

CPPA eNEWS

Willow, a CPPA rescue from long ago, where did she come from?



Many years ago, when CPPA put out a paper newsletter, we would include stories of recent rescues. Where the pig came from, where or with whom it found a new forever home. I have only done one other update in some time. But this story warranted a renewal of "recent rescues."

In July of 2000 Julie and a friend were out very late one evening. They saw an animal on Willow Pass Road in Concord, near the mall. Julie's friend thought it was a chicken, but when they got closer, Julie realized it was a pig, and she just loved pigs. They called Animal Control who came and picked up the pig. Julie's boyfriend Tim also really liked pigs, so together they decided to adopt her through Animal Control once the waiting period was up and if her owners didn't claim her. The next day Tim called Animal Control and was informed that he would need to speak to a Lieutenant there and that the pig would be going up for a closed auction where one would have to bid on the pig, since she was livestock. (This shelter now allows potbellied pigs to be adopted like other animals and no longer has closed auctions on them.)

This seemed odd to Tim but he agreed and called back the next day to speak with the Lieutenant. At that time Tim was told that the pig was picked up by a pig rescue group and to call Jennie in Glen Ellen. (Jennie was CPPA's original rescue person. She picked up, fostered, cared for, spayed, neutered and placed hundreds of pigs through CPPA. Without Jennie many of these pigs would never have found loving homes. Many of YOU have rescue pigs, thanks to Jennie.)

So Tim called Jennie and "Willow" (named after the road she was found on) was adopted. Tim didn't have a great place for her at the time, but a family friend, Tom, had horses, chickens and goats and agreed to build a pen for Willow on his property.

Tim was in grad school at the time, but went over to see Willow for an hour in the morning to feed her and an hour again in the evening every day. Julie also visited daily. Tom had three boys who also helped care for Willow.

After a year, Tim had a chance to bring Willow to his parent's house, and he built Willow a pig palace. It is one of the best insulated pig houses I have ever seen. Willow has lived with Tim's parent's ever since. Tim's mom has become very attached to Willow. Tim and Julie are no longer together, but Tim's wife and their new son really love Willow, and they visit her often. Willow used to live with 7 dogs, and got along well with all of them. They looked to her as a grandma. The dogs have all passed away now, mostly from cancer that ran in their family, but Willow spent the last weeks with each one of them sleeping alongside and keeping an eye on them.

Now after reading Willow's history, here is an odd coincidence.

Tom, who housed Willow when Tim first got her, has a son Timmy, who also helped care for Willow. Timmy is dating a girl who recently was chatting with Tom about how she had always wanted a pig. Tom asked her why and she said that she used to have a pig many years ago, but someone broke into their home one night, and the pig escaped through a broken fence during the robbery. He asked her where this occurred and... yes, you guessed right, near the mall, on Willow Pass Road. Curious now, Tom asked if she could describe the pig. She said all black with white feet and some white around her neck. She told Tom that when the pig ran away they were also dealing with her mother who was very ill at that time. They searched the neighborhood but couldn't find the pig. Due to her mother's health, they didn't spend a lot of time looking and hoped that the pig had found a good home. Tom then said that the pig had found the BEST home a pig could ever want.

Willow will be getting a visit from an old friend, soon.

Arthritis Drugs, to use or...

Over the years we have learned a lot about how to manage arthritis in pigs. Many people do not want to use the anti-inflammatory Rimadyl as they have heard that it can cause liver damage in dogs. However, we have had very good luck with this drug for pigs. We have also added a pain drug called Tramadol to our arsenal. Chris wrote this letter to someone about using this combination to help give our pigs a better quality of life.

“According to the vets we've talked with about long term use of Rimadyl in pigs, it has never been a problem. Our Chuckles was on the max dose, plus some, for at least 5 years of his life. His necropsy showed no liver damage at all. With that said, the other day I was at a potbellied pig sanctuary talking with about a half dozen pig owners and the sanctuary owner about drugs (legal ones that is), and we started discussing our varied experiences with medicines with both our pigs and ourselves. Some drugs don't work well for some people and are great for others and this seems to also be true for pigs. This makes sense. Problems with Rimadyl seemed to be limited to a negative drug reaction in very few pigs, and in those cases Deramaxx seemed to work. The two drugs are quite similar.

The Rimadyl dosage would be 1 mg per pound twice a day. Our 16-year-old 120 lb. pig, Riff who was born with Spina Bifida, gets 100 mg in the morning and 100 mg in the evening to relieve his back pain. It seems to work great for him. If he starts to get worse, I have no problem with increasing the dosage. I believe in providing the pig as comfortable a life as possible. If creating that comfort reduces the number of days of life spent on this earth in pain, so be it.

Tramadol is a drug that I have altered my original recommendations about. With Chuckles we used it to the maximum dose and beyond, with great success. The maximum dose is 400 mg a day, and we routinely went to twice that with Chuckles, with no ill effects and an obvious reduction in his pain. He got at least 100 mg four times a day. I gave Riff a 50 mg dose a while back when he seemed to be hurting and followed in the evening with another 50 mg dose, and Riff got a little strange. He was not happy. A day later with no Tramadol, he was fine. A few weeks later, I was suffering from a bad backache and my wife suggested the Tramadol (Tramadol is actually a human drug that is now being used for pain management in animals), I tried one 50 mg tablet late in the evening and shortly my back pain was gone. Four or five hours later, I awoke with the sore back again so I tried another 50 mg tablet. The back pain went away, but I couldn't sleep. I got up and felt totally stoned (a feeling I don't like). It was nearly noon the next day before I was entirely myself again. Now I know what Riff was feeling. He didn't like it and neither did I.

So we and our pigs all react to things differently. The key is to find what works. I have no doubt that the Rimadyl and Tramadol extended Chuckles life and made his life better. I'm pretty sure that Rimadyl is making Riff's life better. I'm also pretty sure that Riff would rather be dead than take Tramadol.”



Written by

Chris Christensen



FUN LIST

I have received a LOT of links to great pig items found on the web. Thank you to everyone who sent these links to me. Keep em comin'!

This pig is perfect for the holidays. It can sit outside in your yard. You might be able to find it at a local KMart, if not you can order it through this link



http://www.kmart.com/shc/s/p_10151_10104_009W68518110001P

A fun site:

www.HogWashFun.com

More pig items than you can count.

Search the word pig:

www.etsy.com



www.countrydoor.com/Kitchen-and-Dining/Pig-Table-Lamp.pro?keyword=pig&size=25&pageName=CD%3ASearch%3ASearch+Results

<http://www.countrydoor.com/Kitchen-and-Dining/Pomaware.pro?pageName=CD%3A>



<http://www.countrydoor.com/pigs.htm>



<http://www.onlinediscountmart.com/78->

http://www.utilitieshome.com/store.php?cr=action=show_detail



<http://www.bitsandpieces.com/product.asp?pn=40261&bhcd2=121710127>

Video Corner

Our friend Tom went to Lowry Park in Tampa and filmed the Red River Hogs in action (or lack there of): [Lowry Park Tampa on Vimeo](#)

Marlies sent these wonderful video clips of her pigs enjoying the Southern, CA heat, and their mud holes. Nothin' cuter than pigs enjoying mud:

[Sep 26 2008 - VID00007](#) &

[Sep 26 2008 - VID00009](#)

And here is Stacy showing how she flips a pig and trims its hooves all by her self. Stacy also will now trim your pigs hooves in the SF Bay Area as well as Sacramento and Valley areas.

[YouTube - Pig Hoof Trimming](#)

You can contact Stacy directly at:

piggylover529@hotmail.com

OK so this isn't a video clip, but it's a fun article on the Wood family up in the Redding area. They have single-handily rescued a LOT of pigs in their area. Fun article:

[Top Story: Pigs living high on the hog | pigs.charles.potbelly : Corning Observer](#)

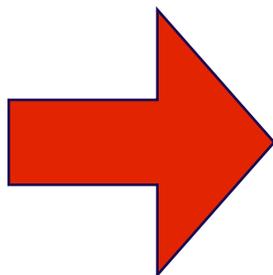
AWARD WINNING TOYS FOR PIGS



Dutch designer Sharon Geschiere receives the first Design to Business Award for designing the 'Wroezelaar,' a play toy for pigs. The toys are made out of hollow cylinders filled with different kinds of food to stimulate the pigs' senses. She has been working with the LTO Nederland and the Dierenbescherming (a Dutch animal welfare group) to improve the modest lives of stalled pigs.

"Toys for pigs?" Yes, following European legislation, as from July 1st, 2007, pig producers in the Netherlands are compelled to offer some entertainment for their pigs. This decision was made because the animals could seriously harm each other when they get bored.

The Design to Business Award (D2B) is aimed at designers from Arnhem or the province of Gelderland and stimulates closer and more creative ways of working between designers and their clients.



HELP NEEDED: Is anyone able to pick up some heavy rubber mats and some PigLoos (large dog houses) from Belly Draggers in San Martin and transport them up to Piece of Peace Animal Sanctuary in Marysville? I know it's a long drive between the two but BD has extras of both that they would like to donate to PoP. If you can help please email me at info@cpga4pigs.org and I will facilitate the move. THANK YOU!

The Merck Veterinary Manual on-line is a great simple tool for finding medical information. Things like Coccidiosis of Pigs, to definitions of illnesses and symptoms: www.merckvetmanual.com

Some additional great info on medical illnesses can be found at the Center for Food Security & Public Health, Iowa State University. www.cfsph.iastate.edu