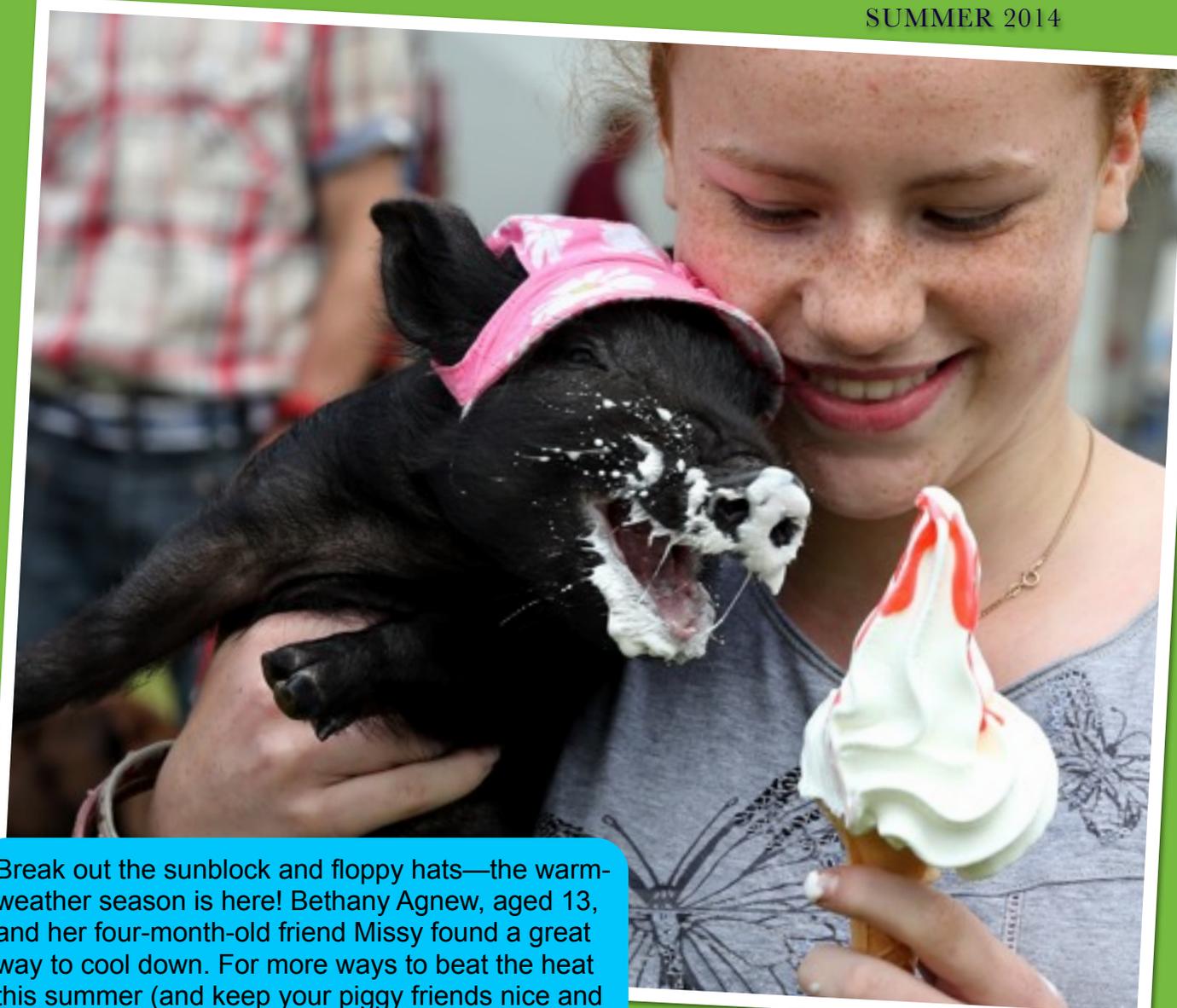


CALIFORNIA POTBELLIED PIG ASSOCIATION, Inc.



CPPA eNEWS

SUMMER 2014



Break out the sunblock and floppy hats—the warm-weather season is here! Bethany Agnew, aged 13, and her four-month-old friend Missy found a great way to cool down. For more ways to beat the heat this summer (and keep your piggy friends nice and cool), check out our feature inside.

Photo credit: Paul Faith/PA Wire

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's . . . a pig on a parasail?



Meet Kama. He's a potbellied pig who knows how to surf. You would think a pig who knew how to surf would be satisfied with that and stop seeking out new thrills. But that's not how Kama rolls . . . which is why he recently took up *parasailing*.

Now, we know what you're thinking: What kind of owner does that to their pig? We had a similar thought. Until we read that Kama gets on the surf board willingly. And that upon coming down from his parasailing adventure, Kama wanted to re-don his harness and go again. Guess some pigs are just thrill seekers.

We've posted a few pics here. You can see a ton more in [Chelsea Marshall's BuzzFeed story](#), and learn more about Kama's life as a whole [here](#) and on his [facebook page](#).

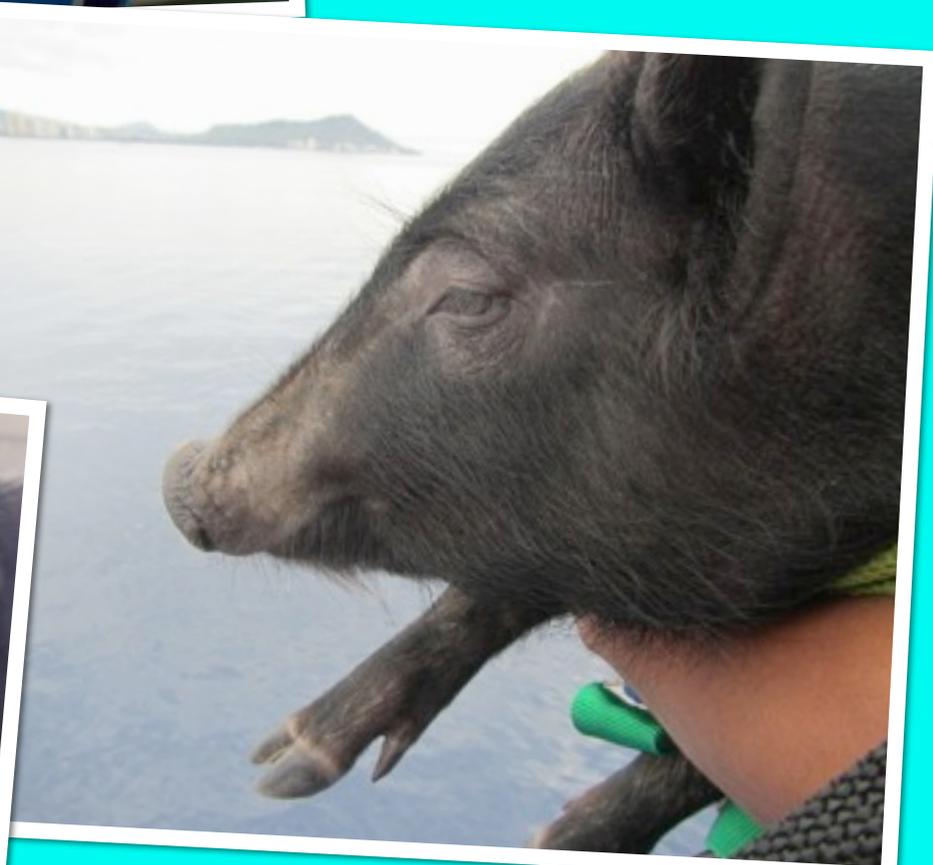
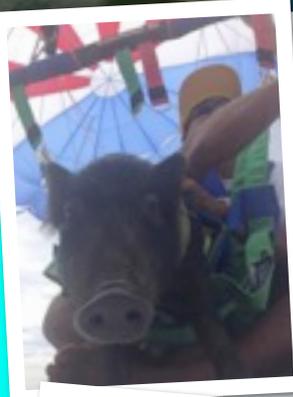


Photo (top): Hodgson/GoPro
Photos (lower): Chelsea Marshall for BuzzFeed

Video Break: “My Pet Pig” is the Perfect Potbellied Primer

We recently came across this excellent series of short pig care videos, starring our friend Marlies from Pig Harmony Rescue. They may be a bit basic for some members, but they're a great primer for anyone new to potbellies, and contain a wealth of valuable information in bite-sized chunks.

Episode 1: [The Environment](#) pigs need.

Episode 2: [Health Care](#)

Episode 3: [Training](#)

Episode 4: [Grooming](#)

Episode 5: [Fitting in with the Family](#)

Bonus: [How to Move a Pig](#), from CPPA



Urgent! Watch out for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus

If you live in the Midwest or happen to work in the pork industry, you may have already heard of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv). Even if you haven't, the name pretty much tells you everything you need to know. This bug is bad news.

So far, the virus has appeared mostly in China and the Midwest, and mostly in piglets on factory farms. So there's no need to head out to the pasture with rubber gloves and a can of Lysol just yet.

However, the virus is still incredibly contagious—it doesn't just travel via infected animals. It can also get around in tiny bits of fecal matter or moisture left on boots, on clothes, in livestock stalls and transport vehicles . . . possibly even on food sourced from a contaminated location or via other vectors researchers haven't even identified yet. And we're smack in the middle of County/State Fair season, when exhibitors, equipment, and livestock from all over the country come together, mingle, and then move on, often to other fairs.

So be careful. If you go someplace where you could come into contact with the virus or a carrier, take precautions when you get home again. Wash your clothes, and clean and sanitize your shoes, floor mats, etc. At press time, it's a long shot to contract the disease in California, but why risk it? And feel free to keep an eye on websites like [Reuters](#) and the excellent [AASV.org page](#) (click the top “quick link” for the latest) to make sure you have the latest and most accurate information.



Trust us: The real illness isn't nearly this cute.

Help needed: Who wants to board a pair of piggies while their family remodels?

We are constantly amazed at the way CPPA members go out of their way to help one another. Here's an opportunity to show your spirit once again--and get some fun house guests in the process.

Winkie (above right) and Iggie (below right), both rescue pigs, are in need of a long-term (12-18 month) foster home while their family transitions to a gorgeous farm in Oregon that just isn't quite ready for piggies.



Both pigs are accustomed to spending most of their time outdoors, and would appreciate space to roam. But really, they just need a temporary home while their mom and dad zip back and forth between Cali and Oregon, working on both homesteads.



If you live in Oregon or California and think you could help, please email marcie at info@cpga4pigs.org. Thanks!

CPPA Asks: How do YOU keep your pigs from digging up your drip irrigation lines?

A reader recently emailed us this question, and frankly, we don't have a good answer. In our experience, if your pig is a "digger", nothing short of encasing the lines in lead pipe will keep your hoses safe.

For example, Chris had this to say: "On hot days, TSPigglot would rip out every drip hose that would reach the apple tree, bite off the drip ends and wait for it to turn on and flood the hollow he had formed under the tree. I tried burying the hoses, using foot long wires to anchor the hoses in place, but that just made it more fun for him."

So let's hear it, CPPA: What techniques have or haven't worked for you? Let us know on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cpga4pigs) or at info@cpga4pigs.org.

Health Watch: Want to save your pig's life? Spay or neuter it

A recent newsletter article from our friends down at SCAMPP (the Southern California Association for Miniature Potbellied Pigs) reminded us just how critical it is to spay or neuter your potbellied pigs as early as you can. Believe it or not, it's the single most effective way to keep them from getting cancer.



Female pigs appear to be more susceptible to uterine cancer than most any other domesticated animal—possibly because pigs tend to live longer. And although it is possible for a sow to have a tumor removed and fully recover, it's a risky and dangerous gamble. Your pig is a lot more likely to survive a spay when she's a piglet than she is to survive surgery to remove a tumor when she's older. Trust us, you do not want to earn the right to tell that kind of horror story.

So play it safe. Have a qualified vet do a full spay—which means taking the whole uterus, not just the ovaries—as soon as your pig is old enough (at six to twelve weeks or when she hits 20

pounds, depending upon the vet). And if you happen to have a male pig? Go for a neuter at six-to-ten weeks, not just to create a gentler pig but to avoid the threat of testicular cancer. It may not seem like it at the time, but there's a good chance you're saving his or her life.

Story Link: 10 reasons why you should adopt an elderly animal

It's a known scientific fact that it is roughly two hundred fifty-seven and a half times easier to convince a first-time pig owner to adopt a baby piglet than it is to get them to accept an adult pig into their home. We get it. Baby piglets are adorable (as are puppies, kittens, chicks, colts, foals . . . you get the idea). Which is why we were so happy to read this article, which very eloquently lays out a strong case for the more vintage models.

Our favorites? They're easier to train, less likely to have potty accidents, they tend to appreciate a good nap more, and best of all: You might be saving their life (we're apparently in a life-saving mood today).

Please check out the [original article](#) and see which reasons resonate more strongly with you.

Cool Summer!

The weather may be hot, but these tips will keep your pigs chilled and thrilled.

Most pigs love Summertime. And why not? The rain and chill of winter is months away, there's plenty of sun to lay in, and if you have those magical, "fruit tree" thingies in your yard, you might score some fallen peaches, pears, or other goodies if you're quick (or sneaky) enough.

But summer also brings with it the risk of several heat-related maladies, such as sun stroke. Luckily, we've boiled it down to three simple rules. Follow these, and you can rest easy knowing your pigs are safe. Which is more than we can say for your garden, with all these pigs roaming around.

Rule #1: Keep them un-burned.

Potbellies, especially those with white or mottled skin, can sunburn just like people. And just like people, the best way to prevent this is to slather them with sunblock (or mud, which we'll get to in a minute). If your pig is the type to spend hours out in the sun, slap 'em with some SPF 15 once or twice a day. And rub it in to make sure it gets past their bristles and onto the skin.

Rule #2: Keep them cool with a pool. Or a mud hole. Or a misted arbor. Or sprinkler. Or

Let's pause for a quick physiology lesson: People sweat when it gets hot. As sweat—or any other liquid, if you happen to sweat Gatorade like the athletes in the commercials—evaporates, it cools the body. Granted, you may need to mix in an extra shower or two, but overall, it's a pretty great system.



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But pigs don't sweat. They can't. So they need some other way to cool off. And while a shady spot is the number one thing every outdoor pig should have, shade alone isn't always enough.

Enter, the mud hole or kiddie pool. When outside temperatures hit 80F or so, these things become absolutely critical. The pig climbs in, gets all wet and/or muddy, and when they come out the evaporating water (or drying mud) cools them off just like evaporating sweat cools a human. Let's hear it for science!

A mud hole doesn't have to be fancy. Just dig a hole six to 12 inches deep—with a gentle slope so the pig can climb out again—pour in some water, and you've pretty much done it.

Can YOU find the pig in this picture?



Photos: ThePigPreserve.org

Of course, water and dirt interacting the way they do, you'll often be left with a dried-up hole, a very dirty pig, or both. Which is why we actually recommend a kiddie pool, which will hold the water better and keep your pig a bit cleaner. You'll need to carve the side down a bit to give them a "door". In fact, some folks cut the whole outside rim off so the pool so the pig can get in and out at will. This does leave a

potentially sharp edge, but CPPA member Vic just slit swim noodles lengthwise with a utility knife, slid them over the rim, duct taped them down, and presto! Safety is restored.

"All this swimming has me tired. Time to go straight to the couch."



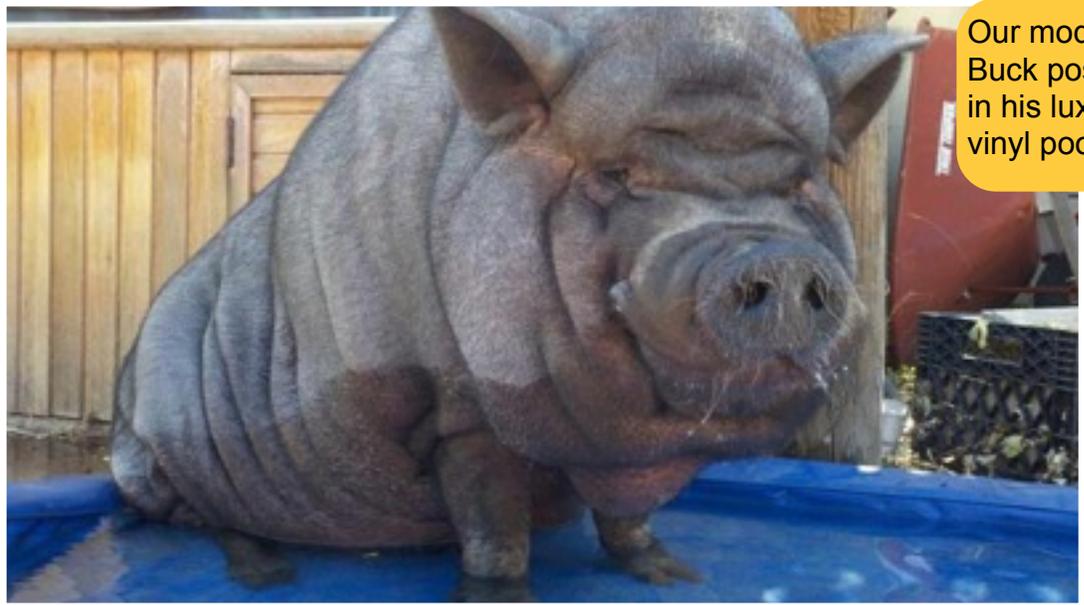
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If custom-carving your own pool sounds like too much trouble, [PA Heartland](#) sells pre-made vinyl pools specially designed for potbellied pigs. They don't come cheap, but you can't beat the convenience.

One final note about pools: You'll want to change the water out at least once a week to avoid it becoming a mosquito nursery.

Want more? Try a normal lawn sprinkler. It'll help cool the air even if your pig doesn't like the spray (some do, some don't). You can also go all-out and

install cooling misters in their pens or along a frequently-visited fencerow. You could even consider constructing the arched arbor we wrote about back in our [September 2013 newsletter](#).



Our model Buck poses in his luxury vinyl pool.

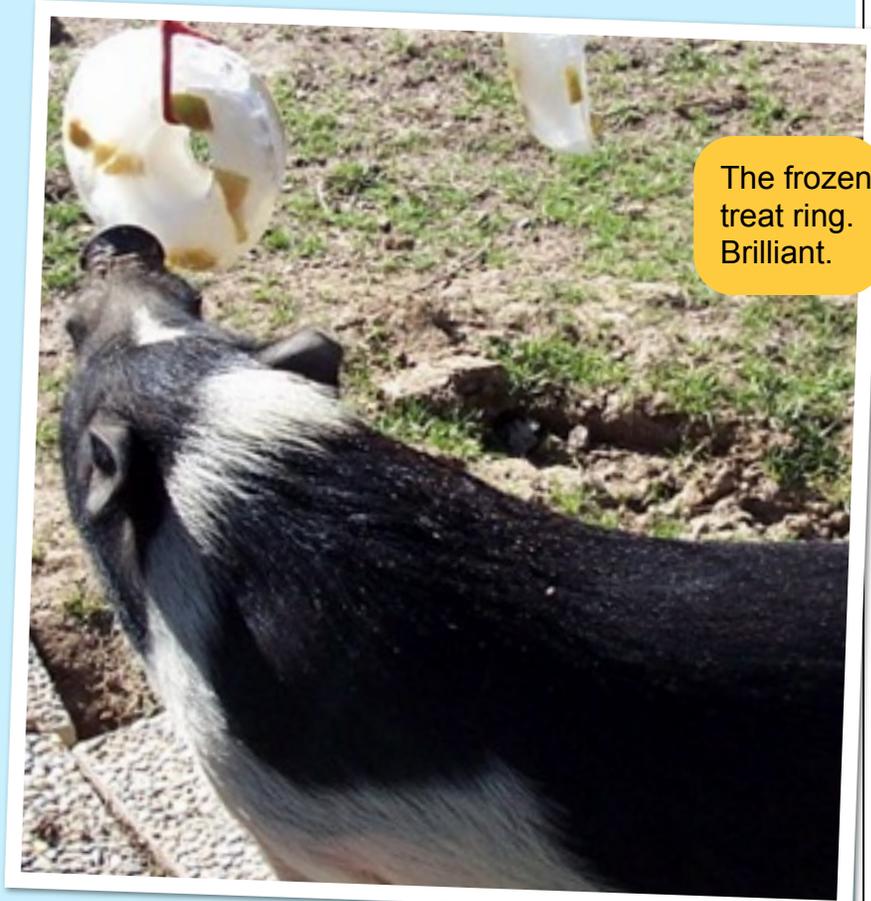


Finally, certain piggy treats will help keep your swine Fonzie-cool. Some CPPAers give their pigs cranberry ice cubes (which also help stave off urinary tract infections). Or, if you're as ambitious as Kelly from Sloppy Seconds sanctuary, toss some veggies or fruits in an angel-food cake pan or round jello mold, pour in a couple inches of water, and freeze it. The next day, hang your icy treat ring somewhere the pigs can find it—and the treats—as it melts.

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Rule #3: Keep them hydrated.

Some pigs tend to drink very little. But in the heat, it's critical to make sure they're taking in lots of liquid. Instead of giving them dry pellets, add water until it moistens into an oatmeal-like consistency (actually, you should do this all the time to avoid risk of them choking as they gobble). And consider pouring a couple ounces of fruit juice, like cranberry or grape juice, into their water. It won't take much extra flavor to convince them to slurp down the whole bowl.



The frozen treat ring. Brilliant.

Swine-ming lessons: How to train a pig to use a pool

Some pigs will dive right into a kiddie pool. Others need some coaxing. So we surveyed the most experienced piggy pool preparers we know to come up with these helpful training tips.

- Cut the door low enough so that they can get out easily. You don't want them to panic.
- Choose a site for the pool that you don't mind getting wet. You won't believe how much of the water ends up outside the pool.
- It's best to start with a little water, then add a little more each day as they get used to it.
- If the pig is unsure of his or her footing, you could add a non-skid rubber mat (the sinking kind. If it's going to float, it'll create more trouble than it's worth). Just know the pig may tear it up, so watch for that.
- Give the water time to warm up. If a pig is already wary of the pool, freezing cold fresh-from-the-hose ice water probably isn't the best way to entice them.
- Got a pig with cold feet? Cheerios and apples float. And very few pigs will turn down the chance to go bobbing for unsalted peanuts.
- Be gentle. Lift your pig in (if you can), and give them lots of snacks and praise and encouragement.
- NEVER force your pig into the pool. Or throw them in, or splash them. Unless you want them to fear the pool for the rest of their days.
- Be patient. Some pigs take awhile to appreciate the pool.

Reader Mail: Sugar The Attack Pig learns some manners

Reader Katrina wrote to tell us about her adorable-yet-onery piglet Sugar, who had to be trained out of her "terrible twos" with a pig parent's secret weapon: The LUNATIC Attack.

"Sugar would side-swipe our ankles, then she started lunging and charging at our Frenchie. They would get into full on brawls that we had to break up. At this point, Marcie recommended we attempt the "Lunatic Attack" [Editor's fact check: Marcie's husband Chris assures us this comes easily to Marcie.]

In short, the Lunatic Attack is acting or reacting towards your pig as the "momma" pig would. This means getting on all-fours, lowering yourself to the ground, snarling and growling louder than your pig and even pushing your knuckle/finger into the pigs neck (below/behind the ear) to force them to "turn tail" away from you, which forces them into submission.

This seemed very successful, but as Marcie warned us, there was some "push-back" later even though Sugar responded well at first. We broke up a few more fights for a few more days, both enduring some battle wounds as Sugar would switch from attacking the dog to then biting one of us as we got between them. We stuck with it though, and we didn't skip any sign of aggression and it really quickly subsided from Sugar charging like a bull at even the sight of my Frenchie (who up until Sugar's "terrible-two's" stage was her snuggle and play buddy) to then a smack or two and "posturing" (where the pig stands sideways, to basically keep a glaring eye on you) and then finally, she would walk past the dog, then graze by her, and now, about 2-3 weeks after the "attitude" started, they are basically back to normal (although they don't snuggle like they used to).

Sugar may not do cute tricks like some other pigs, but at least she now knows who is surely in charge. ;)"



Sugar with her buddy, Kaela, getting along again.

CPPA has booth, will travel to Maddie's day event

This past May 31, the Contra Costa County Humane Society (cchumane.org) sponsored a "Maddie's Fund" national adoption day, and invited Chris and Marcie to set up a booth. For those who don't know, Maddie's Fund (<http://adopt.maddiesfund.org/>) is a non-profit whose dream is to someday make the US a "no-kill" nation. For each animal adopted that day, nationwide, the Maddies Fund made a donation to that rescue group.

I believe between all the rescue groups at this local event, they adopted over 75 dogs, cats and rats. And the nationwide total was over 15,000! What a huge success. We didn't adopt any pigs out, but we did educate a LOT of people, which is a huge success for us.

When we table, we do not take any of our pigs. Mason would have none of those other dogs and Brix, well... I'm not gunna try to schlepp all 250lbs of him either. Instead we take a very large stuffed Pumba from the movie Lion King and set up a pen, where he proudly sits representin' all our homeless potbellied pigs. He definitely gets people giggling and asking questions. We had a lot of interest and activity at our booth. We were able to hand out our new brochures, which you'll be able to download from the CPPA website soon—possibly even by the time you read this.



One of the people who visited our booth was a reporter for the Contra Costa Times. He was so intrigued with CPPA and the idea of having a pet pig that he visited our home a few days later and wrote an article about the experience. You can read the article [here](#) (if it loads slowly, don't worry. Your computer isn't broken).

Great news! Shopping on Amazon can help save pigs!

I know many of us shop on Amazon. If you don't already support a group/charity would you mind clicking on [this link](#) and syncing your Amazon account to CPPA (California Potbellied Pig Association). We get a tiny percentage of each of your sales. Doesn't cost you anything and that's all you have to do. After that, any time you enter Amazon through www.smile.amazon.com, it'll all sync up (the prices stay the same. We checked).

If you are already shopping for a charity, please don't stop. They need your support too. And please feel free to forward to anyone else you know.

Thank you so much!

Marcie



Just click this link, log in to your Amazon account, and shop the same way you always do. <http://smile.amazon.com/>

Our favorite kind of email

We get a ton of great email here at CPPA. But this one from Vicki at www.animalassistedhappiness.org in which she describes the arrival of two rescue pigs we'd helped her adopt, ranks up there with the best of them:

"The piggies arrived on Sunday afternoon – no fighting, a bit of territory awareness, but no fighting – there is plenty of space for all three of them. They all three like banana chips and are settling in well."

Awesome, right? It gets better. Not only do the pigs have a new home, but because that home is Animal Assisted Happiness, they'll have a chance to show many more humans just how lovable and loving pig-kind can be.

Okay, so this is the point in the article when you wonder what we're talking about. We'll let Vicki explain it:

"Animal Assisted Happiness (AAH) is a place for children with special needs to interact with animals and find happiness. Most of our animals are adopted rescues. We have private visits at the AAH Barnyard in Gilroy, organization and school field trips to the AAH Barnyard and also offer the AAH Mobile Barnyard to schools/hospitals/programs across the South Bay. We take the smaller animals out for visits – mini goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens. You can follow us on [Facebook](#) and see all our visits close to real time. Our vision is 1 million smiles, to date we've created more than 13,000. Our approach is for kids through animals – and we even have a youth advisory board of 6th–12th graders that go with us for a lot of our visits, host visits at the AAH Barnyard, and help us take the AAH [Mobile] Barnyard to Senior facilities."

Seriously, how cool is that?



Bluebell & Bubbles join new pal Bella (below) in their new home



Treat Box: Summer Edition!

Recycled Tin Flying Pig Statue

Whimsical to the point of absurdity, this sculpture from the artsy folk at [Lucca Decor](#) is sure to capture your heart as well as your eye. Be warned, these \$27 fairies are hand-made, so each one is slightly different in size, shape, and coloration. But we think it's a pretty safe bet that it'll still be awesome.



Foreside Barnwood Pig

This simple sculpture's rustic appeal could class up any mantle, patio, workshed, or wherever. The pricing is a little wonky; the smaller size, which stands just shy of 11 inches long and 5.5 high, will run you a very fair \$20. But the large size, which clocks in at almost 24 inches long and more than 15 inches tall (comparable in size to a real pig, isn't it?) will set you back a cool \$98. Grab 'em both at [Amazon](#).

Treat Box: Summer Edition!



Plush Minecraft Piggy

You may not know about the video game Minecraft and its blocky, brick-like world. But if you have school-aged kids or grandkids, we can virtually guarantee they do. And if they do, there's a strong chance they will find [this](#) \$10 plush piggy to be utterly adorable.

Pig earbuds by Vibe Sound

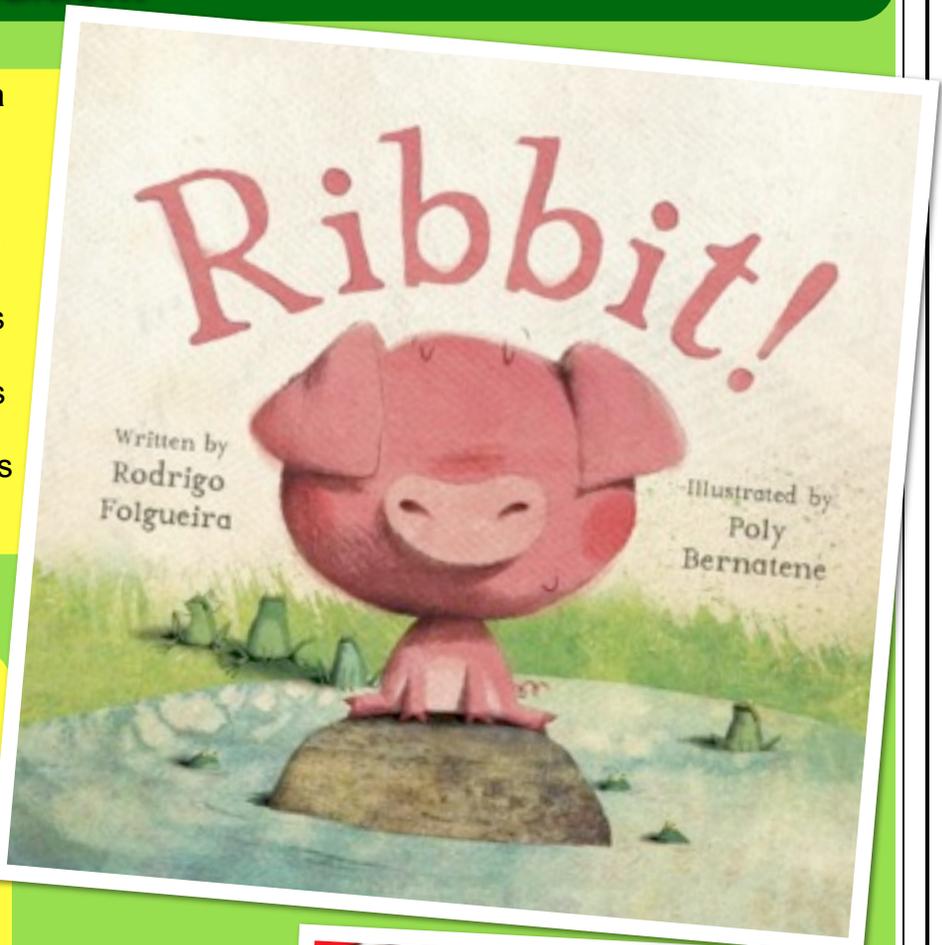
Okay, we'll admit, the odds of these \$10 earbuds pumping out the best sound you've ever heard are pretty slim. So if you're an audiophile, they might not be the best choice for you. But if you, like us, have been content up until now to make do with whatever headphones came with your iPod, you may want to consider this stylish [upgrade](#).



Treat Box: Summer Edition!

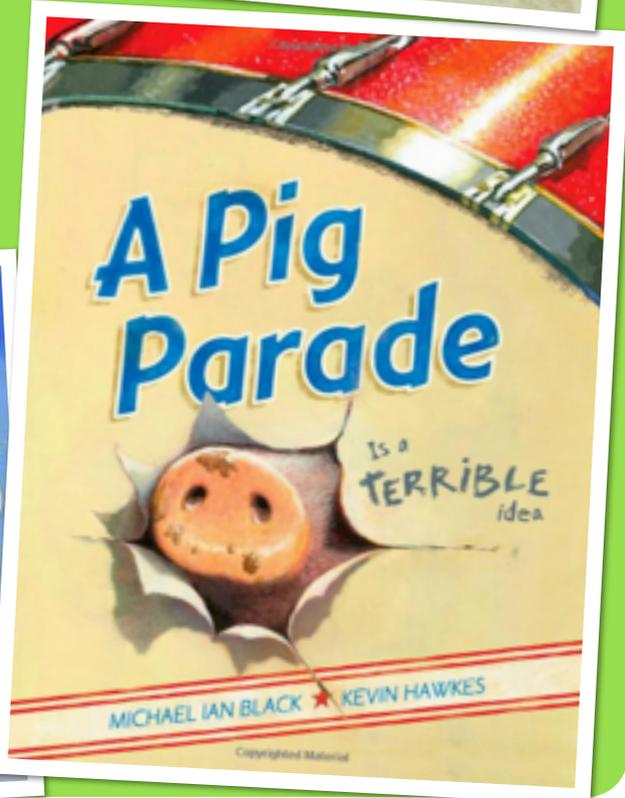
Ribbit, by Rodrigo Folgueira

This story about a little piglet who just wants to hang out in the pond with the frogs is highlighted by a heartwarming message of acceptance and some of the cutest illustrations you'll ever see. If you have a pile of piggy-themed children's books—and we know you do, so don't bother denying it—this deserves to be in it. ([Amazon](#))



A Pig Parade is a Terrible Idea by Michael Ian Black

This lighthearted children's book confronts that gap between what sounds like a good idea (a pig parade) and what turns out to be a disaster (a pig parade). How could it all go wrong? Well, for starters, pigs hate to march, refuse to wear the uniforms, don't care about floats, and insist on playing country music ballads. And that's just the start of the problems. ([Amazon](#))



After all, what could be more fun than gathering a few hundred pigs together for a grand parade, and then watching them proudly march together in perfect formation down the front boulevard of your hometown?

Treat Box: Summer Edition!

Words to Live By 5x7 print from [etsy](#) (\$8)



Women's flying pig t-shirt from [Lastearth](#)
Yours in sizes from S to XL and any of 20 colors for a mere \$19

