

CALIFORNIA POTBELLIED PIG ASSOCIATION, Inc.



CPPA eNEWS

HOLIDAY 2013



Want your own
hand-crafted pig
ornament? Contact
[RedTroll Studios](#)

Hog-i-Day party 2013! Couldn't make it to Marcie & Chris' house? No problem! Here's what you would have seen.



Santa Spike showed off the new CPPA brochure as Marcie sold some CPPA shopping bags.



Above: ONE of Marcie's pig ornament-laden trees.
Left: The ornament exchange is always a hit.
Below: Sanctuary-palooza! Kellie and Mike from Sloppy Seconds join Eva and Ercell of Bellydraggers Ranch



Not shown: SOOO much delicious food!
Thank you all for coming, and we'll see you all next year!



Boar-loons?



Even the almighty internet doesn't seem to know who first took these photos of adorable piggy balloons and their vendors, but we do know at least some of them were taken in Beijing, China. Better add that to the list of places to visit on our next vacation.

Video Break: Cows Love Pigs



Do you ever feel silly for sitting at your computer watching videos of pigs? No problem! Now you can watch a [video of cows!](#) Who are watching pigs. Totally different.

We're not sure why, but this video had us cracking up. The cows really do seem captivated by their porky neighbors. Which we totally understand.



Prepare yourself with this Veterinary Release Form

If you ever leave your pet in the care of a petsitter, be sure to give them a completed version of this document, which authorizes your petsitter and vet to do everything they possibly can to help. It could prevent a tragedy.

Veterinary Release Form

For (list animals by name and breed/species):

Owner's Full Names:

Physical Address:

Address:

Telephone Number: c

Telephone Number: h

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby authorize the attending veterinarian to treat any of my pets as listed on the Pet Information sheet and I accept full responsibility for all fees and charges incurred in the treatment of any of my pets.

The Pet Sitter is authorized to transport my pet(s) to and from the veterinary clinic for treatment or to request "on-site" treatment if deemed necessary. If I cannot be reached in case of an emergency, the Sitter shall act on my behalf to authorize any treatment including euthanasia.

Pet Sitter's Full Names:

Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Video Break: Chrysanthemum Builds a Nest

Like people, pigs will go to extraordinary lengths to make themselves comfortable. But you can't say it isn't adorable, as [this video](#) of a roly-poly snuggler named Chrysanthemum patiently constructing a cushy "pillow" inside her shelter proves. Hey, a pig's got to have a nice place to take an apple break, right?



Video Break: Pygmy hogs DO exist! (Just not like you think)

While the misinformation regarding the true size of teacup, Juliani, and pretty much every other supposed variation of miniature pig rages on, here's a miniature pig that truly does stay about the size of a large rabbit. The catch? They're not domesticated. In fact, they're critically endangered, and were thought at one point to be completely extinct. However, a captive breeding program is now in place, so they will hopefully make a full recovery. In the meantime, you can catch a glimpse of the elusive, capybara-like pygmy hog in [this video](#), or see even more of them [here](#).



Mailbox: The Uninvited Guest

Most of us love the way our pigs become part of the family. However, that can also cause trouble when they disagree with you about their boundaries. Check out this email we got from Kristy, who adopted two spirited pigs named Ruby and Oreo.

Things have pretty much been going great. However . . . and I am sure there are always howevers . . . Ruby is working my last nerve.

I moved them to the garage when the rain got heavy and there were no problems. They sleep real nice and pretty much keep their area clean. However, whoever said pigs can't take big steps was wrong. Ruby figured out how to use every doggie door in my house. We would find her in the living room or the kitchen taking a nap. Which was cute . . . at first.

Let me tell you how my day went today. At 7:30 am, she invites herself in and eats all my dogs' food . . . which she does so quietly that I keep NOT catching her. I put her out. About an hour later, she comes in and heads to my niece's bedroom and knocks over the bookcase because apparently she thinks everything in my house is a scratching post. I put her out again. This time I tell her "bad girl!" and I put the doggie door in so she can't come in again. A few minutes later she proceeds to break my doggie door and comes in anyway.

Currently she is in my closet, where I am sure she is thinking about settling down for the night.

So to sum it up for today, she has polished off somewhere between four to five bowls of dog food . . . the dogs are starving to death. She has knocked over one bookcase. She has broken one doggie door. And now she has officially gone to sleep in my closet.

I really love these pigs. But it was so nice having her spend most of her time on the 2½ acres that we have made so beautiful for her. Is there any way we can perhaps get back to her not wanting to be in the house all day long???

Look at those faces! Oreo (with the white forehead) and Ruby enjoying themselves and acting innocent.



The funny thing is, we can picture this whole thing unfolding. Can you imagine Ruby's dialogue, considering we all know it's never occurred to her that she's doing anything wrong? "Hey Mom, the doggie door was broken and wouldn't let me in—but don't worry, I fixed it. But I can't fix that bookcase upstairs. It tipped over while I was using it! Shabby thing! You should take it back and try to get a refund. Oh, hey—maybe get a bigger dog food bowl, too? Ours goes empty too quickly. Well, I'm going to go take a nap. If you need me, I'll be in your closet."

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Mailbox: The Uninvited Guest (continued)

As for your question, Kristy, it can be a real challenge to retrain a pig to stay outside once they've had a taste of "the good life" indoors. One of the things we all love about pigs is how social they are, and how eager they are to become active members of the family.

You could try blocking her access to the house by installing a smaller dog door, penning her in, etc. But that's treating the symptom, not the root cause.

If you really want to reclaim your house, you'll have to make outside more appealing than inside, plain and simple. Feed the dogs at a specific time then pick up their bowls instead of leaving their food out 24-7, keep the closet door shut, etc. while at the same time you work to create more things outside for her. A cushy little house somewhere out there to replace your closet, treat devices like the rotating feeder we showed awhile back, ice cubes with veggies inside, and so on (but don't use treats to lead her back outside when she gets in, or she'll conclude she gets treats for coming inside and do it over and over).

And even after all of that, it may turn out that she just wants to be near you regardless of what goodies she finds on either side of the door. Pigs are social that way.



"It's hot. Think if we break into the kitchen and tip over the fridge Mom will give us lemonade?"

Recipe Box: Pig-head Pig bread

A CPPA member recently pointed us toward [these adorable biscuits](#), which you can make for yourself by following the recipe at the expertly-named blog Cafe Chicolada.

The from-scratch version calls for two types of dough and filling in the middle—which does sound delicious—but the author got the same super-cute shape with regular dough and two sizes of circular object to trace, and a jar of currants to use as eyes. Seems worth a try to us!



Recipe box: Piggy Pudding

From the butter-loving mind of Paula Deen comes this new holiday classic, which we would love even if it didn't have the word "pig" in its name.

Prep Time: 10 min

Cook Time: 30 min

16 links breakfast sausage (we used Morningstar Farms meatless links)

4 to 5 tart apples, peeled, cored, and sliced

1 7 1/2-ounce package yellow corn bread mix (we used Jiffy)

1 cup maple syrup

Fresh sage (optional)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- Prepare batter according to directions.
- Cook sausages until done, piercing with fork to let out fat if necessary. Drain.
- Arrange sausages in a 9-inch square-baking dish.
- Layer sliced apples on top.
- Pour corn bread batter over all and bake for approximately 30 minutes or until corn bread is done.

Serve with warm maple syrup and fresh sage garnish.



Pictures taken from:
PaulaDeen.com,
grouprecipes,
brittanyspantry,
 and
mytinykitchen.

CPPA around the world: Leigh from Sweden says hello

Hi. My husband and I live on a small farm in Sweden, where we also run our own company called [Kyno-Logisch](#). Our main activities are training guide dogs for the blind and animal assisted activities. We have quite a few employees working with us including 3 horses, 2 dogs, 2 cats, and 4 potbellied pigs (all 4 are rehomed pigs). Harbour, Simon, and brothers Nasa and Aldrin (yes, pigs in space !) all help young people with autism in understanding communication, interaction, gaining trust, patience, and even learning/teaching skills through the use of clicker training. Our pigs "work" here on the farm in their own safe environment and are free to choose if and for how long they wish to participate during each session. Nasa and Aldrin also have a second job working as reading pigs (you have probably heard of reading dogs) to help children with reading difficulties and to encourage and motivate children to read more!



Leigh Hall



Above: Leigh, Nasa, and Aldrin
Left: According to Leigh, one can buy replicas of this stone pig sculpture in the Old Town crafts market in Riga, Latvia. Grab your passports!

Feature – Sweater time! Is your pig ready for the winter?

It's easy for humans to fend off the winter. We just go inside, crank up the heat, and bundle up by the fireplace with a mug of something warm. Here's how to make sure your pig stays just as cozy:

Give them shelter.

A pig needs something to protect them from the elements. But avoid “igloo” shelters in cold climates—moisture can condense inside and literally freeze a pig to the wall.

Keep them warm.

A heated shelter can save lives. But keep any wiring out of the pigs' reach and avoid exposed bulbs, open-flame devices like kerosene heaters, and heaters that could burn your pig's skin when he/she inevitably snuggles up to them. If all this sounds like too much, at least provide heaps of straw or hay to burrow into so the pig's body heat can warm them.



We don't know who originally took this picture, but we thank them from the bottoms of our hearts.

Keep the bedding dry.

Ever worn wet socks? Now imagine sleeping in a wet blanket. Pigs will tramp snow, mush, and mud into their stalls. You must switch their bedding frequently (especially if you use blankets, which retain far too much moisture). Damp bedding is the single biggest cause of cold-related health problems. It's a fast track to pneumonia, frostbite or worse.

Keep their water fresh, not frozen. AND make sure they drink it.

Pigs can lose interest in water during cold weather, which can lead to constipation. You may want to mix in a splash of fruit juice (like cranberry) to encourage them to drink. Add tons of warm water to turn their dry food into a kind of warm mush (some pigs only hydrate at meal time), and toss in a scoop or canned pumpkin every couple days, which helps keep their bowels boweling.

Watch out for seasonal poisons.

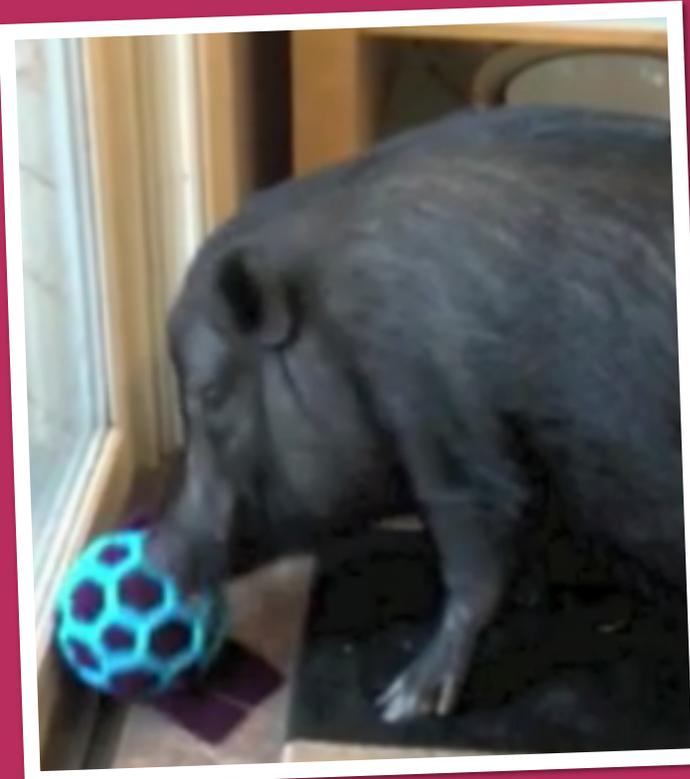
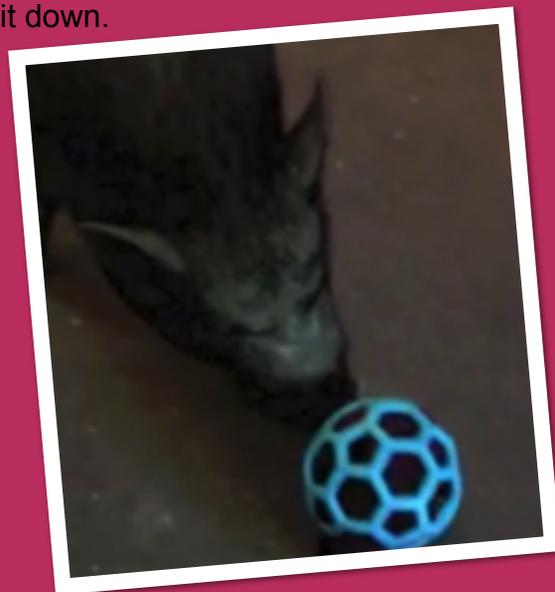
Poinsettias can cause serious illness. Chocolate, antifreeze, and mistletoe can kill. Also, some pigs will make it their mission to eat your Christmas ornaments, tree lights, tinsel, and especially the popcorn and cranberry garland—whose string can cause a blockage.

Make them potty.

If it's snowing outside, even the tidiest pig may just opt to potty in the stall rather than go out in the cold. Which can cause problems. So rouse them and make sure they do their business elsewhere. Note: a few hay bale “walls” with a sheet of plywood on top can create a nice, snow-proof awning in front of the pig's shelter and make them much more willing to get out of bed to do the deed.

Video How-to: Hol-ee Roller games, piggy-style

With the weather outside so frightful, parents of pigs with access to the indoors might find the [Hol-ee Roller](#) pet toy delightful. It'll keep even the most inquisitive piggy occupied for a good, long while. In [this video](#), Marcie shows you how to set it up, and Mason shows you how to gobble it down.



GoodSwipe makes donating for pigs even EASIER!



Those charity-loving folks over at GoodSearch have done it again. This time, they're created GoodSwipe, a credit card rewards program that donates up to 3% of your purchase to the cause of your choice—and it doesn't cost you a penny!

All you have to do is sign up and give GoodSwipe a few details about which credit card you'll be using. The process is nice and secure too, so you needn't fear your credit card info falling into the wrong hands. Then, whenever you use that credit card at one of more than 50,000 retailers, including places like Taco Bell, The Gap, K-Mart, 7-11, and Regal Cinema, they'll donate a portion of your purchase back to CPPA. It doesn't even interfere with any existing bonus points system (like cash back or airline miles) your card already has. It couldn't be easier!

In the spirit of the season (and in observance of the fact that we're all pretty shopped-out at this point in the season), **Treat Box** is taking an issue off. It'll be back next issue though, so be sure to let us know about any pig-related bargains you see! See you in 2014!

