Finding a Special Place

When we moved here we began setting up herds by “need”. The farm pigs needed a big space, a creek bed they couldn’t damage, feeders that held super sized helpings and a barn that would hold them as they scratched and shoved each other at bedtime. Then came the Main; young, well adjusted to herd life, many raised from piglets in a sanctuary setting, they needed exploring country, lots of choices of water, woods and wilderness, with a big barn for sleeping in groups of their own choosing. The Center herd was developed when a big group from another sanctuary came in a year later, a group with a lot of health problems; who needed a spot with extra oversight and a loading dock for vet trips.

And so it continues, arranging herds of appropriate sizes for health and psychological well being; moving pigs from one herd to another to best serve their needs as they age or develop health problems, like SP2, a herd of 24 pigs with few or no teeth, the result of a grain diet for animals who’s natural diet is fruit, vegetation, eggs, and nice chewy grubs. It is unthinkable that a crippled pig be left in a group who crowds her out of food and shelter. As our herds dynamics change, we have to stay just a step ahead with construction to move them when its time.

Birney, one of the pigs from a 2004 sanctuary closing in Pennsylvania, leaves the big breakfast platter when it gets crowded. This big boy is what the Shys herd is all about. He is about 13 years old, good natured and just not competitive enough to be comfortable in a herd of boisterous pigs. Being with a group of other shy pigs works for Birney and 18 others in the Shys herd.
Director’s Corner

Hello to all of you who care about pigs!
(And if you found this on the commuter train seat, enjoy the read! It’s likely a world you never knew existed.)

The summer is flying by. Hardly time to get one field mowed before the next is deep in grass and the fruit and nut season is just getting underway. A great year to be a pig at the Green.

The summer newsletter is our annual Double Your Donation opportunity. Every dollar donated through Sept 30 is matched by a local businesswoman and results in $2 in the bank! We cannot do any better than that! It makes such a difference to be able to get our hay in early and know its all paid for, stored in the loft and ready for those cold winter days. And fall is the main time for dental care here, when the temps come down enough to be safer for anesthesia and comfortable for recovering. There are 42 pigs destined to get surgery in October/November.

We appreciate all you do over the years and look forward to our continuing teamwork to keep these precious little spirits safe.

When you finish the newsletter, leave it at your vet’s office or dentist or on the train... and someone else may learn all about pigs.

With your help we will bring this summer season to a great end with Doubled Donations!!

for the pigs,
So how do pigs speak to us and to one another?
Well, they sure don’t use a lot of words; one word probably suffices to express lots of different meanings by tone and context.
Like people they also use facial expressions and body language.
Maybe you have to look a little closer, you won’t see winks and eyebrow raising and the range is not as great as what humans can convey with a look, but look closely and you will see them communicating very well indeed. They build their social structures with a language of their own.
Above, a few soft oofs is all I hear, but as Pandora relates her story to Daisy May, there is interest and understanding.
After 26 years of living with pigs I still wish they would text me and make it a little simpler to know when they need something special from me.

**Communications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In This Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◇ Communications 4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Centerfold Pigs *** Summer 2011 6/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ OK, so where’d the money go? 8/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How your gifts are being used in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Health Corner 10/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- White Pigs’ skin disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The wound that won’t heal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Calendars for 2012 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ The free $$ from Capital One 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What Pigs Do**

Want to know more about pigs and how they live at Shepherd’s Green? Just drop us a note or an email and tell us you would like the DVD. We will send you one.
Unlike the videos you see on TV with pigs all cute and all tiny, trussed up in harnesses that restrict every movement, these are actual pigs, from babies to aged pigs, doing what pig’s do in a pig society. Big and small, cute, fat or fit, arthritics and athletes and all of them, intelligent communicating beings.

*How do we communicate? When language isn’t common, we have to find other ways. The intelligence of pigs is never more apparent than in his ability to express himself in terms he thinks YOU can understand. Think about it. Its pretty amazing.*
Urinary blockages are very common in boy pigs and are deadly if not addressed quickly. They are accumulations of granules that collect until they either form stones or just prevent passage of urine by their buildup at the bottom of the bladder, blocking the flow out. Ammonil is available from any vet, it is not a prescription, rather its considered a supplement. It acidifies the urine, disintegrating stones and granules very rapidly. We see 4 or 5 cases every year and only rarely have they required surgery.

Harpo’s Message

Harpo and Lucky, shown above, live in the front yard and roam freely. Pigs know what home means; they don’t leave their territory or get in the road or wander off. They are disinterested in human visitors and live their own parochial life of piggish.

When we moved here in 2004 Harpo had to have surgery and spent a couple weeks in our hospital. Then he moved into a herd and a couple years ago became Lucky’s companion in the yard. Pigs are very territorial so I was surprised to see him one day recently, standing in a stall in the hospital. “Harpo? What are you doing in here? “I asked. He looked up at me with a look of serious concentration.

I stood there for a bit and then went on to do the watering. I came back and he was still standing there. “Well Harpo, what is it? “ He looked up again. Then with great purpose he walked over to me and stood in front of me, looking straight up at me and straining to pee. He had a urinary blockage. He knew where to go and who to see but the communications method took some thought. The result was good and by morning he was doing OK. He needs checking daily but I am quite certain that if I miss him, he will find me and “tell “me his problem.

Water for Wallace

Wallace is the patriarch of the “Tribe”, a family of 4 guinea hogs, now 17 years old, raised in the sanctuary. They are unique, keeping a quiet, private society and taking no part in the social order around them. Wallace is the King of all he sees, never doubt it or be in his way or his look will wither you. He will not hurt you but he has a way of intimidating all who meet him. At over 300 pounds and totally fearless, it’s wise to let him go his Kingly way, like a big bear.

Wallace had pneumonia in the spring. He graciously permitted me to approach and give him shots and he recovered quickly. But I knew watching him climb the hill that their age was making the daily trip up to the high ridge more difficult every year. Remembering last year’s ice and snow on the hill, we moved them this summer to the Elder Habitat. They set about quietly exploring the surrounding woods. I came down to watch them after a couple hours to be sure they had found water. Sitting outside the fence, without disturbing them I watched this dialogue unfold. Einswine and Ophelia, the two most inquisitive and social were in the pond. It hadn’t rained in a few days and the pond was a bit still and algae was growing. They wallowed a bit and drank a little, then went on to check out the feed dishes and other water sources. After a few minutes I saw Aphrodite, his closest sibling, start down out of the woods looking for water. She stopped and tasted
Every summer we get a lot of calls about parasites and insecticide use. Using any toxic substance on animals who spend most of their summer in the mudhole, often drinking the water.. is just too risky for our pigkids. But fleas and ticks do come to call. We use Diatomaceous earth, food grade, tossing it generously on each pig, in every bed, on the dog and the cats.. And anywhere we see ants trying to invade the house. It’s safe. It works.

Water for Wallace, continued

the pond and shook her head, went on to find the turtle pool (which was fresh) and drank. Soon, Wallace came from the woods and walked part way across the little meadow, stopped and asked “Oof?” (My translation: Where’s the water?) His three siblings looked up and first Ophelia, then Einswine oofed and walked back over to the pond. He walked over and looked skeptically at the green pond.

He turned to Aphrodite and asked again, “Oof?” and she said in a negative tone, “unh” which I figured probably translated to “it’s pretty awful, don’t drink it!”

Wallace, patient but thirsty, looked to all three, “Oof?” Einswine and Ophelia and Aphrodite all went over to the turtle pool, muttered something and laid down around it.

Wallace regally made his way over to drink deeply.

Language is always part mystery and part empirical knowledge; reading much into a single word uttered by a big pig is pretty much a leap of imagination even for me!

But sitting there outside the fence with time standing still, the woods and water a soft backdrop, just watching and listening, I had no doubt what the conversation was about. And with communications from his siblings, there was Water for Wallace!

A Message to You

It is high summer in the land of the Green. If you were here, you would be greeted by a few oofs and a lot of tails swishing contentedly, their way of saying life is good.

They don’t have the language or the computer access or the paper and pen to say thank you for all you do for them.

If only you could see what you do for them.. The seed that starts in the fall and brings them fresh clover and grass in the spring The seeds for the gardens, the trees that you bought so they can eat fresh food The warm hay that covers them deeply, keeping them warm all winter The windows you had built for them, so the day can be warm or cold and they feel comfortable with them opened or closed The new rakes so each main area gets cleaned well .. No more snaggle tooth raking! The guttering on every main barn so we get fresh water every time it rains.. No chemicals. The gas for the mower to keep our pastures cut and mulched to make them healthy and green.

In hundreds of ways you make their life more than survival..

So it is with real happiness that we read your letters, look at the pictures of your pigs, the drawings from your children, and with great pleasure we send a little card of thanks. It is you who make it possible for our pigkids to go to sleep tonight full and content.

THANKS
Summer Centerfold

Lily enjoying an early morning stroll on the “Promenade deck”...
Unlike most of her kind, who find bridges way too insecure, Lily finds it the shortest distance from the front yard to the back. As a yard pig, she goes where she chooses.

Below, Sutter spends many hours enjoying his new mudhole... The day it was dug I made sure that one long side was very gently sloped, hoping Nellie, the blind pig, would not be afraid to go in. Bill had no sooner started moving the backhoe out than that blind girl walked right down into it and took a mud bath!

Now & Then
Waco, now 15, has lived in the sanctuary since he was a few months old. Here he takes life easy in the Elder habitat. Right; he posed as a sturdy little 3 year old.

Summer, summer, sweetly tasted, warmly remembered.
The New kid in town. It takes a few weeks for everyone to establish the “pecking order”. Duncan, bottom left, just arrived in early July so is still in the quarantine pen. Soon he will get to join the Newbies group.

Yoda helps out in the office and when night comes, joins Lisa for Movie night.. seems Banditas didn’t hold his attention.. Not enough scenes with food I guess

Winston finds Tinker’s Grove to be a comfy place to while away the day. As the temps rose in July, he moved deeper into the woods.

Merlin never slows down, no naps for him, he is on the go every minute of the day
• **Outreach:** When we cannot bring them to the sanctuary, we provide help with our Helping Hoof Fund; funds for transports, vet care, S/N costs, feed, shelter... Whatever we can do to provide a safe and healthy life for a pig, wherever he is. When you send a donation earmarked for the Helping Hoof, it goes into that fund.

• **Supplies & Repairs** covers everything from fans to fence panels to tires for the feed cart and the repairs on all the equipment. The cost of running a sanctuary every day.

• **Office** includes printing, telephone services, internet and website hosting, equipment & supplies, postage & shipping.

• **Part Time help.** It’s a must have these days.

• **Professional fees and Licenses** includes our CPA, Bank, PayPal, State Licensing, Accreditation and legal fees.

• **Veterinary Care** Keeping everyone healthy is our biggest expense. It is rising as the pigs age. This morning I printed off a “pending vet trip” list. Today 42 pigs are on the list for dental work and surgeries. Our vets here at Ragland & Riley and at the University of Tennessee and our vet in the Nashville area, Dr. Dixon, all work with us as partners in this mission to provide good health to the hundreds of residents here.

• **Food**

Our second biggest expense is food. As our pig family ages, the quality of feed and its cost goes up. Better feed, more fresh foods, more cooked foods. This year we moved to a better basic feed. The higher levels of available nutrition have been effective on skin problems and pigs with metabolic issues. Besides the basic feed we use about 15% of a special mix to add extra nutrients they don’t get in the feed. It contains shelled nuts, dried cherries, raisins, sunflower kernels, safflower kernels, dry milk, rice bran, timothy grass pellets (fiber for those who cannot gaze anymore) salmon and vegetable pellets (Taste of Wild canine feed). Add a few cheese puffs or a handful of dog biscuits and they have a meal every morning that is varied, tasty and nutritious. But its definitely not cheap.

Imagine a life where every day you ate the same tasteless food. Not here!! I figure they want some variety and some great tastes, just as I do. When you send donations earmarked for fruits, I go straight to J.R.Gaw, our local produce distributor and buy fruit.. The pigs love every bite..
The fruit trees from last winter’s planting have had a hard year, first brutal cold, then Japanese beetles and fire bight but they are now recovering. With an organic farm, sometimes you win, sometimes you don’t, but when nature is in balance, everyone ultimately wins. Hopefully these little trees will come along well now.

New feeding station built this summer. When winter blankets us in snow and ice, the Center herd will have a dry place to eat. Building materials have already been bought to frame two more feeding stations, one for the farm pigs and one for the Main herd this fall.

The two greenhouses are providing lots of Asian beans this year, (they grow up the greenhouse framing and hang down for easy picking), along with tomatoes, cucumbers, chard, corn, broccoli, and asparagus, and the perennial garden was so full of strawberries that I picked 2 gallons every couple of days. Little Winston was new here when they started ripening and he sat by the fence for his treats, his mouth red with juice and his tail wagging. Then Rianna joined us and then Merlin.. And so the threesome waited for me to show up at the garden to toss them berries. Now the raspberries are ripening. Squash, pumpkin and sweet potatoes are in the outer garden, some making nice meals already for the sick and crippled pigs who don’t graze.

By far the best spot on our map.. The reservoir. David, our bulldozer artist did an amazing bit of creative digging and all the floods and heavy ice buildup hasn’t affected the reservoir one bit. It is deep, cool and free running all the time, fed by a hillside spring. Here Daisy E debates a deep swim or a wallow at the edge.

Water.. The best thing on the planet!!
**Skin HEALTH**

Mona, above, and Sally Cream Cheese below are two of some 30 white and silver pigs who have over the years gradually gotten more and more skin problems. A month of diagnostics and care at the University for Sally indicated no single approach was going to solve the problems. Each pig seemed a little different. But most were thin, had weeping sores,

Never use a feed whose primary ingredients are “byproducts” or “products”. That means chaff. All the nutritive value has been extracted. Buy a good quality feed with ingredients you recognize; wheat, corn, rice, barley.

Make sure you are getting a safe level < 0.30 ppm selenium (never higher) and a sufficiently high level of zinc > 75 ppm.

The building blocks to bad skin:
1. **Sun.** Love it as they do, there is no kind way to keep them from getting too much sun. With only a few, sunscreen can help. But sun sensitivity starts it.
2. **Parasites:** Fleas and lice are common to pigs; especially if they are in large communities and have feral cats around.

Treating fleas is simple. Diatomaceous Earth is available at most farm supply stores and dusting pigs, cats, dogs and the places they sleep is totally safe and rids it of fleas if done every few weeks. Lice are harder. If the group is small, worm with Ivermectin 1% solution either orally or by injection and repeat at 14 day intervals for a total of 3 wormings. Again, its safe and effectively rids you of lice in all its stages. Repeat every 3 months.

1. **Scratching:** The irritation of sunburn and the parasites are primary reasons for itching. But during shedding they also scratch and just living in hay and grass can be itchy too. The scratching opens tiny avenues for infection. They are very minor. But so many tiny infections wear down the body’s immune system over time.
2. **Nutrition:** Healthy skin requires a substantial level of zinc. Low zinc will contribute to skin problems. We changed our feed to one with a lot more zinc and have seen excellent results.

So what is the Cure?

We have been very pleased to find that Pulsing with SMZ (for infection) and prednisone (anti-inflammatory) and acid reducer (protect the stomach from the prednisone) has been effective. We “pulse” them on and off for 3 week intervals. We are soon starting our third pulse and already some have clear, healthy looking skin. Along with the drugs, the feed change to more zinc, “misting” them monthly with Ivomec Spray to prevent lice and baths every few days during the “On” phase. We think we are onto a control method, if not a cure.

For those with Skin Cancer, there is a topical spray and a cream that helps. It is a human chemotherapy drug called 5-Flouricil.

**The Cause**

The root cause is that white farm pigs get skin cancer and when introduced in 1989 into the potbellied pig population as “Royal Whites”, they brought their genetics with them. Because farm pigs are killed as juveniles, for the meat industry, it just doesn’t matter. But now we have tens of thousands of white and silver pigs of diminutive sizes in homes as well as a growing number of farm pigs as pets. When they get skin cancer or any of the other skin conditions, it matters! We want them to have long healthy lives.
Potter (above) and Ivy (right) had nothing in common when the wounds/sores began. Not from the same or even adjacent herds, they had never met. With Potter, after a few weeks of not healing from a bite on his hip and just a “hunch” that he had something unlike the other white pigs, I sent him to the vet for biopsy and culture.

Ivy, a sore about 2 inches in diameter became a monster as it healed from the center but kept expanding outward. (the yellow line shows how it grew from what first seemed to be just a trifling wound.) After attempts to heal it up, only to keep finding the edges infected under the skin margins, she too went in for surgery to debride the area and do a biopsy and culture.

For both pigs, we arrived at the same answer, a nasty environmental bug that we have met before, pseudomonas, an opportunistic bacteria. Treatment with the only antibiotic that didn’t show up on the culture as resistant, was expensive and a dangerous antibiotic for pigs. Add to that, the infection never ceased. In a couple more weeks, with antibiotics, Ivy’s skin was infected way down her leg and across the rectum to her other side. Scrubbing, drugs. Nothing helped. It seemed like we were caught in one of those nightmare stories of a wild uncontrolled bacteria.

The Cure
Yes, we did finally hit on something that worked after much trial and failure. VIN * had no answers. Neither did any vets we talked to. Both pigs were given povidone scrub baths every other day and then after rinsing, sprayed with Colloidal Silver. They also were given SMZ daily to prevent any new unrelated infections to invade the open sores.

Within 3 weeks the expansion stopped and real healing began. After 5 weeks, they were turned back out with their herds and are watched carefully but show no sign of any reinfection. The photo of Ivy was taken about a week after she returned to her herd, all the skin now healed and hair coming back in... she looks almost normal now, in the middle of shedding.

* VIN; the Veterinary Information Network; often helpful for unusual cases. In this case, no member vet had seen or treated the kind of growth we were seeing on Potter and Ivy. If some other vet posts now, our Dr. Wearing will have an answer for them.
2012 Calendars

Please use the Enclosed insert to place reserve orders for extra calendars for friends and family. Include address where you want them shipped and message for the gift card. We want to be sure to order enough copies. They are printed in October.

Shepherd’s Green Sanctuary
139 Copeland Lane,
Cookeville, TN 38506
931-498-5540
Fax 931-563-9383
andpigs@gmail.com
www.9sites.org

Aug 2011

Just Another Credit Card? Not this One!! We just received a check last week for $545 that cost none of our donors a penny. All they do is shop with this card and we get a check for a percentage. Pick your card picture when you sign up.

Shepherd's Green Sanctuary Credit Card

Our organization will receive a $50 donation after your first purchase, plus a percentage of every purchase you make.

Finally—a way to help, without writing a check!

• Donate to our cause with every purchase.
• Contribute automatically—no forms, no additional steps.
• Help us reach our goals without spending extra money.
• Show your support with your custom card design.
• Enjoy a low introductory APR.

To learn more, visit
www.CardLabConnect.com/makeeverypurchasecount

This card is issued by Capital One pursuant to a license from Visa USA, Inc. Credit approval required. Terms and conditions apply. Offered by Capital One, N.A. © 2011 Capital One.