moved back a bit to make July our Summer Fundraiser this year.
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All kinds of pigs -
All kinds of reasons -
They find a home here where they live a full life.
More Than Survival

Spread the word about Pigs.
Leave this on the train, in your vet’s office or at the feed store.
Word of mouth saves lives.

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