



CPPA eNEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011

THE LYIN' KING

Meet Spike the warthog, whom we met through this amazing email from CPPA friend Tim Condon:

"I had an email from a friend in Zimbabwe yesterday and she sent me this picture and story that I thought was delightful. They had been away at a game park and on the first evening while sitting in front of the fire in the bar, in walked a fully grown warthog. He walked over to the bar and without a

word the bar man handed him a pillow. He took the pillow, put it next to the fire and promptly lay down with his head on the pillow and went to sleep where, apparently, he spends the cold nights. Then in the morning, he's off into the bush again! My friend says that if the barman isn't there he will grab a pillow off one of the couches!"

Thanks for sharing, Tim. You know, feral and wild hogs are a real problem in places such as New Zealand, Brazil, the southeastern US and southern California, all places where man has introduced them artificially. But it's clear that this clever fellow, a Zimbabwe native, is right where he belongs.





Pig Week



Like Eric Bratcher and 1,566 others like this.

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Check out the BFPigWeek tweets.

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Media



Stories



Nick and Holly



This Little Piggy Went ... Home



Double the Celebration



Settling In



Jack the Tweeting Pig



On-site Learning



The Pursuit of Perfection



Ring in the New



"Hey Look! My New Favorite Thing!"



Operation, "Racing Toes"



The Thrill of a New Hobby



Meet Liz and Scott, and Scott and Liz



Oink, Oink, Woof!



Partial to Pigs



Pigs in Paradise



A Piggy Pal in SoCal



The California Potbellied Pig Association



Kitties, a Pittie and a Piggy— Oh My!

Resources

- Your Potbellied Pig's Health
- Adopting a Potbellied Pig from Best Friends
- Before Adopting a Potbellied Pig
- Basic Potbellied Pig Behavior
- Caring for Your Potbellied Pig
- Your Potbellied Pig's Diet
- Enrichment for Your Potbellied Pig
- Your Potbellied Pig's Environment
- Potbellied Pig Relationships
- Potbellied Pig Resources
- Spay or Neuter Your Potbellied Pig!
- The Myth of "Teacup" Potbellied Pig



ISN'T IT PIG WEEK EVERY WEEK?

Our good friends over at bestfriends.org, one of the finest animal sanctuaries on the planet, recently celebrated Pig Week. They have dozens of photos, articles, and profiles of pigs all beautifully laid out for readers to enjoy. Granted, if you [click here](#) and visit the site, you might find yourself completely captivated and lose the rest of your day absorbing all the content. But honestly, what better way to spend a day, right?

News Flash: Frankie proves pigs are perfect partners

If you live in the Sacramento, CA area, you might want to keep an eye on the local paper, the Sacramento Bee, for an article about CPPA member Bonnie Morgan’s potbellied boy, Frankie. His community service will be the subject of an article scheduled to go to print in early October. We got the scoop straight from Bonnie herself:

“Frankie and I were recently certified with the Delta Society as a registered Pet Partners team. Since then, we have had a great time visiting nursing homes, assisted living facilities and Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento. It is a real honor to receive this certification and Frankie and have trained for it for nearly a year.

There are 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children in the U.S. They provide free medical care for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip conditions. The children receive visits from cats and dogs on a regular basis, but they really look forward to their visits with the pig! Frankie loves it here the most, I think. He even interacts with the little babies very carefully and with respect.



This picture is in the lobby of the Shriners Hospital. Because we have to ride an elevator to see the children, I bought him a plastic wagon from Toys R Us. It works beautifully because the hospital floors are very slick and he slips a lot. He loves being pulled around in his wagon, getting treats and lots of attention.”

Deck the Hogs! The CPPA Hog-I-Day Party 2011 is coming!

It’s that time of year again! The date for the annual CPPA Hog-I-Day potluck has been chosen: 5:00PM on November 19th, at Marcie and Chris Christensen’s home in Pleasant Hill. We’ll have a pig ornament exchange as well. Please RSVP by 11/1/11 to info@cppa4pigs.org We’ll send out more information after the RSVP date.



Enterprising piglet proves to be one hot dog as well

Here's a story we've been wanting to tell you about for months: a piglet who got tired of watching his human's dogs have all the fun and decided to get in on the act himself. According to his owner, Louie picks up the tricks of the obstacle course better than the dogs - which shouldn't shock any CPPA members. You can read all about him in the [Daily Mail](#) story to the right, or see a [video](#) of him in action by clicking on the pic below. Go Louie!

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It is a dog's life for pig Louie in display team



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The pig that's top dog: Pot-bellied porker outshines the canines in agility team

By LIZ HULL

Last updated at 8:35 AM on 3rd February 2011

Comments (179) Add to My Stories Share

Trotting through tunnels, leaping over jumps and weaving between poles, Louie would be a valuable member of any dog agility team but for one thing. He's a pig.

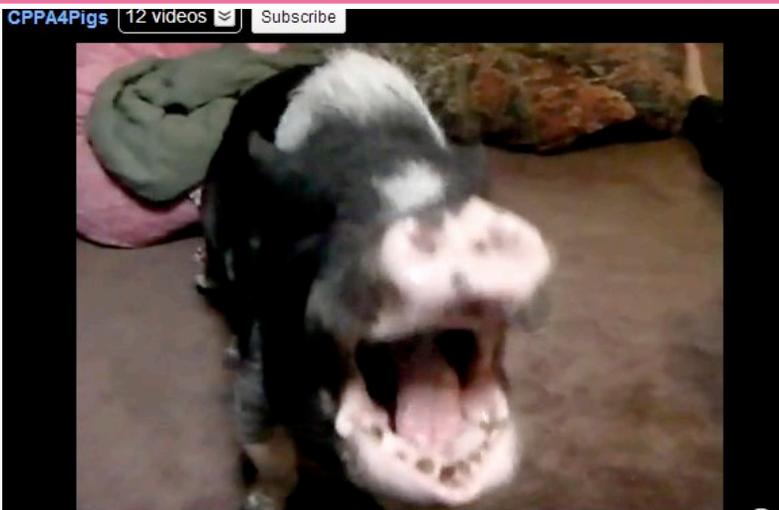
The nine-month-old pot-bellied crossbreed is a non-showbusiness version of Babe, the movie pig that thinks it's a sheepdog.



© Terry Kane / Barcroft Media

In synch: Louie the pig jumps a fence with a fellow display team member. He performs at agricultural shows around the country

Video Break: RJ imitates a baby bird



While Marcie and Chris Christensen's four-legged son RJ might not share Louie's aspirations to be a stunt dog, he's still quite the impressionist. [This quick little video](#) shows off his ability to mimic a newborn baby robin, fresh out of the egg -- at least, if the robin had a mouth like a miniature hippopotamus. Hey, the kid likes his milk. What can we say?

DISASTER READINESS: ARE YOU PREPARED?

Words by Marcie & Chris Christensen

In case you haven't noticed, there are quite a few things in this world over which we humans have absolutely no control. In just the last month, we've seen floods, tropical storms, and earthquakes ravaging different parts of the US. If a disaster strikes your home, will you be ready?

We can't stress enough how important it is to make a plan ahead of time for you and your pets, so you're as prepared as you can possibly be when something goes cataclysmically wrong. It can be the difference between life and death, if not for you, then for the beloved creatures who share our lives and rely upon us to protect them in situations such as these.

With that in mind, we're taking some time to revisit this article from the CPPA website, <http://www.cppa4pigs.org/>. **Please** read it and make sure you have a plan in place in your home. Then check out our related articles on being prepared specifically for [fires](#) and [medical emergencies](#). We hope and pray you never need it, but there are no words for how thankful you'll be if you ever do.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A NATURAL DISASTER? by Marcie & Chris Christensen

What is a "Natural Disaster"? Most commonly, it would be one caused by nature, but man in his infinite wisdom has managed to become dangerous enough to create these on his own.

Under natural we have fire, flood (tsunami), wind (hurricanes, tornadoes, monsoons) and earth (earthquakes, volcanos, land slides), but for man we better add chemical releases (including radioactive releases), explosions, war, terrorism, etc.

Some of these disasters may come with some warning and some may not. What they all share in common is that most probably your local disaster workers (police, fire, medical) will probably be at least temporarily overwhelmed, and you will be to some extent "on your own" possibly for weeks.

Something to keep in mind is that if you have some warning as with wild fires and often flooding, don't wait until the last minute to gather and restrain your animals. Even the tamest

animal will probably act quite different when heat, smoke and roaring flames are bearing down on them. They better already be in the horse trailers, animals crates and vehicles, and you should have already been gone before the danger arrives. A foot of water in your yard may not be a problem for you, but your potbellied pig will find it quite upsetting.

After Hurricane Katrina, when many people chose to stay with their pets rather than evacuate to safety, the "Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006" became law. It requires that the State and local emergency preparedness authorities include how they will accommodate households with pets or service animals when presenting their emergency plans to the FEMA. The problem is that no funds were included for training, acquisition of equipment or areas to house these rescued animals.

The result is that they **MUST** try to rescue your animals with you, but they may not be equipped or trained to do so.

If the disaster calls for an evacuation, DO YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO EVACUATE YOUR ANIMAL?

(Continued on page 6)

If on a calm sunny day your pig will slowly walk up a ramp into your vehicle, don't wait till the flames arrive or the water is rising to load the pig in the vehicle. Load up and leave at the first warning. Animals don't understand flames and rising water. With an evacuation, probably both you and your potbellied pig will be more comfortable if the pig is in a crate. If you later have to change transportation or you arrive at a rescue area, where there may be dogs and other animals or no fenced area, a crate will make everyone more comfortable.

In the event of an earthquake, do you have a fenced area or the ability to create a fenced area in your yard where you can contain your pets if your home is uninhabitable.

DO YOU KEEP A SUPPLY OF EXTRA FOOD AND WATER AT ALL TIMES for your animals (and you), or do you wait until you run out to buy another bag of pig feed?

We have a truck with a camper on it that is high enough and big enough for a few "Giant" ("700") animal crates. Transportation is the first thing you need to think about. Do you have a vehicle big enough to carry your pig? Are you able to load the pig into this vehicle on your own?

We purchased a hydraulic table from Harbor Freight (www.harborfreight.com, search Hydraulic Table) to help us load our pigs into our truck. If you have a crate just make sure BEFORE an emergency that your pig will fit in it and that the crate will fit in your vehicle. These crates can be purchased at any pet/feed store and most online animal stores. We purchased plastic sorting boards (flat 2' by 3' boards with handles used to guide and direct pigs) from QC Supply (www.qcsupply.com, #50019 called Sow Mate Sorting Panels) to help us move the pigs and get them into the crates easier. We also have several animal exercise pens. We use these to circle a pig when the sorting boards

don't work. Then we can move the pig to where we want the pig to go while the exercise pen is around them. We will place a crate at the opening and slowly fold up the exercise pen so the pig has nowhere to go but into the crate. You can find exercise pens at most pet/feed stores too. But to see what I am referring to go to www.jefferspets.com, Search Exercise Pens. (See also Health/Maintenance – Transportation on this web site.)

We also have a small camper trailer in our side yard full of emergencies supplies, including pet food. We have the capacity to live in it or haul it full of our pets to safety if needed, but we realize that in the most likely emergency we will face, an earthquake, our truck and camper will probably be useless, as roads will probably not be passable, but at least we have our food and supplies and some protection from the elements.

Do you have the equipment you'll need? In a natural disaster, you probably won't be able to take the time to buy or borrow what you need. Check out our "Care-Products" section: <http://www.cppa4pigs.org/Care-Products.html>

Realize that any steps you take to be better prepared for emergencies with your pets and even your family, make it much easier if an emergency occurs.

You may also be interested in learning more about how you can help in your area during an emergency. If your area has a [CERT](#) (Community Emergency Response Team) or a [DART](#) (Disaster Animal Response Team), you could look into their training (just click the names to get started). If neither DART nor CERT service your area, try the [Humane Society](#). All three groups are always looking for interested volunteers. The upside is you will meet some great people from your community and learn ways of being prepared and keeping your family and yourself safer in an emergency.

READER FEEDBACK

Did you know CPPA has a website, www.cppa4pigs.org, full of practical advice and touching and humorous stories? Of course you did. But did you know you can also email us your own stories and pig-tures at info@cppa4pigs.org? Well now you do -- so let us hear from you!

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Our first pig, Ruby, would chew gum for hours on end. She never swallowed it. She would usually spit it out in her water bowl. Occasionally, she'd forget and fall asleep with it in her mouth. Sometimes, I would notice, because every now and then, she'd retrieve it from the space between her gums and teeth, and chew on it for a bit in her sleep. I would then take it away from her, just in case she swallowed it and choked. Luckily, she was a deep sleeper, and putting my fingers in her mouth and finding the gum was not in the least a threat to my digits. A couple of times, I wouldn't notice that she'd fallen asleep with gum, and was none too pleased to have to cut gum out of her bristles in the morning. She had a few odd-looking haircuts due to this.

Anyways, I just wanted to say thanks, for an enjoyable morning of reading, laughing and crying. Thanks for loving them the way you do. Very few people "get it," they just don't understand why we devote our lives to these amazing little people in pig suits. All the best to you, and please-post some more stories!

Sincerely,
Sherry Burnett
www.rubyranch.ca



Sherry's boy Stannie.
Love that tongue!



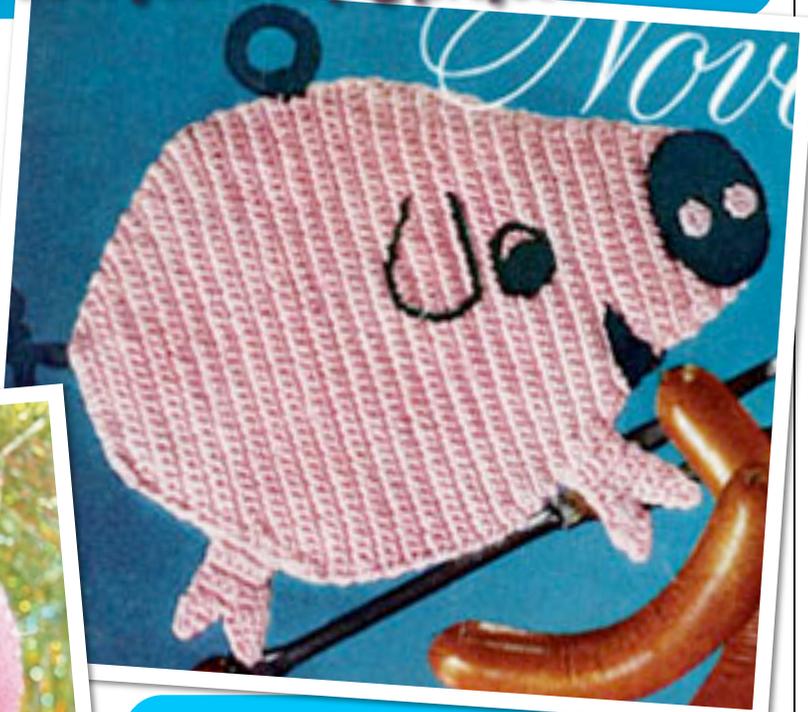
Lisa's girl Hazel.
How adorable is she?

Hello,
I am the owner of several mini pigs in western Pennsylvania. I want to thank you for your information on Dippity Pig. I've been raising pigs since I was a kid, (farm hogs) and when my Hazel started dropping her rear end I was in a tizzy as I had never seen anything like it before. I found your site and it was such a relief to know it would pass. I asked my vet to confirm that she had Dippity Pig and she had never heard of it, so I told her about your site too. I can not thank you enough, the vet said she had spinal trauma and wanted her put down. You saved her life!

Thank You again,
Lisa Emberg

Craft Corner: Three FREE do-it-yourself pig projects

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who actually have the skill to hand-craft adorable things like the ones you see here, and the folks who haven't a snowball's chance in the devil's sauna of even understanding the instructions. We're not sure which we are just yet, but these crafty critters are so cute, we're inspired to dive in and give it a shot.



Above: Piggy potholder from FreeVintageCrochet.com. Marcie is going to try to tackle this one, so a later eNews should have either some new pictures of this cutie or a funny story. We'll take either.



Above: Squishy piggy tree ornament from weewonderfuls.com. The bad news is the [free pattern](#) doesn't include the little cart. The good news is you can also purchase the pig already made from the creator's [etsy site](#).

Right: You can find the recipe for this googly-eyed pig ornament free at Squidoo.com. Note to people with craft skills: If you happened to bring something like this to the [CPPA ornament exchange](#) this year, we'd be fine with that.

