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Piglet "Wee Wee" goes from lost in a blizzard to a new forever home.

Wee Wee the piglet was having a very bad night. Lost in a blizzard, cut, bruised, and frostbitten, and facing the very real risk of freezing to death.

Luckily, Wee Wee was spotted by the Smiths, a family returning from a day on the ski slopes. Thanks to their good hearts and resourcefulness, the lost piglet has now found himself a happy resident of Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

You can read Wee Wee's story here, watch a news story about him here. It's a heart- and hog-warming tale.

And once you've done that, check out this story by the Humane Society's Paul Shapiro. It's a little less feel-good, but the perspective it offers is arguably the most important part of Wee Wee's entire story.

Then, for a pick-me-up, follow Wee Wee and his new friend Scooter on facebook.



Photo Credit: Facebook



Wee Wee having breakfast at his new sanctuary home. (photo by Maureen McGowan)

It's adoption season!

(Actually, the more accurate headline would be "It's the season in which we get to find new homes for even more innocent pigs, who get dumped even though they don't deserve it, than we usually do". But our editor says the shorter headline sounds more positive)

Football season is over. But unfortunately, "dump" season is still in full swing.

Dump season, in case it's not obvious, is the time of year when the number of pigs who are put up for adoption (or just straight-up abandoned) swells.

Sometimes, the reasons are understandable. But even when they're not, our goal is to focus on the future and find new, better homes and families for the pigs.

To that end, if you or anyone you know is interested in experiencing the joy of sharing life with a pig, please check out the [CPPA website](#) to see adoption-ready pigs in Northern California, or the adoption pages at [SCAMPP](#) or [Pig Harmony](#) for available pigs in SoCal. And for our readers outside of California, a quick check of the web is almost guaranteed to turn up sanctuaries, shelters, and humane societies with pigs who need homes.

Adopting a pig is a big job. It's not something one should take lightly. But as most any piggy parent will tell you, the rewards are amazing and indescribable.



Buster, Jeffrey, Petunia, Schlomo, and Willie are just a few of the pigs waiting for new parents.

Owen's Odyssey

The story of a rescue

A couple of weeks ago a young woman noticed what she thought was a puppy running alongside a back country, fairly busy road. Being an animal person she pulled over hoping to save the puppy from being hit by a car. To her surprise when she pulled over she noticed that the puppy was actually a tiny potbellied piglet, weighing no more than 10lbs. He was terrified and starving. She ran to her car and grabbed a blanket and a couple of bags of noodles she had and tossed them to him. He scarfed them up. But she couldn't get the blanket over him to catch him and even if she did she had no idea what she was going to do with this little piglet in a blanket that was scared, frightened, terrified and of course intact!

So she went home and thought about what she could do for this piglet. The next day she borrowed a crate and went back to the spot where she had last seen him, and there he was in the middle the road stopping traffic. A couple of bicyclists had stopped, and he was oinking at them hoping they too would feed him. She put some food out, and again he gobbled it up. She tossed more in the crate. He walked right in it, and she closed the door. She took him home but had no idea what to do with him once she got him home. She posted on Facebook and made some calls. She set up a lovely inside pen for him with litter box, house and blankets. She reached out to CPPA for additional help. We put out a plea via Facebook and our e-news list asking for a forever home for Owen.

We were able to get him neutered at Groveway Veterinary Hospital in Castro Valley, CA, and we found a wonderful new home that already had five pigs, with lots of pig experience.

During our networking through Facebook and our e-news we also found someone who did fowl rescue. Owens new family had two geese that really did not like their pigs, so with reluctance they felt they needed to re-home the geese in order to make the pigs happier. Thanks to all the networking, we had a home for the geese and a new forever home for Owen.

So many times I get asked "how do you do it?" I don't to anything. My answer is always the same. It takes a village to do rescue!! Thank you village!!!



Owen would like to thank you, too. Especially if you bring cake to celebrate his good fortune.



Owen hangs out with his new family. He's doing great!

Doctor's Corner: Let's talk about UTIs

Ah, the good, old, urinary tract infection. It's awful. If you get one, you're miserable. But if your pig gets one--and he or she probably will eventually--EVERYONE is miserable: you, your pig, the rest of the family, and possibly your carpet.

However, a BuzzFeed user named forrestgrunt is helping collect information about UTIs in potbellied pigs, with the hope of learning more about which pigs get them, why, and for how long. It's a simple [multiple-choice survey](#) that doesn't ask any personal questions and most folks will complete in just a couple minutes. Plus, it contains some very cute pig photos, like the one below. Click on over and share your experiences, won't you?



Photo Credit: Lydia Weaver

Who taught you that?!?

PositivelyPigs.com reveals the secret signals you may be sending your pig

Pigs can be ornery. It's happened to all of us. The pig wakes up for breakfast every day at 4am and screams until you give in. Or they keep getting into the kitchen cabinets. Or the fridge. They potty on the carpet in front of the doorway, *then* step outside. Or they constantly bark at you any time you pass by their bed, even though you've never once dive-tackled them and put them in a wrestling hold. Or they do any of a dozen or more other confounding bad behaviors.

What gives?

The good news is, there's a reason for all of these behaviors. The bad news is, we the owners might be reinforcing, even encouraging these behaviors without even realizing it.

Luckily, CPPA member Jane is a trained zoologist, a skilled animal behaviorist, and quite a writer to boot, so her website, www.positivelypigs.com, is a treasure trove of useful information on pig behavior.

Just listen to these section titles: Spoiled Pig Syndrome. Indoor Pigs vs Outdoor Pigs. Single Pigs and Aggression. Aggression Towards Guests. Age Related Aggression. And that's just from the tab marked "Decoding Problem Behaviors." Add in her in-depth blog posts and quick-and-easy explanations of scientific terms like Dominance Theory and Classical Conditioning, and you have an invaluable tool for managing your pig's behavior. So be sure to stop by her [website](http://www.positivelypigs.com) and give it a click, won't you?



Counter Conditioning Aggressive Potbellied Pigs

Treat Box!

Goodies for the pig lover in all of us

This month, Treat Box is all about the bling. For example, check out this origami piggy necklace, available from this etsy site for \$29.



Or perhaps your pig has you wrapped around his little hoof? Turn the tables by wrapping this little pig around your finger for \$48.



Neither of those seem right? Then maybe [this tiny-but-mighty necklace](#) will be the one you "end" up choosing. It'll run you \$45, but some of us just love it.



Finally, for those of us who prefer lawn jewelry to people jewelry, we have this solar-powered pig mobile, which lights up with color-changing LEDs. Granted, not everyone needs a color-shifting flying pig mobile. But if you're among those who do, it can be yours for just \$20 from Plow & Hearth.





Jon and Tracey Stewart open animal sanctuary, starting with two very lucky pigs

We were already fans of former Daily Show host Jon Stewart for his strong anti-gestation-crate stance. And now he's doing even more to help pigs in need. Stewart and his wife Tracey--a devoted animal activist and author of the book "Do Unto Animals"--recently announced the opening of their own animal sanctuary, opened with help from Farm Sanctuary, in New York. Their first residents? Maybelle and Anna, a pair of piglets believed to have escaped from a truck bound to a slaughterhouse.

You can read more about Maybelle and Anna's rescue in [this article](#). After that, be sure to check out their facebook page, the [Daily Squeal](#). It's full of great stories, pictures, and videos of the pigs' daily antics--including many belly rubs, their first encounter with snow, and the arrival of their new buddy, Carl the goat.



Howie the pig gets a second chance after dog attack

We're going to close out this newsletter on a serious, but uplifting note. Before you scroll down to the picture, know that A) it's a little gory, but B) it has a happy ending.

Pigs are generally peaceful, easygoing, and communal. They get along with just about any other critter, from rats to cats to cattle. But that doesn't mean other animals feel the same way about pigs. Dogs especially have a tendency to cause problems, and the bigger the dog, the bigger the danger. Dogs may be man's best friend, but they're often a pig's worst enemy.

Which brings us to Howie Gruntkowski a pig, who was not only abandoned, but also attacked by two dogs, who bit off his tail and nearly took both his ears as well. It's a sobering reminder that we may love dogs and we may love pigs, but that doesn't guarantee that they'll love one another. And we need to keep this in mind when adopting or finding new homes for pigs.

Luckily, Howie was rescued and now has a new, loving family. Best of all, they've given Howie an [Instagram account](#) so we can follow along with his progress. His ears are healing nicely, but if the ecstatic picture captions his "Mama" writes are any indication, his soul is healing even more quickly. You might find your eyes watering a bit as you read them (Hint: start at the bottom of the page and read upward to the newest posts).



Image credit: https://www.instagram.com/olivia_the_pigs_transformation/

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