

CALIFORNIA POTBELLED PIG ASSOCIATION, Inc.



CPPA eNEWS

SPRING 2012

WOO-HOO WOOLA!!!



Woola is a type of Martian animal called a "Calot," which is a big dog/reptile kind of thing that can run about a zillion miles an hour. He's adorable.

From Marcie:

OK, bragging rights ... There is a new movie called *John Carter* in theaters right now. Part of the voice of a dog-like lizard creature named "Woola" (the movie takes place on Mars) is our boy, Standlee!

The people who did sound effects for movies such as *Lord of the Rings*, *Charlotte's Web*, *King Kong* and many others, came over and recorded us trimming Standlee's hooves many years ago. They keep using his voice for creatures in various movies. This might be Standlee's biggest film, though. So if you see the movie tip your hat to what a great job Standlee did! LOL

And an FYI of Standlee's history. He came to us in 1998 from someone who saved him from being buried alive. The hole was dug and Standlee was in the bucket of the tractor waiting to be dumped into the hole, as his two siblings were earlier in the day. Someone showed up in time to save him. Standlee has a neurological disorder which causes him to have seizures and "wobble" instead of walk. He was at least 3 to 5 years old when he came to live with us in 1998. And now he's a movie star. Go Standlee!

Video Break: CPPA Photo Gallery #5

Have you seen the latest collection of potbellied glamour shots sent in by CPPA members? If not, [head over to YouTube](#) and check it out.

And don't forget to submit your own pics to Marcie for use in future photo galleries.



Jack hits the twitterverse

For those CPPA members who have a twitter account, we have a new celebrity for you to follow: Jack the pig, who lives at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Jack's twitter handle is @PigNamedJack – just click the "connect" link in the upper left and do a search for "pig named Jack" and he should show up.

Best Friends also has its own twitter feed at @BFAS, as well as a [facebook page](#). It's a great way to keep up with a great group of animals and their human caregivers. You should probably also check out their [YouTube channel](#). It's packed with adoptable animals, inspirational stories, and who knows? You might even happen across a video of NASCAR's [Ryan Newman visiting](#).



Guest opinion:

Bean bag chairs are essential gear for your potbellied pig

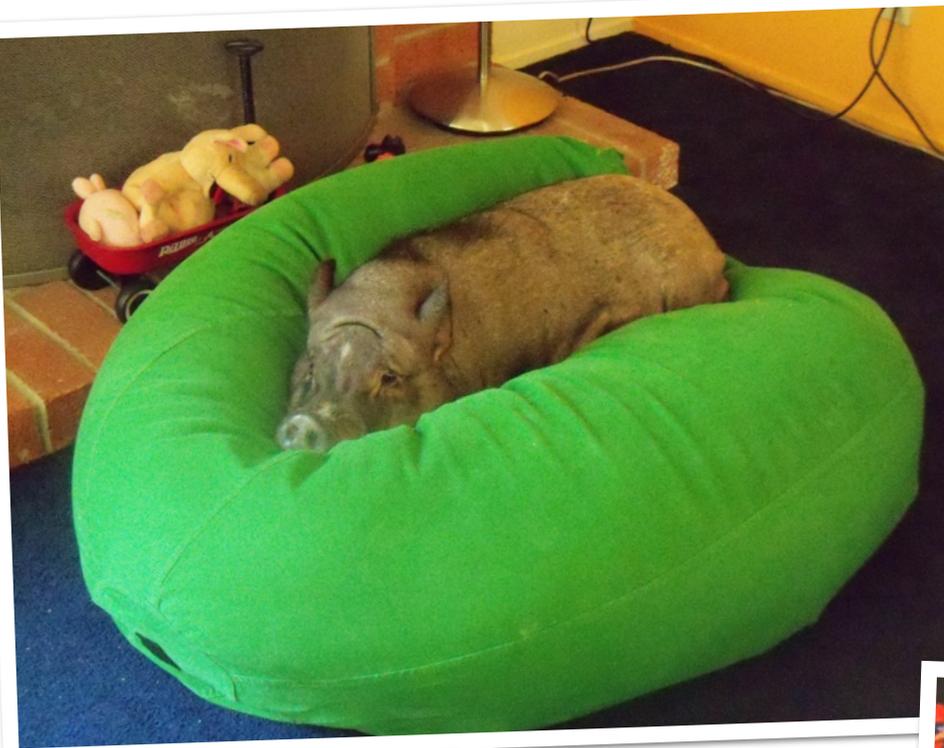
by Bacon the Pig, Captain of the Bean Bag Chair

You know, you CPPA'ers are great at giving us pigs what we need.

Piles of food? Obviously, humans and pigs have different opinions about how much food is enough, but I *guess* I haven't starved, so you must be doing something right. Blankets, or at least straw for those of us who are more outdoors-y? You've got us covered. A good pair of hoof trimmers and a dremel? Let's just agree to disagree on that one, okay?

The point is, I thought I had it all: a bed, two couches with ramps to help me get on and off, blankets everywhere, treat balls, and a great yard filled with sunshine and magic trees that drop food on the ground.

Then Mom brought home the bean bag.



I'll admit I was hesitant at first. I mean, what was this big, blobby thing anyhow? I ignored it for two days. The third day, Mom put treats on it—obviously, I had to go get them. That's when I realized how squishy it was. Almost ... cushy. The next day, I climbed onto it, just to test it out.

It was amazing. Since that day, I have come to love my bean bag chair. Sometimes I sit right on top of it, like I'm trying to sail it to Hometown Buffet. Sometimes, I slip onto the bean bag, but under a blanket. Sometimes I crawl all the way underneath it, so it looks like I'm wearing a giant hat.

One note of warning: Not just any bean bag chair is good for pigs because we like to tear things open. "Big Green" is very sturdy, made of thick, canvas-like material and double-stitched, so I won't rip it. For added security (and to help it last), Mom put it in a washable duvet cover, which they zip shut so I don't get stuck inside.

You may have already gotten your pig all of the obvious things we need and love. And you're awesome for it. But if you're wondering if there might be something you've overlooked—perhaps you're looking for a nice holiday or birthday gift—I recommend a bean bag chair. You might need to coax us into trying it, but there's a good chance we'll soon consider it essential. Mine changed my life.



Video Break: Ormie the Pig

Some days, you feel like you just can't get a break. But even your worst day is probably better than the day Ormie is having. All he wants is a cookie, but it's never that easy, is it?

This one's been around awhile, but we could [watch it](#) over and over. Heck, we already have!



Video Break: The Frozen Banana in Slow Motion



We'll just let YouTube member Schnoidz's words describe [this one](#) for you:

"I filmed Grunther and Giela today eating a frozen banana. I shot it at 60 frames per second and then slowed it down to 1/4 speed for the playback. Grunther slimed the lens during one of his bites of the banana. I love the slowed down sound of Giela telling him to move as she finishes off the banana."

Book review: OINK: My Life with Mini-pigs by Matt Whyman

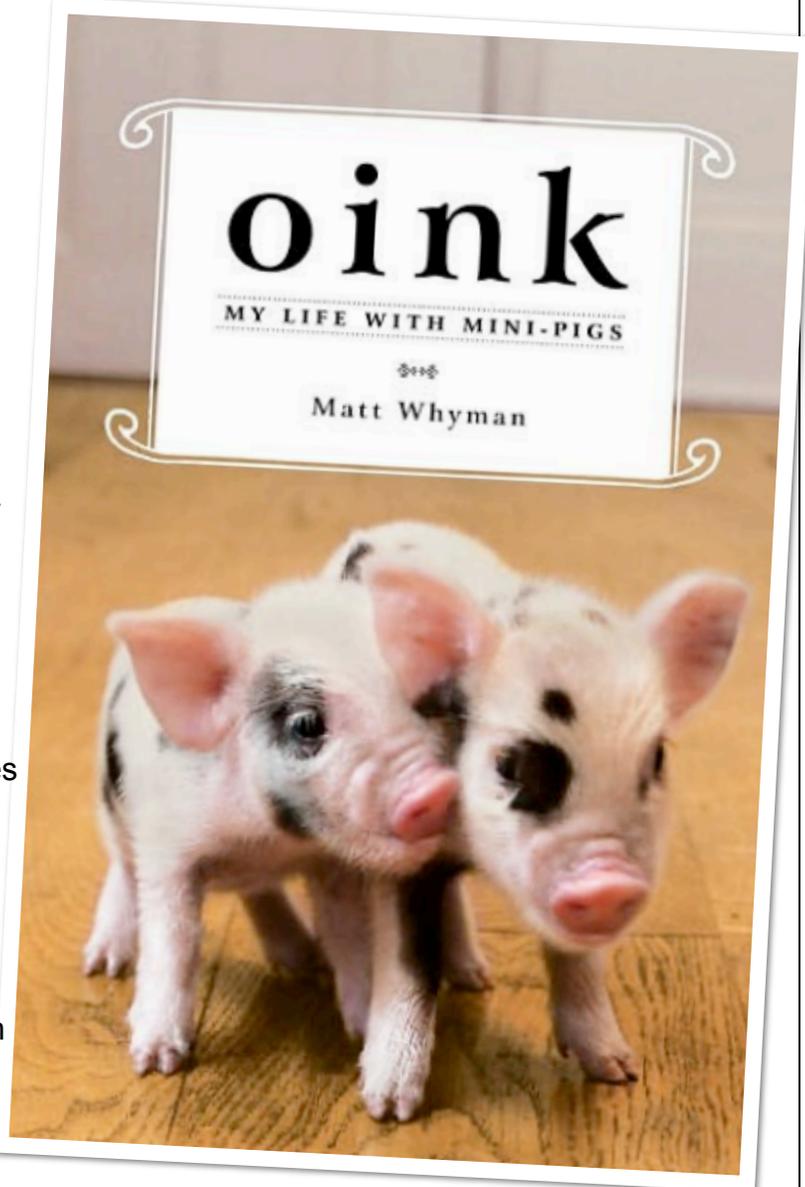
We read a captivating [excerpt](#) of *Oink: My Life with Mini-Pigs* on the UK Daily Mail website months ago, and have eagerly awaited the book's release [here in the US](#). Unfortunately, the finished whole is tougher to recommend. *Oink* is funny; it's just not really about pigs.

The main character of *Oink* is the author, Matt Whyman, a mild-mannered writer and father of four whose wife adopts a pair of potbellied piglets. The book chronicles the adjustments the family, and Whyman in particular, must make to accommodate their newest members.

That brings us to the twist; the title is more truthful than the cover art. *Oink* is not about the piglets. It's about the author. And he can be a challenge to like. Whyman, in a self-deprecating style common to UK humor, tries to write himself as a lovable goof. But instead, he often comes across as selfish, dim-witted, dishonest, irresponsible, and determined to paint himself as the victim of situations he himself caused.

As a result, instead of a man vs pigs version of *The Odd Couple* or *Turner & Hooch*, we get a series of stories about a guy who can sometimes be so tough to root for that it literally isn't funny. Especially after the first 1/3 of the book, the pigs often disappear for long stretches, appearing only long enough to trigger Whyman to whine (or lie) to his wife about them, defend his latest dumb move to one ill-behaved teenage daughter or another, or court disaster by attempting to become a potbellied pig breeder (thankfully, he fails). Moreover, while Whyman's family loves the pigs, he himself doesn't seem to even like them very much; the book begins and ends (in its preface and postscript) with stories about the dearly departed family cats.

Oink is still entertaining. You just have to know what you're getting from the start. In the rare moments that Whyman isn't shooting himself in the foot, or when the pigs take center stage, as they do in the [excerpt](#), it shines. Just be aware that by the fifth or sixth time his superhumanly capable best friend has to swoop in to rescue Whyman from himself, you may wish someone would just call animal control.



Not-so-news flash: pigs are *really* good at finding food

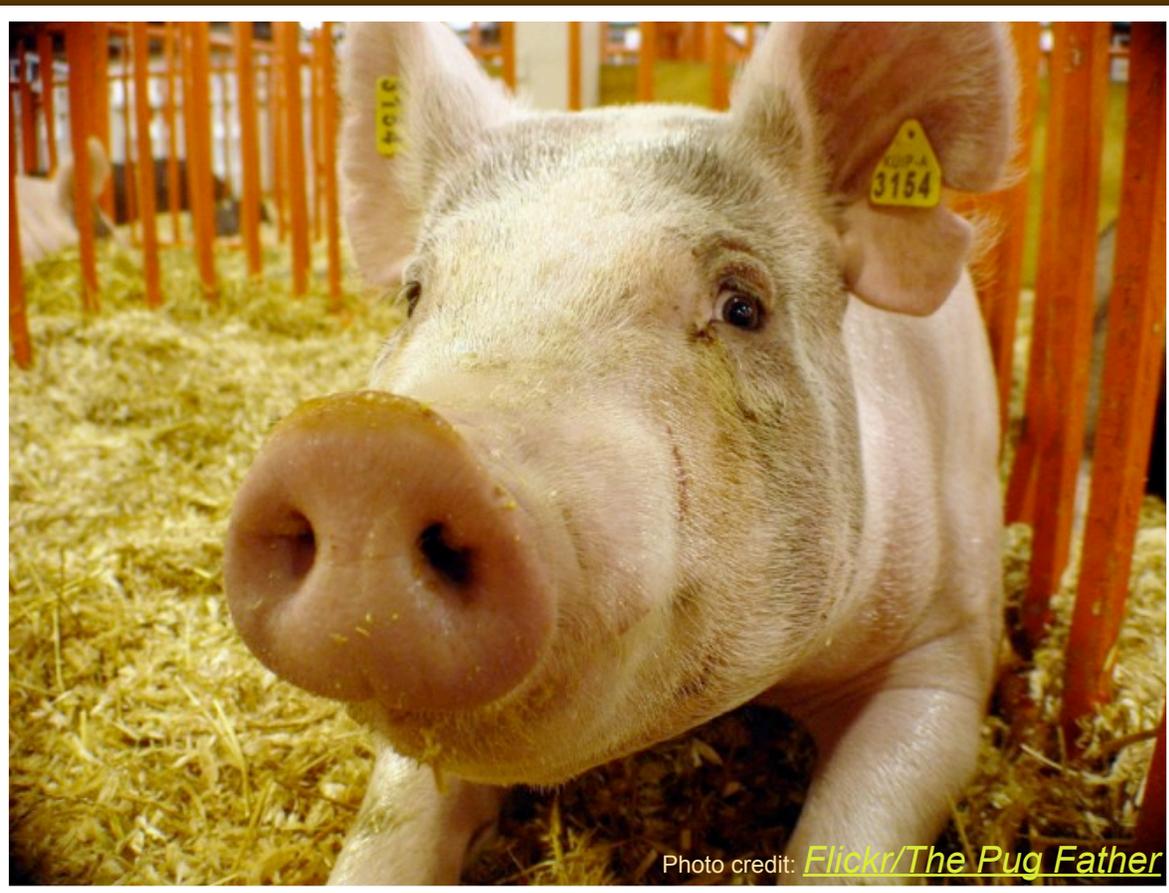


Photo credit: [Flickr/The Pug Father](#)

Marcie recently rediscovered [this interesting article](#) from 2009 that showcases just how brilliant our porky friends are compared to other animals.

The article discusses a study in which pigs learned to use a mirror to locate food that was otherwise hidden from their view. Very few animals can make the connection between a mirror image and the world around them. But pigs are smart enough to do just about anything—especially when there are treats involved.

Video Break: Hide your laptop! Pigs are now computer hackers

No discussion of porcine brain power would be complete without [this video clip](#) from the BBC. The “hackers” title is a bit misleading; the pigs haven’t learned to break into the internet and order pizza online. But they have learned that their collars are what trigger the mechanical food dispensers to give them their dinner. Guess what happens when some new arrival doesn’t get the memo and their collar ends up on the floor?



Feature:

Pig Behavior and Care: Spoiled Pig Syndrome (SPS)

by Susan Armstrong

According to Webster, the word *DISCIPLINE* is defined as "training to act in accordance with rules; to train by instruction and exercise; to bring to a state of order and obedience by training and control."

We have some very spoiled pet pigs that are causing frustration and agitation with otherwise understanding & tolerant piggy parents. This condition is referred to as The Spoiled Pig Syndrome (SPS). Is your pig misbehaving? Grouchy? Pigheaded? Nippy? Won't listen to you? Then your pig could have SPS. To make change in this unfavorable behavior, we need to be in control. This behavior should not be condoned by you.. *NOT NOW, NOT EVER!!*

What causes pigs to become spoiled and how do you prevent it from continuing? I don't have the answers scientifically accepted as facts but I do see some similar behavior after lengthy discussions with pig owners.

First, I look at the physical reasons for undesirable behavior, starting with the feeding menu and schedule. Your pig could have adverse behavior based on **WHAT** you feed, **HOW** you feed, **WHEN** you feed, and **WHO** feeds.

Then look at the environment the pig lives in. Does he/she have their own "get away" space? Does the pig feel threatened or disliked by a family member? Does the pig get enough fresh air and exercise? Is there unhappiness and discontent in the family?

Next, comes questions to determine good health. When was the pig weaned from the mother, and from the siblings? Could there be a toothache, urinary infection or anything else causing pain or discomfort?

Once all the physical reasons are discussed, changed or eliminated, I take a good look at the way the pig has been socialized.

The majority of problems are vastly improved when communication is established between Parents & Piggy. "Discipline" is the magic used to communicate. Put your foot down, no more Mr. Nice Guy, make the little porker behave, if not... withdraw the reward. **BUT** as soon as you see the behavior you are striving to get, then *INSTANTLY* reward. Use your voice and body language to express what you want to communicate. And visualize, see in your minds eye the pig behaving.

Training and consistency is critical for success in communicating. If we are **NOT** consistent, piggy will be getting mixed signals. Always use the same short phrases or single words to describe the behavior the pig is displaying. The rule here is: same phrase for same behavior... every time... by everyone in the family.

Communicate with your pig through consistency, training, discipline and lots of love and you will have a great companion. Remember the pig is exceptionally intelligent and will respond in a positive manner when presented with the opportunity to be equal.

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["mailto:nappa@nappanet.com"](mailto:nappa@nappanet.com) [NORTH AMERICAN POTBELLED PIG ASSOCIATION](#)

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Treat Box! Pig-shaped goodies we hope to see in our Easter Baskets

Got a ceiling fan? Then you'll probably want these \$45 handcrafted fan pulls from uncommongoods.com. You might even splurge for the matching [salt and pepper shakers](#) (\$75) below.



You had to know there would be a \$24 [plate](#) too.



What we have here is a whole assortment of adorable headrest pillows for your car. From left to right: [Monokuro Boo](#), [white Angel Pig](#), [gray Angel Pig](#), and [Smiling Pig](#).

You may never realize how often you could use a little super-strong, machine washable, collapsable bag until you start carrying a little super strong, machine washable, collapsable bag around with you. Take it from us. The advice, that is. Not the sack.



If you or someone you know is in the business of raising a little princess, you have an excuse to invest in these too-cute footie jammies from Amazon. Available in sizes 18 months to Youth 7, which is the only thing keeping some of us from ordering a set for ourselves.



Website Kyle Designs has dozens of personalized pig items. Too many to list, but here's a sample: glasses case, money clip, booze flask, tabletop purse hanger, earrings, checkbook cover, night light, desk accessories ... you get the idea. It's all customizable, too.