We wish all of West Virginia counties, or the country for that matter, had humane animal control facilities. This winter we were told about a couple of potbelly pigs that were seized six years earlier, living at the farm (as there is no facility to house animals) of the Chief of Animal Control in horrid conditions. A PIGS volunteer who moved to this county has been working with the facility, trying to improve conditions. She asked us to take the pigs. We agreed, especially when we were told one of the pigs just died due to the condition they were living in - senior pigs living in the middle of a muddy cow pasture in a make-shift pen with no warmth or protection from the harsh winter weather. The pigs were almost feral as they had very limited interactions with humans. They were also emaciated, uncastrated, riddled with mange, and had over-grown hooves and tusks. When they arrived at the sanctuary we quickly unloaded them into an isolation area (not an easy task to handle the black pig!) and called the sanctuary vet to come out immediately. We named them John Wayne (the black pig) and Don Knots. Dr. Gast gave thorough exams. He castrated John Wayne and felt Don Knots was too weak to get neutered. We dewormed them, cut hooves and tusks. Sadly, Don Knots passed away in his sleep just three days after arriving at PIGS. We truly believe that Don waited until he was out of that horrible environment so he could close his eyes and take his last breath here on earth in a safe place. He died with a full belly, a fresh bed of straw and experienced the feel of loving hands caressing his face and tired body. He knew he and John Wayne were finally safe and that it was ok to go now. It is so hard when they come into our life for only a few days. But he will remain in our hearts forever. John Wayne grieved for several weeks, but he has started to come around now, and is learning to enjoy life here at PIGS.

Arnold Peabody came to PIGS like so many other young potbelly pigs, by people who buy a potbelly pig before doing their research! Arnold P. was bought by a young college student who thought she could sneak Arnold in the dorm room. She quickly learned it wouldn’t work as she couldn’t ‘hide’ a pig so she turned him into her local shelter, stating she found him. The shelter adopted him out, before contacting us, to a family who thought he would act like a dog and was returned to the shelter within a week. When Arnold came to PIGS at five months of age, he never lived outside in the cold West Virginia winter, so he went into a foster home until it would be warm enough to for him to be outside; however his Mom, an active volunteer with the sanctuary, fell in love with him and she quickly became a foster failure!
Lola is a young (perhaps six months) potbelly pig who just arrived at PIGS! She was purchased as a pet by someone who didn’t do their research and ended living in a small 4 x 4’ pen. She was rescued by a small farm animal advocacy group in North Carolina. When they took Lola to a local vet for a spay, they were told she was a breeding sow! Since veterinarians do not deal with pigs on a regular basis, we are always happy to answer questions about the different varieties of pigs and their needs.

Cupcake & Elmer

In November 2013 four pigs were seized from a cruelty case in Pennsylvania. Animal Control officials kept the pigs at a foster home in their county until the court case would resolved. When the pigs were released to the county, they called PIGS asking if we could take the four pigs. We said we would find the isolation space and we set a time for the pigs to arrive; however, each time we scheduled it we were hit with a major snow storm! So finally, a month later the pigs - three girls and a boy arrived! Elmer, the little male, was not castrated. Later on we found out that they kept the pigs together at the county facility for a few weeks. About a month later, on an early Saturday morning, Cupcake went into labor! So a rescue of four pigs turned into a rescue of twelve! We watched Fly and Penelope closely but there were no more surprise deliveries! Cupcake is being a wonderful Mom and Elmer, who is now castrated, will no longer be a Casanova with all the females! He has settled into his new ‘studless’ life quite nicely and is enjoying wandering around the pasture and meeting other sanctuary residents! We love a happy ending!
Oliver’s life started out pretty unlucky. But all the stars were aligned in his favor on the day this little piglet fell off the back of a transport truck onto a highway in North Carolina! It was karma for this piglet, soon to be called Oliver, who was spotted by a very kind dog rescuer who couldn’t leave him alongside the road! Oliver was nursed back to health and stayed in North Carolina until he was a few months old and that is when his guardian angel sought out a pig sanctuary for him. Oliver was transported to West Virginia and now he is able to live out his life here at the sanctuary! Oliver quickly bonded with Melvin and the two have been inseparable ever since!

These are just a few of our new porcine residents. These pigs needed to be neutered, dewormed, vaccinated and micro-chipped which comes to about $450.00 per pig! Please consider making a donation towards the veterinary expense of one of these pigs or for just $20.00 per month you can” adopt “Oliver, John Wayne, Elmer or even one of Cupcake’s piglets!

See enclosed card for more information.

Angel was found by a neighbor whose property backs up to the back of our farm pig field. They called us late last fall stating a cat has been hiding out in their woods and seemed to be injured. They couldn’t bring her into their house due to allergies. So we drove over the next morning in hopes she would come out to eat. We pulled up and saw this beautiful girl lounging on their front porch. We could tell she was once someones beloved feline friend as she was so friendly, and so clean. We drove her right into our veterinarian for an examination and a spay, but as soon as we pulled out she went into a frenzy and became so anxious she went in an asthma-like attack. She spent the night in an oxygen chamber and the next morning they were able to pull blood and do an exam. She does have an enlarged heart which causes her to go into respiratory failure when stressed. So we have to make sure she doesn’t get stressed! She is doing fine living in the adoptable cattery. We are watchful of her and her stress levels but so far, no more acute attacks that landed her in the oxygen chamber again!
**Dottie**

This dear little girl is one of our newest feline residents. In early December, Dottie was found in a trash bag which was thrown alongside a country road. The woman who called the police said she saw the bag for three days but on the day of the call, she saw something move in the bag. The police and the bomb squad went to the scene and was surprised to open it to find a cat! Animal Control was called and when they took the cat back to their office, they noticed that something was not right with her, so they called PIGS asking if we could take her in and get her examined by our vet. The vets found that along with fleas, shock and dehydration, she had weakness in her hind legs. X-rays revealed that she had been shot and the pellet is lodged in her spine. It cannot be removed at this point, so she will need to be on pain management but can and is now living a long and happy life!

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**Meow**

The very handsome Meow just came to us in February. He was rescued by some very generous cat lovers when his family decided it was better for him to live his life outside, unaltered. Meow became very sick living outside in the middle of winter and the kind neighbors took him in and drove him right into their veterinary hospital, where he was diagnosed with an Upper Respiratory Infection and FIV (Feline immunodeficiency virus). They were told by their vet that they cannot keep him with their cats and it is often best to have these cats euthanized. Thankfully, they contacted a local cat rescue group who then called PIGS asking if we could fit him into Ivan’s House of Hope, our FIV+ colony. We are so happy that we are able to accept FIV+ cats like Meow into Ivan’s House of Hope who would have no other place to go.

It is only through the kindness and generosity of our donors that enable us to help cats like Angel, Meow and Dottie. Animals that through no fault of their own are thrown away like yesterdays trash.

Please consider making a donation to ensure we can help societies throw-away animals that we treasure here at PIGS.

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**Winnie**

Winnie is a senior American Pit Bull Terrier who was seized by law enforcement officers from a dog fighting raid. She lived her life on a logging chain, producing litter after litter. Winnie, is extremely underweight, is heartworm positive and has had several Mast Cell Tumors removed. Winnie will remain at PIGS for the remainder of her life. She is gentle old soul, who loves every person she meets, but this gal still has some spunk in her and is enjoying exploring her new home and getting lots of treats and love!
We always try to help out Jefferson County Animal Control (our county facility) when they ask us to take in a dog. In November we received a message about a very thin and shy Saint Bernard who was found as a stray. This owner, a known Saint Bernard breeder, didn’t want to spend the $50 to reclaim her since she was already middle aged and wouldn’t be producing too many more litters. The shelter staff reached out to PIGS telling us about this sweet girl who was so shy, she would ‘pancake’ -meaning she would lay down so hard against the floor, shaking in fear. We took Libby to the vet for a full work-up and to be spayed. She did test positive for heartworms, which we began treating. We worked with Liberty to help her gain trust in humans again. She started thriving. And then after a short -six month stay at PIGS, we found the perfect forever home for Liberty just a few short miles away from the sanctuary. We get regular updates and photos of our beautiful Sweet Liberty adjusting to life as a pampered family member.

Amelia Bedelia came to PIGS in early January after she was found on someone’s front porch. Barely a few weeks old, Amelia was emaciated, riddled with mange, bow-legged from malnutrition and full of parasites. Her recovery was a long road which hit many bumps along the way. We hoped with proper TLC, nutrition and veterinary help, we would get her health restored and we would one day be able to find her a family of her own. She was at the sanctuary for several weeks and then when she was big enough went into a foster home with a vet tech who is a dedicated PIGS volunteer, to continue her rehabilitation. At the end of April, Amelia was ready to be spayed and went into her new forever home. After numerous meet and greets and even a weekend sleep over, Amelia found her perfect home! She will be the little sister of PIGS’ alumni, Adele.
A Couple of Really Cool Things to Know...

PIGS’ has a new website!
www.pigs.org

Tour our sanctuary... Tours are available by appointment on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from April - October. Our tours are guided by a knowledgeable member of the Sanctuary Staff.
Go to www.pigs.org/tour-our-sanctuary.html

PIGS would like to thank the Hagerstown Community College and especially the HCC Robinwood Payers Theater Club for hosting a fun and very successful event on behalf of PIGS!
We had a wonderful time and truly appreciate everyone’s hard work to put on such a successful event!!

One Green Planet named PIGS Animal Sanctuary one of ‘10 Awesome Farm Animal Sanctuaries You May Never Have Heard Of’! This was a world-wide article and we are so honored to be included!
Please take a minute to check out their website: http://www.onegreenplanet.org.
MEET JUSTIN, the newest ‘human’ member of the PIGS Family....

Justin Nolt joined the PIGS team in March of 2014 as our Director of Public Relations and Development. Justin is following his passion for animal welfare and with his seven years of experience in communications, advertising, design, interpersonal skills, event planning and fundraising abilities he is a perfect fit for this position! His primary objectives and job responsibilities will be to ensure funding for the sanctuary through special events, corporate sponsorships, as well as promoting PIGS at various events to build our network of support.

Justin, who is no stranger to the sanctuary, comes to us from Ephrata, Pennsylvania and is dedicated for showing love and a kind spirit to the neglected and many times, abused animals that now call the sanctuary home.

Justin is quoted as saying “success is not about the personal achievements you reach or the possessions you obtain; but, it is about the difference you make in the lives of neglected animals that do not know love until they know peace at PIGS”.

Justin shares his life with his beloved Boxer, Maggie. We welcome Justin to the team and look forward to the positive attributes that he will bring!

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PIGS ANIMAL SANCTUARY
Visit Us at www.pigs.org or Like Us on Facebook

Pre-Registration (Local & Virtual Participants): $28.00
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All participants who register are entered for a chance to win with over $500 in Prizes
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5k Fun Run/Dog Walk

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Fresh Fruit, Water, Granola and Dog Treats will be available!
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1st Annual Run Like A Dog

5K Run/Dog Walk

Saturday, July 12, 2015

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Now it is easier than ever to help the animals at PIGS. Cash in your spare change at your local bank and mail a check to PIGS for the amount. Every donation makes a difference no matter the size!

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In the Memo Section Be Sure to Write Pennies for PIGS