The warm spring sun; a welcome touch for Jimmy Dale.

The “Laundry Boys”, even though neither of them ever set foot outside when it’s cold, still look forward to the first days of spring. They, like their healthier friends, enjoy the sounds of birds and peepers, the breezes that waft over the new grass, the sweet scent of wild roses and lilacs blooming and for most of the pigs, another year of meadows to graze, ponds and streams to wade and wallow in and woods to explore.

Jimmy Dale, his whole life complicated by asthma and other lung disease, will not go far from the house, and this year Sebastian, now 19, is unable to go out on his own at all. But if they cannot come out then the Green will come in. The sun and fresh air comes in their open door and birds and butterflies fly in and out. Harpo and Lucky, the yard pigs, pop their heads in every afternoon to see “what’s shakin’”.

Life at the Green. It’s a simple one. Lived one day at a time.
All too often we directors feel the newsletter is our only chance to tell you all the things that have gone wrong and how much we need your help. And you are so good to respond, we can never thank you enough!

But things don’t always go wrong. Sometimes the combination of the right project and the right people just works.

Our great bread run is one of those!

One board member negotiated the donation in 2003, committing us to a schedule for pickup and remains the contact person for the project.

Three days a week she and another volunteer pick up donated breads from 2 bakeries. The other volunteer stores it in his storage building. Once a week another volunteer picks it up and drives it 50 miles where I meet him and we transfer it to my truck.

The bakeries know we will be there, and those of us involved in the schedule know where we will be on what days and schedule other activities around it. The schedule has been met, every week, every month, every year for eight years.

So every week the pigs get a feast of fresh wholesome baked breads and pastries. At the Green the smell of fresh baked bread is the smell of Success!!

For the pigs.
The Guardian Dog at Work

When Spike got into a fight with his herd mate Ikey, getting his ear torn for his trouble, Tempest wasted no time in tending to his needs. First a thorough cleaning and in the next few days repeated care, removing scabs and re-cleaning the wound and surrounding area. This expert nursing care is the most awesome of their care giver skills.

The interaction always amazes me. If I try to clean this pig’s ear he will run off and refuse all contact between me and the wound. But a guardian dog can walk up and place a paw on his head to ask him to be still and he will stand like a statue for 30 minutes or more while she does the job.

There is an incredibly strong trust factor that these dogs develop with the pigs by bonding with them as puppies. Tempest was rescued from the side of the road in a frigid winter storm and put into a stall with some older pigs for warmth. She never left their side again.

It is doubly amazing when you think about the fundamental predator-prey relationship that exists between dogs and prey animals.

But guardian breeds, unlike most, have an instinct to protect that is stronger than the instinct to kill.

Cleaning a wound is a top priority for a LGD

Guardian Dogs Are:
- Herd & family Protectors
- Independent Natured with a need for a lot of space.
- Able to get out of most fences
- Quick to understand who is and isn’t “family”.

Guardian Dogs Are Not:
- Herding Dogs
- Dangerous to anyone or anything that isn’t actively hurting their “family”
- Interested in learning tricks or being “obedient”. They have work to do.
Spring at the Green

Buddy, Danny & Half Socks check out the new grass in the rotation field.

Jake enjoys his first spring,
George takes a morning nap,
dogwoods bloom in the woods
and the young apple trees
blossom, a promise of fruit for
summer
From top left: Billy finds a secret spot to nibble on new leaves, pigs dot the greening hillside, the main herd finds those first tender shoots after a rain, and at the bottom, pigs enjoy a “Fruitful” day at the March Piggy Nationals, our spring fruit fundraiser.
Will you help us get these pigs to a good life?

This spring we have extended a Helping Hoof to 18 new pigs needing new homes a several needing assistance to stay in their current home. Just the transport and spay/neuter bills have been over $3000. And every pig placed in a private sanctuary requires $25/month support. Help us continue to reach out to those languishing in shelters and those in private homes needing medical care. Sponsor one of these pigs, with a monthly or annual pledge for their care. Make an annual pledge for one of these pigs and a second year of support will be put in their fund to give them a good start in their new life.

This page from top left: Jake, Yoda, Winston, Merlin, Bubba, Rowan and Rianna. More pigs on the next page.

Visit our Gallery of Gifts on line at www.9sites.org

Every gift purchased provides funding for the Helping Hoof program to care for pigs in need. A unique selection of collectibles from Lladro to Steif, framed art, antiques, quilts, memorabilia, pig collectibles, and many other treasures to hold for your grandchildren, give as presents or just enjoy in your home.
How the Helping Hoof works to save lives of strays.

Gwen, pictured at right was in an East TN shelter last spring, scheduled to be destroyed. We arranged with a private sanctuary to take her, guaranteed her care costs for life, had her transported, spayed and vaccinated and she went to her new home. A sponsor in California “adopted” this Tennessee girl and has provided her financial care. We manage a fund for her and funds are used as needed by the caregiver. A portion is earmarked for future medical needs and is matched by additional funds from the Helping Hoof fund. If Gwen needs major surgery one day, there will be funds there for her. The responsibility lies with us to assure a secure future for each pig we save.

And the list goes on with 4 young pigs, abandoned behind a trailer on the Alabama border. 4 starved to death there, 4 survived to get here. Now spayed and vaccinated, they fill each day experiencing all the wonders never known by a pig abused all its short life. fields of grass, woods, ponds and creeks and 2 meals a day. You can sponsor these 4 delightful girls at $25/a month each; $100 / month will provide lifetime care for the whole family! If you can do so, we can continue to help others in need.

A look of awe. Jasmine views her new home from her quarantine pen. It must have truly looked like “the promised land” to her eyes after seeing nothing but ice and snow in a metal pen with her siblings dying one by one beside her. Please help us care for Jasmine, Snippet, Snapdragon and Emma.

Mary Jane and Anna, above, and Butch, Sundance, Babe the farm pig and Janie, below, all enjoy the benefits of small sanctuary care. These pigs need sponsors. Will you chose one of them?
Health News

Good news for pigs suffering from squamous cell carcinoma in the mouth and facial area. In 2007 we treated Moonlight, who had scc on her face, with carboplatin chemotherapy. Injections were placed directly into the mass. She is today still free of the cancer.

Last fall we saw our boy Surprise losing weight and acting less than his busy self. He was diagnosed with scc in his mouth; a mass the size of a golf ball.

He was treated with the same local injections of carboplatin and in 5 treatments there was no sign of the mass. Two subsequent checkups have seen him remain healthy as he gains back his well muscled shape.

Thank You for joining us in our mission.
Shepherd’s Green is more than a place to go, it’s a life.

Shepherd’s Green Sanctuary

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www.9sites.org