



# CPPA eNEWS

SPRING 2013

## Vote for Pumba!

What are we talking about, you ask? Read on and find out!

We were going to put this in the facebook article later in this newsletter, but Marcie's mustache took up too much space (you'll see) and this deserves its own mention anyway.

Pumba is a sweet, lovable boy rescued by our friends at [VegasPigPets](#). But he had a serious eye disease and badly needed an operation to remove his eyes. So they held a fundraiser--and what a fundraiser it was!

Not only did Pumba get his operation, but one donor family decided to fly to Vegas, adopt him, and drive 28 hours straight in a rented van to get him to his new home, where he has his own room, a safe yard, and a family that LOOOOVES him. Now *that's* how you fundraise, people!

Now, Pumba has entered [PetFinder.com's](#) "Luckiest Pet" contest, hoping to win a \$5,000 donation for VegasPigPets--and you can [vote for him to win](#). In fact, you can return to the site and vote for him every day until March 18. And after hearing his story and watching him play in his swimming pool, we're sure you will. Pumba's got that special kind of luck: The kind that makes us feel lucky for knowing him.



# We're gonna need a bigger teacup!



We know we harp on and on about teacup pigs. But stories like this give us no choice. A breeder told Charlotte Rose's parents that she was a "micro-mini" and wouldn't get more than 20 pounds when grown. When she hit 80 pounds at less than a year old, they had to give her up. Luckily, she ended up with our friend Kim Miller, who placed her in a good home. If only all the stories ended this well!

# A Note from Marcie:

Over the years, CPPA has been fortunate enough to work with, help support and have work parties with many other animal organizations. Our latest endeavor is twofold.

**Part 1:** Help Contra Costa Humane Society raise some needed funds with their Recycled Shoe Drive, which starts April 1, 2013. This sounds like a lot of fun. If you can't make it to their location to drop off your shoes, please feel free to bring them to our house and I will get the shoes to them. Just let me know if you need our addy again. Go ahead and start saving those shoes now.

The drive will accept: All paired men's, women's and kids shoes that are still usable (no holes in the soles and no wet or mildewed pairs). This includes athletic shoes, dress shoes, timberland type work boots, sandals, heels, flats.



The drive cannot accept: Heavy Winter Boots, Skates, Blades, Flip-Flops, Slippers, Singles, Unusable, and Thrift Store Shoes.

The best part of the shoe recycling program is that by putting a simple note in the shoe and filling out a simple registration form, you'll be able to trace the path your shoes take to meet their new feet. The shoes are for reuse all around the globe, putting landfills on diets and teaching all that worn does not mean worn out.

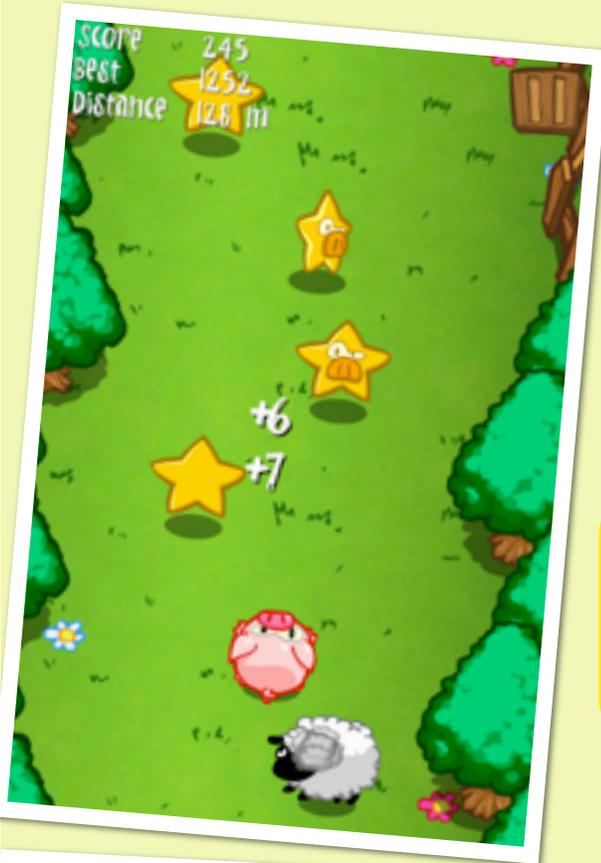
Final plans are still being made, but you can start piling up those old shoes right now. For more information, call 925-279-2247. And of course, you can always email me at [info@cpga4pigs.org](mailto:info@cpga4pigs.org) with any questions you may have.

**Part 2:** The Contra Costa Humane Society has invited us to participate in a yard sale/flea market this August in the Pleasant Hill area (date and exact location to be determined). It will give us an opportunity to talk about potbellied pigs, educate the public about the so-called "teacup pigs" and raise some funds for CPPA. So PLEASE start saving items you would be willing to donate. We will take ANYTHING. And whatever we don't sell, we will make sure gets donated to another animal thrift store. I'll get you more info as to the date and location and maybe you can come help set up, sell and/or talk PIGGY with the public. We haven't "tabled" in many years, so it's about time we get ourselves out there and help educate people about our great family members. More on this event will come soon. But start SAVING YOUR "STUFF" now.

Thank you!

## iPhone/iPad games to stick your snout into

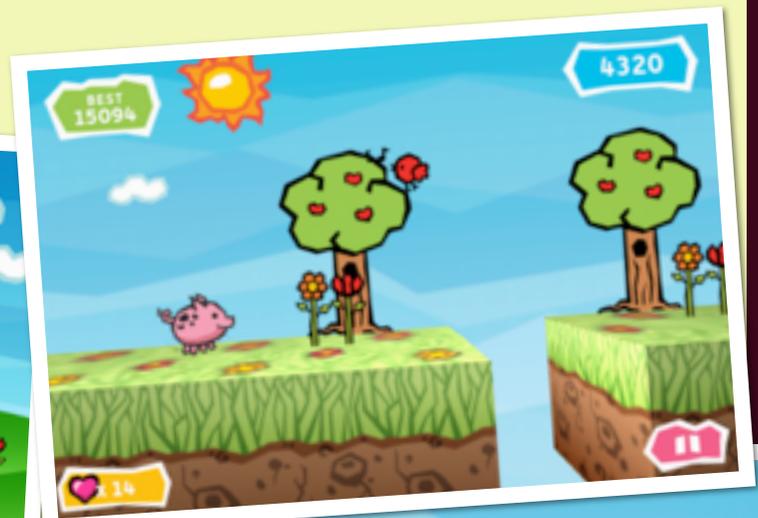
You don't have to be a gamer to appreciate a little more pork on your iDevice. Here are two games that are cheap, easy to learn and play, and available on iTunes right now.



Pig Shot starts with a roly-poly pig in a slingshot. As he or she rolls up the screen, you tilt your phone or iPad to make the pig swerve left or right, collecting good things like stars (for points) and vegetables (which give you extra "gas" to boost you along) and avoiding obstacles like boulders and other farm animals.



Pig Rush is equally simple. Your pig runs automatically and you just tap the screen (once for a single jump and two quick taps for a double jump) to make him jump over chasms and up to catch bonus items like a safety helmet or angel wings.

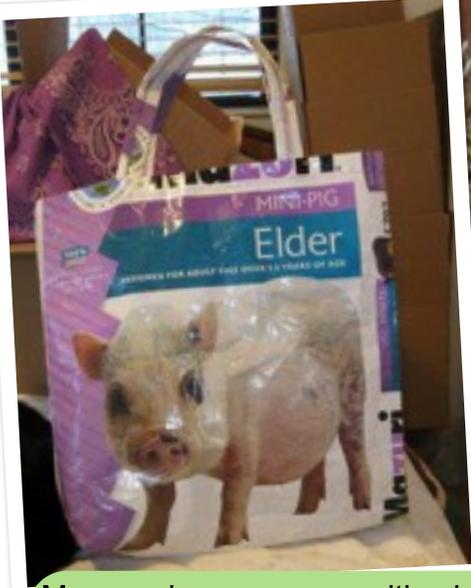


# face[book] the facts: CPPA wants you to join us online

Are you on facebook? If so, stop by the [CPPA Facebook](#) page and say hello! If you're not, here's a little of what our page has been up to lately.



Sophie found a new home. With a face like that, how could she not, right?



More and more communities in California are outlawing plastic bags. We say, great! Now we have an excuse to order more of these stylish recycled feed bag tote bags. We're still working on the name. Contact Marcie to find out how to get yours.



Oh yeah - THIS happened, too. If you've never been to the Hog-i-day party, you have to come this year. Fake Mustache Marcie and Sunglasses Santa demand it!

## Spring is in the air! Watch out for Dippity Pig Syndrome

We originally ran this story last June, but DPS is back in season, so we thought it deserved a quick refresher.

Dippity Pig Syndrome (DPS) is a horrifying pig disease. Symptoms include: limited use of the pig's back legs, screaming in pain (the pig, not you), sensitivity to touch, and/or bloody fluid coming from red, moist patches of skin in the rump/spinal area. Sounds awful, right? It is.

If you see your pig showing signs of Dippity Pig, DON'T PANIC! and whatever you do, DO NOT let your vet (or anyone else) euthanize your pig.

Despite its gruesome symptoms, DPS is easy to treat into submission - you can give baby aspirin, children's benadryl, and use cortisone cream. And do what you can to minimize stress in your pig's life. The pig will usually recover in a day or two.



A CPPA member sent us videos ([here](#) and [here](#)) of a pig showing Dippity Pig symptoms. They slathered her with cortizone and gave her coated aspirin, and 48 scary hours later, she was fine.

Here are several things we know about Dippity Pig Syndrome:

- It typically begins to appear in early spring or whenever the weather first warms up wherever you and your pig live (and when the pigs begin sunbathing).
- Usually we see it for the first time in pigs under two years of age.
- Sometimes it happens to that same pig for the next year or two and then never again, or maybe again later in life one more time.
- But age isn't the only determining factor. Recently our email inquires from around the world all seem to be coming from people with female pigs, young and old.

Please [check our website](#) for more information on Dippity Pig Syndrome - it's a scary thing to see, but an easy thing to overcome once a correct diagnosis is made.

**DPS Survey:** If your pig has had DPS, we'd love to hear your answers to these questions at [info@cppa4pigs.org](mailto:info@cppa4pigs.org). (no need to resend if you replied back in June).

- 1) How old was your pig when DPS first occurred?
- 2) What gender is your pig?
- 3) Was he/she neutered/spayed the first time DPS occurred? What about when it recurred?
- 4) How long did each episode of DPS last?
- 5) What time of year did it occur and what city, state, and country did he/she live in at the time?
- 6) What did you do to treat it and did it help?

## Video Break: Schnoidz and the Hose

Tell the truth: Do you really need another paragraph of us talking about how great our friend Tom's videos are? No. Of course you don't. But do you really need to watch [this video](#) of his pig, Schnoidz, and the hose from the title? Yes. Yes, you do. It's captivating, in that unexplainable, "how long have I been staring at this lava lamp?" kind of way.



## Video Break: "Micro" is another word for "teacup" (which is another word for "bullcrap")



A UK channel called "uZoo" posted [this video](#) exposing the myth of "micro pigs". It's short and sweet, and you'll never see a cuter bunch of piglets. Keep an eye out for the mottled brown coats and pom-pom-like wattles on their cheeks--these are probably Kune Kune pigs.

## Bonus Break: Franklin the pig has a proud papa

[This one](#) makes us smile every time. Obviously, the piglet is bright-eyed and adorable. But what we really love is the way Franklin's adopted father narrates a proud play-by-play breakdown of what makes his son so awesome. He clearly worships the little guy. Bravo, Franklin's dad. Bravo!



## Bad breath? Strange bump on the chin? Tender chewing?

### Abscesses: What they are and how to treat them

Do any of these three things sound familiar to you?

- 1) "My pig has really bad breath, and he never did before."
- 2) "My pig has this strange bump under his chin that wasn't there before."
- 3) "My pig seems to be having trouble chewing/eating".

(This is a condensed article. See the full version at [CPPA4pigs.org](http://CPPA4pigs.org).)

While there are other possible causes for all these conditions, they are often signs of a jaw, tooth, mouth or tusk abscess. It's basically an internal infection that creates a pocket of pus (yeah, it's disgusting. Sorry.) We'll take a look at the symptoms one at a time.

#### **"My pig has really bad breath, and he never did before"**

There could be a couple of reasons for this symptom:

1) Food stuck in their lips/gums. Especially in pigs with notable tusks, their upper tusks tend to create a pocket up over the tusk itself. Which fills with food. Which rots. Which REEKS. If you can, use your finger or a Q-tip to wipe up and over the tusk to get that food out of there. One thing...if you have never done this before and/or your pig's mouth is sensitive, be VERY CAREFUL with your finger placement. DO NOT GET YOUR FINGER between the upper and lower tusks. You might lose a finger.

2) A rotten tooth, or even an abscessed tooth or tusk. For this we recommend a vet visit.

#### **"My pig suddenly has trouble chewing or won't eat hard foods like carrots any longer".**

As above, it's likely your pig has a tooth gone "bad" or an internal jaw/tusk abscess. Again, this will require a vet visit.

#### **"What is this swollen bump under my pig's chin (or near his cheek)?"**

This is almost guaranteed to be an abscess of the tooth, jaw or tusk. It needs to be dealt with by a vet. If it's just a tooth abscess; hopefully, once the tooth is pulled, and the pig is on antibiotics for about a month, the problem should be taken care of. However, if it's a jaw/tusk abscess, you are looking at a lifetime of care.



No, this pig is not trying to smuggle a mango in his cheek. That big, red bump is an abscess.

### Okay, it's an abscess. Now what?

An abscess is like a giant zit. When it looks about to burst (it may even get a dark red center), it needs popping.

You can try hot packing the bump to see if it will open and drain on its own. Take a washcloth and get it as hot as you can. Then wrap it with foil and stick that packet in a zip lock baggie. Now you have a hot pack that won't leak. If you are lucky enough to get the abscess to open up (you probably have a 50/50 chance), HOLD YOUR NOSE!! The pus is unreal. Even if there is no pus (some infections produce gas instead) it will stink so bad you will think you will toss your cookies. Get as much of this stuff out as you can. You can use Hydrogen Peroxide (but just during this initial opening of the wound. You don't want it killing the good bacteria the medicines will introduce) to really clean it out.

Now comes the weird part: You want to keep the wound open-as in, not scabbed over-so it can heal from the inside out. One option is to pack the wound with gauze soaked in Neosporin and an antibiotic ointment. Another is to use Provoidine Iodine to keep the wound moist and the scab loose and easy to pick off. I soak the Iodine on a gauze pad and just hold it to the wound. The only problem with home care is the pig will need antibiotics. So you'll still need to see a vet.

If you can't get the abscess open on your own, you will need to have a vet cut it open and clean it out while the pig is under anesthesia. The first time one of our pigs had a jaw abscess drained, the vet at UC Davis opened it up with an "X" incision (which makes it harder for the wound to seal up), cleaned it out, put him on antibiotics and sent him home. An older strategy is to open the abscess, clean it, and stitch in a piece of rubber surgical tubing (see pic lower left), which keeps the wound from closing prematurely.

Note: Even if it is only a rotten tooth or a small abscessed tooth, the pig should stay on the antibiotics for at least one month. Some vets think just 10 days is enough. It isn't. If the abscess is a tusk/jaw, then more than likely the pig will need to stay on antibiotics the rest of its life. Riff was on Clavamox for more than two years. And sometimes, the abscesses still came back. We opened them ourselves with a sterilized X-acto knife. Some pigs actually enjoy having the wound drained (it must feel good).



Abscesses can manifest in any form. I have seen abscesses that have gone right through the cheek. Once the holes healed over, the pig was fine. Other pigs get large bumps under the eyes, behind their jowls or under the chin. Know your pig's face. Know which bump or puffy cheek is normal and which is new. Abscesses can pop up overnight or take a long time to develop. Just be observant.

And remember if your vet is not familiar with treating potbellied pigs and only wants to keep your pig on antibiotics for 10 days ask them to call UC Davis or another experience potbellied pig vet. Ten days is rarely enough time to clean up a potbellied pig abscess.



It's a good idea to have a vet drain your pig's first abscess. They can send the pus to get "cultured", which helps decide which antibiotics to use.

## Medical Corner: Meet Midazolam

Make vet visits safer and less stressful with new techniques in anesthesia

With all this talk of trips to the vet, we thought we should mention a new medication that we've come to appreciate. The biggest problem with a trip to the vet is, it stresses the pig out. And anesthesia introduces a whole new set of challenges--if you've ever tried to restrain a pig to give it a shot or hold a gas mask over its snout, you know what we're talking about. Somehow, a chubby, lazy butterball turns instantly into a bucking bronco (and if you're really lucky, it comes with a siren that could wake the dead).

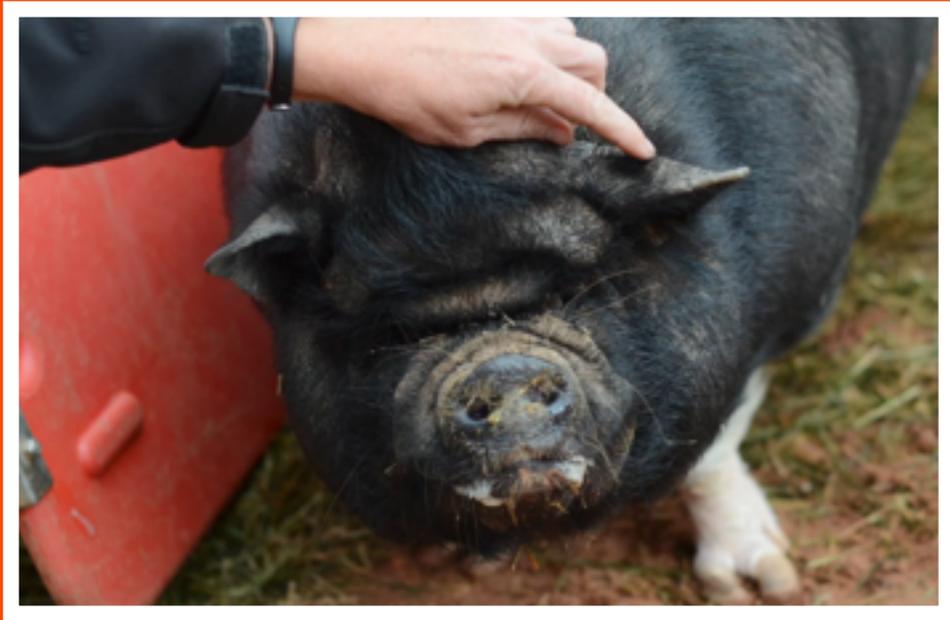
But enough negativity! We've recently been introduced to a drug called Midazolam, which has darn near revolutionized our vet visits. Our vet administers a 0.4mg/kg dose rectally with a needle-less syringe (the needles just screw off like a bottle cap). Or you can give it orally if you think you can get your piggy to swallow a strange-tasting liquid (though it takes up to an hour to work). Either way, it produces a mellowed-out porker who's much less likely to thrash out of the vet's grip and stampede through the wall, leaving a pig-shaped hole like they do in the cartoons.

Midazolam doesn't knock a pig out completely, so many procedures will still require Iso or Sevoflurane. In those cases, it's a great "pre-gas ramp-up" drug. It mixes safely with either Iso or Sevo and can make the pig much more mellow, enabling you to move on to gas with less stress and pig-wrestling.

You can [read more about Midazolam, as well as other anesthesia techniques \(cat masks?\) on our website](#). Our pigs have had such good experiences with Midazolam (especially when rectally administered) we recommend everyone encourage their vets look into it.

## Video Break: Slimming Sammy

We started out pretty sure the folks over at [Best Friends Animal Society](#) didn't mean to make us wet-eyed with their [blog post about Sammy](#), a 300-lb potbelly so overweight he could only stand for ten seconds at a time. But once we watched [this video](#) and read about his diet and how he's becoming more active and confident, we thought maybe they did. Look at that face! How can you not fall in love?



# Treat Box!

Do you really want a *rabbit* choosing your gifts this Spring? Fill your own basket with these pig-themed goodies!



Want to see what heaven's kitchen looks like? Just go to [lakeside.com](http://lakeside.com) and enter "pig" in the search bar. Or just go to Marcie's. Most everything on the next two pages, like this adorable \$12.95 [baking dish](#), is now in her kitchen.



Fact: These piggy [measuring cups and spoons](#) will make your cookies taste even better than Grandma's. And if you ARE Grandma? Don't buy these. It just wouldn't be fair to all the other cookies in the world.



A pig and chocolate on the same [coffee mug](#)? What more could you want? Other than three other matching mugs, we mean?



Okay, let's review. *Dippity pig* is an awful, but thankfully curable affliction we talked about earlier. *Dip-filled pig* is a wonderful addition to any festive meal. We know it's easy to confuse the two.





Is “a-boar-able” a word? Because how else are we to describe this [metal planter box](#)? It’s only \$10!

In the old days, duct tape only came in gray. Now, amazon sells a zillion patterns, including [this one](#). So long, nails, screws, glue, and even bandages. You all just got replaced.

