

CALIFORNIA POTBELLED PIG ASSOCIATION, Inc.



# CPPA eNEWS

HOLIDAY 2012

## SOO-WEEET RIDE



Photos:  
[Hyku](#)

DisneyLand may have just opened a whole new Cars-themed expansion, but we'd rather book a ticket to Atlanta, Georgia, to ride the Macy's Pink Pig train at the Lenox Square Mall.

A local holiday tradition since 1953 (though it's been upgraded and even relocated since then), the ride takes kids (of all ages) through a storybook land of dioramas that tell the tale, "A Pig's Story." You can even pose for a photo with the ride's lovely host, Priscilla.

Tickets are only \$3 a pop and the tram is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas until Dec 30. Some days, they even serve breakfast. Send us a t-shirt!



## Game Break: Bad Piggies equal good fun

By now, pretty much everyone on Earth has played the iPhone/iPad/Android/everything else videogame Angry Birds. And although it's fun, one thing keeps bugging us: the pigs are the BAD GUYS! What the heck, game developers?

Luckily, the creators of Angry Birds have recently released a new game, Bad Piggies, which lets the user play from a piggier perspective.



In Bad Piggies, the object is to build flying machines to help the pigs reach the eggs they so desperately crave and (we think) absolutely deserve. For example, if the pig currently has a box with wheels, you might add wings and a rocket to it to help him jump a chasm.

Bad Piggies takes a little longer to get the hang of than Angry Birds. But we like it more in the long run, both because it's a bit more creative and because we finally got to play as the real heroes.



Don't think for a second that you have to know anything about aeronautics to play Bad Piggies. Building a plane (above) is as easy as dropping parts onto a grid (right).

# Know someone who wants a pig? Make them watch these videos first!

These three quick videos could avert a stressful and life-changing (for the pig, at least) rescue or adoption later.

If you're reading this, we're pretty sure you know a thing or two about potbellied pigs. But with the holidays upon us and "teacup" pigs still all the rage, we figured it wouldn't hurt to send around some easy-to-share primers on potbellied pigs.

We'll start off with [this video](#), which offers a great primer as to exactly what a person should expect when adopting a potbelly. Pig, that is. If you adopt a potbellied person, you'll need different videos.



Any video that recommends adopting a shelter pig instead of buying one from a breeder scores points in our book.



On a similar note, [this video](#) from our friends at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary does a great job of dispelling many common myths and misconceptions about our heart-nosed buddies.

Finally, our friends at SCAMPP have made a [wonderful PSA](#) packed with easy-to-understand truths every potential pig owner needs to know, but not a teacup breeder on Earth will admit to.

All three videos also contain plenty of footage of pigs being pigs, which we obviously find adorable.



Three videos. Less than nine minutes total. Yet, so many pigs could be saved from tragic circumstances if prospective owners would just watch these videos before adopting!

## Help potbellied pigs *and* CPPA without even trying (much)

Hi CPPA members and potbellied pig fans.

As we approach the end of another year, we wanted to remind you that the California Potbellied Pig Association (CPPA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. All donations to CPPA are used to assist potbellied pigs in need, and all donations are tax deductible. This last year we have been able to assist the placement of dozens of homeless pigs and cover neuter and spay expenses for many of them. Through our email and phone line we have been able to assist hundreds of others in finding veterinarians, dealing with behavioral issues, and making their homes compatible with pig ownership.

CPPA has no paid employees. 100% of our funds go to assist potbellied pigs and their owners.

We charge no membership dues, and are totally dependent on donations to be able to continue to assist our wonderful pig friends.

Helping us out couldn't be easier. If you do internet searches and/or shop online (and who among us doesn't these days?), please go through [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com). Make sure to enter CPPA and choose CPPA as your charity to donate to. We receive a donation for each search, and if an online company is linked to [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com), we receive a percentage of each sale (at no extra cost to you). Amazon is one that is linked to [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com).

If you'd like to be more direct with your support, at the bottom of our website's "Home Page" ([www.CPPA4Pigs.org](http://www.CPPA4Pigs.org)) there are two links that make it easy to donate. To make a monetary contribution, just click the PayPal "Donate" link, or you can rid yourself of an unneeded vehicle through our "Vehicle Donations" link.

So may you and your porcine pals have a wonderful holiday season, and if you can, please lend a little hand to some of the less lucky potbellied pigs in this world.

The CPPA Board of Directors



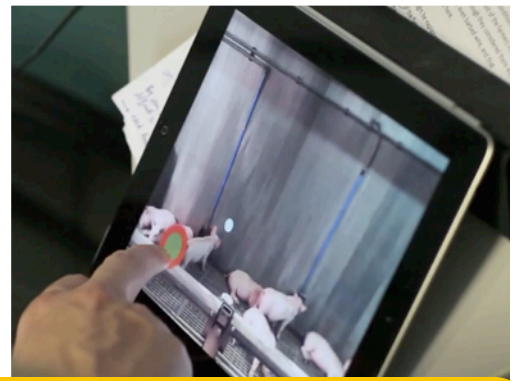
What's that? Why yes, as a matter of fact, these ARE pictures of real pigs in need of new homes, whom you can meet on the [CPPA web site](http://www.CPPA.org). Faces like these are why CPPA exists, and seeing them in loving homes is what makes it all worthwhile.

## Game Break of the Future: Pig Chase

Okay, so maybe playing AS a cartoon pig in Bad Piggies doesn't appeal to you. No problem. But what if you could play a videogame WITH a real, live pig instead? That's the idea behind Pig Chase, an upcoming game unlike any other in history.

When you log on to Pig Chase, you'll see a live, streaming video of a real pig pen somewhere in the world. But something in this pig pen will look different: In addition to pigs, you'll see a large dot on the wall. As you drag your finger around the screen on your iPad (or other tablet device), you'll move the dot on the pigs' wall as well. And they'll see it and react to it. Most likely, by following it.

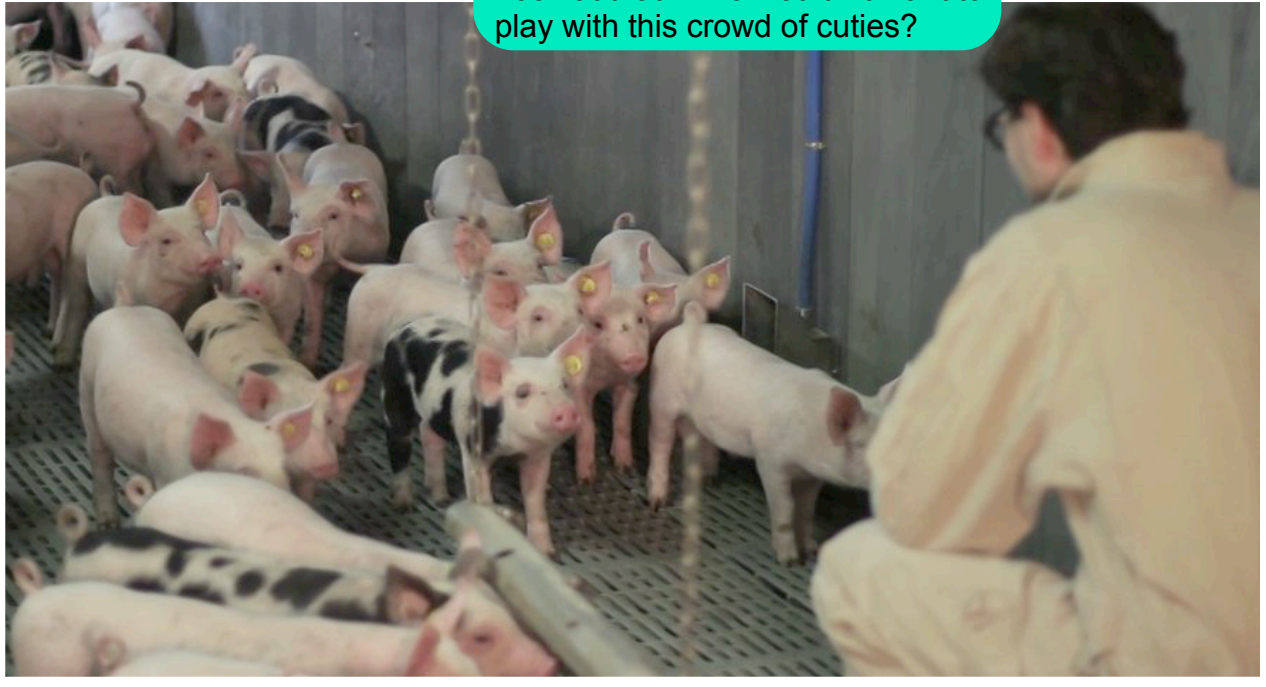
Granted, Pig Chase is still in development, so there's a chance it might never make it out. Maybe the live streaming will be too hard to implement. Maybe the pigs won't want to play (though we're thinking they'll work it into their schedules if there's food involved). Maybe we'll realize that playing with pigs who are likely being grown for meat makes us sad. But the bottom line is that the game could enrich the lives of our curly-tailed friends, and that sounds good to us.



Can't quite picture it? No problem. Just check out the videos [here](#) and [here](#).



Look at that. Who wouldn't want to play with this crowd of cuties?



## Root, root, root for the home pig

Make a perfect rainy-day piggy toy out of river rocks, toddler shoes, and overgrown tupperware.

words: Chris

We lost our three older pigs toward the beginning of this year, and we are now dealing with a very active youngster from the county animal shelter. He's an active little guy who earned his name, Mason, from his desire to work with bricks and concrete blocks. Our brick planter areas are history and most of our concrete block retaining walls are in ruins. At well under 100 pounds, he moves blocks half his weight. He's also into furniture rearrangement and seems to prefer tables, chairs, stools, etc. with their legs pointing to the ceiling.



For many years we have heard of and even recommended [rooting boxes](#) to our members with bored or overactive pigs. We had never really used one and had many differing ideas of what precisely one should look like. Our solution has been a low plastic storage box about 2' x 3' with 6" high sides. A concrete mixing tray from Home Depot could also work (they come in various sizes). What seems to work for us is to cover the bottom of the box with 2" to 3" of river rock (available in bags at most nurseries). The idea is apparently to not give them a pile of rocks to stand in and root around (they could suffer leg injuries), but to give them a layer of rocks to push around while standing outside or inside the box. Into this mix of rocks you add small treats. Sugar-free and salt-free puffed oats, puffed rice cereal, etc. is probably best and healthiest.

My wife also noticed that all of our pigs have always loved Velcro straps on shoes. In fact, shoes with Velcro straps left on the floor would rapidly become pig toys. Often toddlers' shoes have Velcro straps, so we started looking at thrift stores to find fairly inexpensive shoes to keep our pig occupied. They are a real hit. My wife will hide small snacks in the shoes and even under the Velcro. Our pig has Vans, Old Navy, Garanimals, Carters, etc. scattered all over the property.



We just occasionally gather them up, reload them with treats and toss them back into the rooting box. He [plays with the shoes](#) and other soft toys and balls in the rooting box, and he plays with them all. We also placed a small rug in the bottom of the box to keep his front feet from slipping when he climbs in to root. The biggest surprise to me was how little rock is needed. I mentally pictured filling the try with rocks and bought five bags. We returned four of them.

Hope this helps with ideas to keep your piggy occupied this winter.

## CPPA shows its face[book] on the net

Lock up your internets! CPPA has finally broken down and created a Facebook page. We will try to keep it updated with recent rescue stories, pigs in need, highlight different articles and more. For instance, right now you will see lots of fun comments about the Hog-i-Day Party, including a photo of Marcie in a Santa hat, sunglasses, and a moustache. We're serious. You need to see it.

Now, don't worry (not that you would, but humor us), this newsletter isn't going away. So if you don't want to be on Facebook, you will still get your standard CPPA info.

Even if you don't really want to sign up for Facebook, you can create a dummy email through yahoo, or AOL, etc and then sign up in Facebook with that email addy. Then go to <https://www.facebook.com/CPPA4Pigs> and click on LIKE. We've almost hit 200!

We find this is a great way to educate people about potbellied pigs and a way for you to share your stories and ask your questions in a public forum. Log on, and join the conversation!



## Video Break: Road Trip!

Nobody, and we mean *nobody*, puts [five pigs in a van](#) quite like our friend Tom (known to YouTube as Schnoidz). We love how you can see them coming from off in the distance.



# Holiday Treat Box!

If it's better to give than to receive, why not experience the best of both worlds by giving yourself something?

Customer's photos



Painted clogs



A mere \$39.95 at the Food Network Store will net you these too-cute-to-miss [piggy canisters](#). You can try to tell us they won't match your kitchen, but we'll just tell you to remodel the kitchen.

Send pictures of your pig (or other pets) to the folks at [TheSwanx.com](http://TheSwanx.com), and they'll custom-paint a set of clogs for you. Yeah, we know--the pigs in this example look an awful lot like bulldogs. Who wants to be the first to give them some piggies to paint?



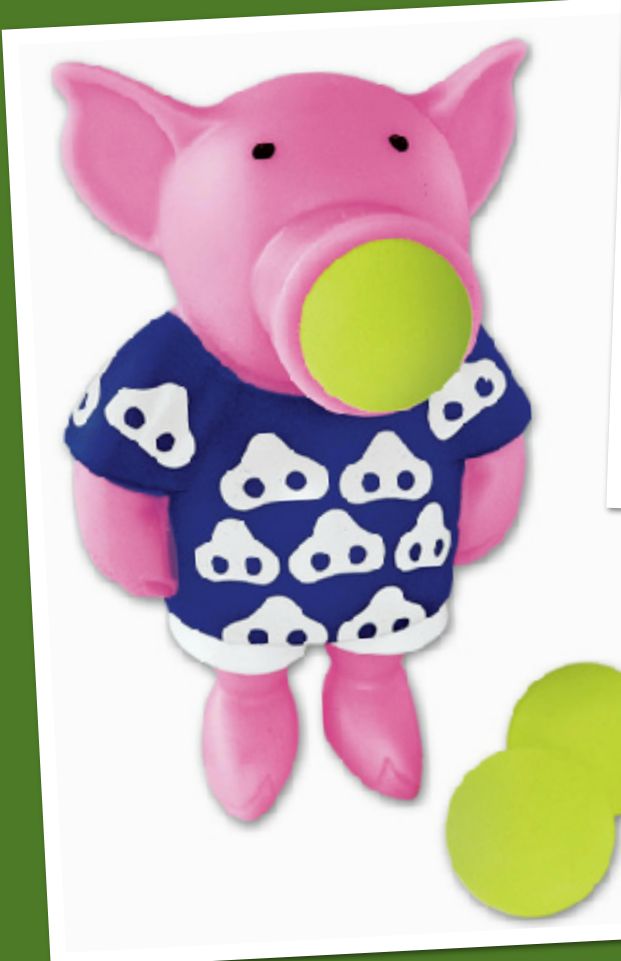




You need a shower. Not that you stink, but then you'll have an excuse to wear this [piggy shower cap](#) from Amazon.com (\$9.59)



This cute little guy (above) rests on the rim of your pot and holds the spoon, keeping all the drips inside the pot. Plus, he's only \$4.00 at [Solutions.com](#).



While visiting Solutions, you might as well drop \$12.98 on this [piggy popper](#). It's technically a toy (you poke his belly to shoot the ball. They even sell a target for him if you want it) but we have yet to meet an adult who doesn't love it.



You may not find a more touching memorial--or tribute, if your pet is still with you--than these hand-painted holiday ornaments from [Pigatopia Studios](#). Each one is custom-made from an image you select. And the artwork is fantastic, as these three picture-perfect portraits of Marcie and Chris' boys demonstrate. \$20 for one and \$45 for a set of three. And worth every penny.



Pigatopia also offers these handmade, [roly-poly piggy ornaments](#), which come in a dizzying array of color combinations, for only \$6 each. Might be a nice idea for next year's ornament exchange, don't you think?



Designer Patience Brewster is eager to cover your tree with a bevy of whimsical collectible ornaments. Some of our favorites include the tutu-clad [Joyful](#) pig, [Krinkles Rose](#) pig, and the blown-glass [Violetta](#). They don't come cheap--we've linked to Amazon, but you may want to shop around--but they're lovable, and should hold some value as collectibles.



Would you rather wear your holiday spirit instead of hanging it? Then check out these pendants from InnerKookArt. We favor the [Christmas Pig](#) (top right), but the [reindeer pig](#) (lower right) has a certain mischievous something we like as well. Both designs can be customized with different shapes or finishes, too.



It's \$25, but we still couldn't resist this [Betsey Johnson](#) ornament from Macy's. A pig in a Santa beard? Come on! But, if you want something more traditional, Macy's also has an exclusive [Radko design](#) this year, too (below).



Finally, you can get your very own [Priscilla](#), the host of Macy's Pink Pig train we wrote about earlier in this issue, for a mere \$3.

We've featured piggy rings before, but never one that happened to be [clearance-priced](#) and had a matching [necklace](#) also on clearance at ShopNBC.com. That's a lot of bling for your buck.



If you'd rather stay a bit more economical, this [crystal pig charm](#) (below) will run you only about \$27 on Amazon.



Is it even possible to use the word "exquisite" when talking about pig earrings? The \$17 [Flying Pig](#) set above makes us think so. And finally, because "class" is something many of us left behind when we graduated from school, the \$13 [Pig Butt](#) earrings below definitely made our wish list.

