In February of 2008 Blossom was stricken with hindquarter failure. She was suddenly unable to use her hind legs. Various tests found nothing to explain it. Despite her infirmity Blossom has never become depressed. She is agreeable to her medicating and frequent exams. She is happy, enthusiastically meeting every new morning, enjoying the breakfast menu and her warm bed.

For 2 years we have all looked at her environment and wished for something better for her. Every idea seemed to put her at some other kind of risk. Our vet, who visits her every few months, thinks she is a perfect candidate for wheels. But our land here is on a slope everywhere; there is no flat area for a wheeled pigmobile and I fear she would end up in a fence, perhaps injuring herself trying to get out, or stuck in the hot sun.

During summer she could be outside some in her paddock area, but this winter has been long and cold. By January she was tired of being cooped up in a small stall. She complained, and we knew it was time for a change. So on the first day above freezing we moved everyone out of the Special Care building into the hospital and started remodeling. With all the floors and dividers removed, a layer of rock, geo-textile spread and a load of new sand brought in and spread, Presto! we had a place where Blossom could move around freely and enjoy the company of her friend Evita and the boys, Hammie Frank, Louis and Harley.

The Special Care building was constructed by volunteers in 2003 and moved here with us in 2004. Built specifically for seriously handicapped pigs, it is full of light with doors and windows that open to nature’s sounds and smells all the way around. A small outdoor yard can be easily accessed by having no elevations or thresholds. Blossom will no doubt use that access when it’s warmer to get out to eat some of the grass there. She spent the first 13 years of her life as a free roaming herd pig and greatly misses her foraging time. Our greenhouse foods are not quite the same as getting your own.

When everyone was moved back in they were all noticeably happy with the changes and Blossom hasn’t stopped traveling around yet. Moving from her heated sleeping corner across the room to enjoy the morning sun and getting water from any of the several dishes is a whole new wider world for our big girl. She and Evita sleep together as they did for many years as herd pigs. It’s heartwarming how this small change in environment has made such a difference to the quality of life of one special pig.
ECONOMICS IN 2010

In this third year of economic downturn, many animal charities are experiencing the accumulation of debt, problems resulting from postponing important needed improvements and in some cases, with too little support and too much expense, are closing down and dispersing animals. We count ourselves very fortunate to have nothing more than some debt at this point.

Our supporters have choices. We are grateful beyond measure that they choose to keep our sanctuary in their hearts and giving. Every time I open an envelope and find a check for $5, a small gift by some reckoning, I wonder if the donor realizes just how valuable that $5 is.. providing almost a month of pig feed for one pig. For $15 a month we feed and provide vet care and for $25 we can support a herd pig totally, every repair to his barn, land upkeep and bedding. And for those who make life rich for special needs pigs with monthly donations of $50 and $100, you make it possible for these pigs to live comfortably throughout their lives, despite illnesses and disabilities through that generosity. We have many levels of need here and each donor reaches one of them.

We do not have mortgage payments, tractor payments or salaries to demand a share of each donation; all our income goes straight to the operation of the sanctuary and the Outreach program and nothing else. Below is our P&L for 2009.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual and Business contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation and Trust Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts of goods</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Program (Helping Hoof)</td>
<td>4363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Operating expense (feed/vet/bedding/supplies)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office supplies, ins, dues, printing, &amp; postage</td>
<td>7056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Fees (CPA), Fin charges, bank exp, State Licenses and Permits; lab testing fees for quality assurance of feed and health supplies.</td>
<td>2909</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auto exp, fuel/repairs/ins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupancy Expense (phone/internet access/on line newsletter, email and fax services)</td>
<td>2610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/meeting/fundraising exp</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>71532</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,

Another year has passed and spring will soon be here to bring warm days and rich pastures and maybe this year a small harvest of fruit from our young trees.

In any business there is a life cycle. We, as a mature sanctuary of over 20 years, have seen changes on our horizon and plan for them as we go along. Our planning and the actions taken over the past several years have been directed primarily toward the rapidly growing number of elderly pigs in our herds. Barns with easy access, better control of temperature, planted forages and fruits for good digestion; all these are part of the progression our sanctuary takes to assure pigs who have spent their lives here, or those aged pigs who come in, a place to live out their years in security and comfort.

Sanctuaries are not static, they change as the needs of the population changes, and if we aren’t watchful we may find ourselves with many animals needing things we aren’t able to provide quickly enough. Sometimes it feels like we need a crystal ball and a big suitcase full of money if we are to stay ahead of the needs of these hundreds of rapidly aging animals. In our herds today we have over 100 geriatrics. And another hundred rapidly coming up behind them. The third hundred, the younger pigs following them, will find us well prepared and very experienced when their time comes for gentler slopes and softer foods.

In 2009 we had a stroke of great fortune that enabled us to go ahead with our new elder barn. And it has been everything we hoped it would be as this hard winter sent weeks of frigid temperatures followed by floods, then followed by nearly 8 inches of snow and ice. They remain warmed and dry and comfortable.

As we enter 2010 we plan to relocate the sleeping areas for 60 more pigs, moving them into private sections of the new barn and the remodeled lower barn, thus getting some of tomorrow’s elders into more suitable quarters a bit ahead of their actual need.

To all of you who have given so generously in 2009; a heartfelt Thank You. We marvel at what great friends you have been to these unwanted animals. How fortunate the path that brought them to us and you to them.

for the Pigs

In this Issue

1 A Better Life for Blossom
2 2009 Year End Financial Report
3 Message from the director
4 Centerfold Pigs
5 & More Pics
6 To our Pigs Good Health!
7 Supporting the sanctuary without writing a check.
8 Walkabout

What’s in your wallet? See page 7 for details
Sometimes rescue only changes the venue of the suffering. Rescuing pigs is too often that way. Stray pigs, taken in to animal shelters who have never handled pigs or handled them without any skill, can be more at risk than they were on the loose.

Prince was a stray, needing smart pig care, not what he got at the municipal shelter. As a little boar he was a demon when confined in a cage. With hormones raging in his 2 month old body, driven to mount something, anything, he continually dumped his water tub. Too high for him to drink out of (would you think someone might notice he was 10 inches tall and the tub was 12 inches?) it was a good size for practicing his boar skills. Which meant his water, less a tiny bit he may have sucked off the floor, full of cleaning agents and his own mess, was lost down the drain. Our foster mom saw the situation and explained that he needed a shallower pan. When allowed the next day to be released into our foster home’s care he was having seizures, the result of salt poisoning. Too little water too long, followed by too much water too soon. Fortunately for Prince, he was taken directly to an excellent pig vet; he survived and after a few more seizures, never had them again. Years later, he is the undisputed Prince Regent of our 9 pig herd of small pigs, “The Littles”.

SOMETIMES IT’S PURE BLIND LUCK

One late night a call came in from an east TN wildlife rehabber. A drug bust had just encountered a couple with drugs and 2 baby pigs, no more than 2 days old, in their car. One was dead before the pigs could be passed off to the only known source of help at that hour in the small town. The drug dealing teenagers did not divulge the pig’s origins or purpose. (Our profound gratitude to those police officers who made the effort on behalf of the pigs) We arranged for her to continue her care, with some pig specific instructions, before putting her into a foster home in the area. Today, at 200 plus pounds and 7 years old, she is a happy resident of our Shys herd. Shown above enjoying a sunny day on her cabin porch.
Tracey, innocently walking along, enjoying her day communing with the pigs and flowers and trees at the Green. Dangling bags full of apples and carrots, she will soon find Cedric, lurking nearby, will relieve her of them. He will race off to the thieves’ hideout and they will share the ill gotten gains.

Everybody’s favorite little old man, Wilbur G, is no longer encumbered by tubes, bandages or the UTI problems that went with them. After months of weekly trips to the vet, scores of antibiotic shots, miles of bandages and all the discomfort, Wilbur G is free to live like a normal pig boy. As I changed his bandages every day and caught urine samples for testing I was certain that he was starting to use his normal path to urinate as well as the tube. Dr Wearing, our sanctuary vet who saw him weekly, examined him, agreed that the possibility was good and his prognosis was NOT good the way we were going and removed the tube. He has recovered completely and is living a happy life with his pig buddies. Continued medications in his diet keep the possibility of future blockages very low.

Until next time
Winkie says..
“Life is short, Eat more cookies”
THE BIOCHEMICAL PROFILE  DR DAWN RUBEN

Blood work is a very important diagnostic tool that provides a significant amount of information about your pet's health. A biochemical profile is a blood test that assesses the function of internal organs, measures the electrolytes such as blood potassium, and identifies the levels of circulating enzymes. Understanding the biochemical profile can be difficult but reveals a wealth of information.

Twenty of the most common tests in a blood profile .

Glucose.  BUN (blood urea nitrogen)  Creatinine  Sodium (Na) Potassium (K)........ Chloride CO2 (carbon dioxide)  Calcium  Phosphorus Total Protein (TP)  Albumin Bilirubin  Cholesterol  Triglyceride  ALKP (alkaline phosphatase)  AST (aspartate aminotransferase).  ALT (alanine aminotransferase)...  GGT (gamma-glutamyl transferase).  Amylase.  CK (creatine kinase)

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Glucose is the end product of carbohydrate metabolism and is the primary source of energy for the body. High levels indicate stress, Cushings's disease, diabetes, pancreatitis or can be due to certain medications. Low levels can indicate liver disease, insulin overdose, severe bacterial infection, hypothyroidism and Addison's disease. Toy breed puppies are prone to low blood glucose for unknown reasons.

BUN (blood urea nitrogen) is the primary end product of protein metabolism. High levels indicate kidney failure or disease, dehydration, shock, high protein diet, certain toxin ingestions, poor circulation to the kidneys and urinary obstruction. Low levels indicate liver disease or starvation.

Creatinine is the end product of phosphocreatine metabolism, which is important in muscle contractions. High levels indicate kidney failure or disease, dehydration, shock, certain toxin ingestions, poor circulation to the kidneys and urinary obstruction. Low levels indicate liver disease or starvation.

Sodium works in combination with potassium and is very important in maintaining normal function of muscle and nerves. It is also an important electrolyte in every part of the body. High levels indicate dehydration, lack of water, diabetes insipidus, Cushings's and excess salt intake. Low levels indicate starvation, severe diarrhea, vomiting, Addison's disease, hypothyroidism and metabolic acidosis.

Potassium works in combination with sodium and is very important in maintaining normal function of muscle and nerves. High levels indicate diabetes, certain toxin ingestions, urinary obstruction, acute kidney failure, severe muscle damage and Addison's disease. Low levels indicate vomiting and diarrhea, gastrointestinal cancer, insulin overdose, Cushings's disease, overuse of diuretics and starvation.

Chloride is important in maintaining the acid balance in the blood as well as combining with hydrogen to form hydrochloric acid for stomach digestion. High levels indicate dehydration, metabolic acidosis, Addison's disease and kidney disease. Low levels indicate vomiting and metabolic alkalosis.

CO2 indicates the current acid balance of the body and is the end product of metabolism. High levels indicate an acidic condition and can be due to kidney failure, vomiting, dehydration or overdose of diuretics. Low levels indicate a basic condition of the blood and can be due to starvation, kidney failure (can also cause acidosis), diarrhea and poor liver function.

Calcium is a mineral found throughout the body. It is the basis for bones, teeth and muscle contractions. High levels indicate certain forms of cancer, Addison's disease, excess intake of vitamin D and an overactive parathyroid gland. Low levels indicate eclampsia, severe pancreatitis, dietary imbalance, intestinal absorption disorders, low intact of vitamin D, Cushings's disease and certain toxin ingestions.

Phosphorus is often associated with calcium. It is important in all aspects of metabolism. High levels indicate kidney disease, dietary imbalance, excess ingestion of vitamin D and severe tissue trauma. Low levels indicate dietary imbalance, certain cancers, overdose of insulin, diabetes, eclampsia and an overactive parathyroid gland.

Triglyceride is important in storing fat and releasing fatty acids. High levels have been associated with seizures in schnauzers. Low levels indicate starvation or malnutrition.

Total Protein (TP) is an important substance in all parts of the body. High levels indicate dehydration, inflammation, chronic infection and certain cancers. Low levels indicate intestinal absorption problems, liver disease, Addison's disease, severe burns and losses through the kidneys.

Albumin is the major protein found in the body. It carries various substances through the blood and is important in maintaining pressure within the vessels. High levels indicate dehydration. Low levels indicate chronic inflammation, liver disease, kidney disease, starvation and blood loss.

Bilirubin is a bile pigment and is the end product of red blood cell breakdown. High levels typically result in jaundice and can be due to bile duct obstruction, gall bladder obstruction, liver disease and rapid breakdown of red blood cells. Low levels are not considered clinically relevant.

Cholesterol is important in the synthesis of certain hormones. High levels are not as important as in people. Low levels indicate liver disease, starvation, kidney disease, Cushings’s, pancreatitis, diabetes and hypothyroidism.

ALKP is important in metabolism and is found in liver cells. High levels indicate bile duct obstruction, Cushings’s, liver disease, certain cancers and may be due to certain drugs such as steroids or phenobarbital. Low levels indicate starvation or malnutrition.

AST is important in the breakdown and elimination of nitrogen. High levels indicate muscle damage, heart muscle damage, liver damage, toxin ingestion, inflammation and various metabolic disorders. Low levels indicate starvation or malnutrition.

ALT is also important in the metabolism of nitrogen and is most often associated with the liver. High levels indicate liver damage, toxin ingestion, Cushings’s disease and various metabolic disorders. Low levels indicate starvation or malnutrition.

GGT is also important in nitrogen metabolism and is found within liver cells. High levels indicate bile duct obstruction, liver disease, pancreatitis, Cushings’s and can be caused by high levels of steroids. Low levels indicate starvation and malnutrition.

Amylase is secreted by the pancreas and is important in normal digestion of starch. High levels indicate pancreatic inflammation or cancer, kidney disease, prostatic inflammation, diabetic ketoacidosis and liver cancer. Low levels can indicate malnutrition or starvation.

CK is very important in storing energy needed for muscle contractions. High levels indicate muscle trauma or damage such as due to seizures, surgery, bruises, inflammation, nutritional and degenerative diseases. Low levels are not clinically relevant.

Pig not eating?  Don’t waste precious time calling sanctuaries, rescues or friends with pigs. Call your vet and get diagnostics done. The time spent “polling” the pig groups or getting information based on guesswork has cost many pigs their life. Your pig needs professional help when he is sick.
Shepherd's Green Sanctuary Credit Card

The easiest way ever to support our sanctuary’s work..

Our philosophy over the years has been to keep our costs down, work at self sufficiency and make it easy for you, our supporters, to share the plans, goals and successes of our sanctuary.

With a Shepherd’s Green Capital One card, you can support us every time you make a purchase, and it costs nothing. Is that Easy or what?

Choose one of our special designs for your card. In about a week you will have your card to use.

Just go to our website, www.9sites.org and click on PigStation and visit the Fundraising page where there is a direct link to our Capital One page. (shown below) At this time they do not take applications by phone or mail, it’s all done on line, quick and easy.
THE WALKABOUT

Princton, almost lost on the vast white hill, has always been a brave pig but this white stuff, up to his belly in places, was new, cold and pretty scary. At 10 years old he had never seen anything like it. After the first heavy snow I walked up the long hill and made a foot path for the pigs who live up there in houses under the pines to follow down to water and food. After that they simply waited for me to come do it after each snow. Or better yet, please just deliver.

WINTER; A SOUTHERN PIG’S VIEW

It was long
It was cold
There was deep snow
We ordered in

TREES OF REMEMBRANCE

During the fall and winter we planted wild pears for our lost friends, adding to the future foods in the elder area. This year we plan to continue with wild fruits, scattering them through the fields and edges of the woods. If you wish to add a fruit or nut tree in memory of a lost friend of any species, just provide the tree information on the enclosed card.

Your friend’s name is remembered on the Rainbow Bridge roster of our website.

www.9sites.org Go to PigStation and click on the Rainbow Bridge link..