



CPPA eNEWS

Piece of Peace Work Party Date MOVED! Now 10/11/08

Due to scheduling issues we have moved up our Piece of Peace (PoP) workday to 10/11/08. Originally it was scheduled for 10/18/08. Hopefully you will all still be able to make it. We could use your help both physically and financially. PoP is located in Marysville, CA and is home to over 100 potbellied pigs and hundreds of other animals, from domestic pigs, to goats, sheep, and lots of different kinds of fowl. They have a wish list on their web site of items they can use. [http://](http://pieceofpeaceanimalsanctuary.org/poplist.html)

pieceofpeaceanimalsanctuary.org/poplist.html.

Please check it out. ALL help is appreciated. You can send your donations to PoP or to CPPA and designate for PoP.

Either way they will receive your donation. For more information on PoP, please go to their web site at:

www.pieceofpeaceanimalsanctuary.org



PIG FLIP VIDEO

Tom Caughlin, of Florida, is the keeper of the videos. Over the years he has taken some great videos and uploaded them to the web. At one of the PBP symposiums in North Carolina, in 2003, Tom filmed us learning how to flip, hold and trim PBP hooves. It was a wonderful learning experience. Tom recently uploaded this video to the web. Enjoy and I hope you learn from it as much as we did actually doing it. <http://www.vimeo.com/1158543>

PIECE OF PEACE ANIMAL SANCTUARY GIFT SHOP IS UP AND RUNNING

I have been working on Piece of Peace Animal Sanctuary's Cafepress web site. This is a site where you can purchase all kinds of neat items, such as t-shirts, tote bags, mugs and much more. So far there are only a few images on the site but more to come in the future. PoP receives a percentage of each sale. Please check it out at www.cafepress.com/animalsanctuary. And don't forget CPPA has a Cafepress site too, where we receive a percentage of each purchase. www.cafepress.com/potbelliedpigs

THANK YOU for your SUPPORT



**A non-pig friend of ours sent this to us.
Not much to say about it, it's just darn cute!**



HOW CUTE

A pig that's afraid of the mud

This 6-week-old picky piglet, named Cinders, was petrified by the mud around her North Yorkshire, England, farm. "Cinders just stood at her sty shaking," her owner, Debbie Keeble, said of her little piggie's baffling behavior. But now, a carefree Cinders has a ball splashing through the mud in her sensible footwear!

Tom posted another video online. It is of Priscilla Valentine and her performing pigs. It was taken from a BBC show. He password protected it. The password is Pris. Enjoy! And thanks Tom for sending these: <http://www.vimeo.com/1133143>

FUN LIST

Is this not the cutest pig sculpture? A little fat for my taste, but hey.. he's still cute. The artist said that if anyone purchases from this newsletter CPPA will get a small commission. So PLEASE let us know if you buy one.

www.kellersculptures.com



I want this necklace!
info@leberjeweler.com.
They use recycled 18kt gold and conflict free diamonds. COOL! Its not on their web site you have to email them.



DON'T FORGET TO USE www.GOODSEARCH.COM WHENEVER YOU SEARCH THE WEB AND www.GOODSHOP.COM TO SHOP THE WEB. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO DESIGNATE CPPA AS YOUR "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH/SHOP FOR". CPPA HAS RAISED OVER \$100 SO FAR BY YOU USING THESE SITES. THANK YOU!!!



POTBELLIED PIG ABSCESSSES

by Marcie Christensen

CPPA gets lots of phone calls and emails with all kinds of questions. The number one question that seems to be popping up lately is about abscesses. "My pig has really bad breath" or "My pig has this strange bump under his chin" or "My pig seems to be having trouble chewing/eating." These are three general questions that lead us to usually come up with a diagnosis of a jaw, tooth, mouth or tusk abscess.

Now mind you we are not vets. We have just dealt with a lot of these calls as well as having two pigs with these problems. So I thought I would write a short article about what to look for, what to expect and hopefully, what to do.

The first one I will address is "My pig has really bad breath, and he never did before." Well there could be a couple of different issues going on here:

1) This typically applies to a barrow (a neutered male). Males grow tusks (much more than females) and their upper tusks tend to create a pocket up over the tusk itself. This pocket tends to fill with food. That food sits in that pocket and rots. Hence, the "all of a sudden it stinks" comment. I usually recommend, if you can, to use your finger or a Q-tip to wipe up and over the tusk inside the pocket to get that food out of there. Smell it... GROSSSS. 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. All of our boys, but Standlee, allow us to clean this pocket. And believe me...it was worth it when their breath started to get really bad.

2) The second part of this bad breath could be a rotten tooth, or even an abscess tooth/tusk. With this we recommend a vet visit. Many years ago George's breath started to get really bad. We took him to our local

vet and put him under ISO gas. The vet pulled 18 teeth. He started with one loose tooth. It popped right out, then the next one was loose, and as he continued to go, the poor pig was down to just 4 rear molars and a few front teeth. BUT his breath was never bad again, and he never developed any kind of jaw/tusk abscess. He was only on antibiotics for about a month to make sure no infection set in.

The second is "My pig is all of a sudden having a hard time chewing or won't eat hard foods like carrots any longer." Pretty much the same as above could apply. More than likely your pig has a tooth gone "bad" or an internal jaw/tusk abscess. Again this will require a vet visit.

A third is "What is this new strange bump under my pigs chin?" or "My pig has a swollen bump near his cheek." I can pretty much guarantee you that this IS an abscess. Tooth, jaw or tusk abscess, unknown, but 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.

You can try hot packing the bump to see if it will open and drain out the puss. But this often does not work. Pigs have very thick skin so getting an abscess to rupture on its own or with hot packs is about 50% successful. If you decide to try hot packing, I find the best way to do this is to 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. Pigs hate when hot stuff trickles down their faces. If you are lucky enough to get the abscess to open up, HOLD YOUR NOSE!! The puss is unreal. Its thick like cottage cheese and stinks so bad you think you will toss your cookies. Try to get as much of this stuff out as you can. You can use Hydrogen Peroxide one time to really clean it out. The key is to keep the wound open so it can heal from the

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CPPA Photo Gallery 2

I finally uploaded a new CPPA Photo Gallery to YouTube. Many of the pix are of YOUR pigs. MANY are rescue pigs. And some are not potbellied pigs, but the pix were just too cute to pass up. The one with the pig with the "red stuff" all over his snout we call Chuckle Berry Pie. Just so you don't think it's something else. Enjoy and send me your pix for the next gallery:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC7QiSeSSsA

Need a Home Visit? Hooves and Tusks done?

Karen Meicht of PoP Animal Sanctuary has been making house calls to trim hooves and tusks in Northern CA and the Bay Area. Karen will not be able to make any visits until after the birth of her baby in November. Because of this Kelley Moon of Southern CA has graciously offered to fly up and make house calls one weekend. If you are interested in her services please contact her directly at (626) 905-1936. She will try to get to as many piggies as she can.





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inside out. Kelley Moon cleans out a lot of abscesses, and she packs the wound with gauze soaked in an antibiotic ointment. You will need to keep the wound from scabbing over. I use Provodine Iodine to keep the wound moist and to be able to keep 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 will still need to see a vet.

If you cannot 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. Riff has had a jaw/tusk abscess for nearly two years now. We took him to UC Davis the first time when we found it and they opened it up with an "X" incision (the "X" incision makes it harder for the wound to close up) and then they cleaned out the puss and put him on antibiotics and sent him home. The first antibiotics caused projectile diarrhea. It was NO FUN. So we had to change it to a much more expensive drug. The one key to antibiotic therapy is that if it is only a rotten tooth or a small abscessed tooth the pig should stay on the drugs for at least one month. Some vets just put the pig on them for 10 days. That is not enough for these pigs. If the abscess is a tusk/jaw, then more than likely they will stay on antibiotics the rest of their lives. We know of MANY older barrows that are on various antibiotics for years and years and years. Riff has been on Clavamox for nearly two years now. The abscess did come back one time large enough for us to take him to our local vet for cleaning out. Our local vet does not know much about potbellied pigs so he did what he would do to for a dog or cat abscess. He opened it, cleaned it out well then stitched in a small rubber surgical tube to keep the wound open. This actually worked great. That was nearly 8 months ago. The abscess is still there and it will be there forever. We just keep an eye on it, squeeze it from time to time to keep it open and clean and so far it has not come back as a large infection. But again he is on Clavamox

for life or until that drug stops working and we have to try another one.

The question about a pig not wanting to eat hard foods like carrots all of a sudden, could be any or all of the above. There was one pig that actually had a large tumor under his tongue. So again, if you aren't sure take the pig to the vet.

I have seen abscesses that have gone right through the cheek. Corky had open holes on both sides of his face. Once they broke open and the holes healed over, he was fine. They had to make sure flies stayed away from the openings, but these holes never seemed to bother him, even though they looked pretty gross. Other pigs have had large bumps under the eyes, the back side of their jowls or under the chin. These abscesses can manifest themselves in any form. So the most important thing is to know your pig's face. Know which bump or puffy cheek is normal and which is new. They can pop up over night and others can 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 experienced potbellied pig vet. Ten days is rarely enough time to clean up a potbellied pig abscess.

For more information please watch this video. It was filmed at the PBP seminar CPPA held several years ago. We hope to have more segments from that seminar on line in the future.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW72c-Pimzg>

We will also post this article on our web site under Health/Maintenance

Newsletters On-Line

Since we are now producing an actual newsletter, we are going to try to upload them to the web site. So if you delete your copy and want to go back and read something, go to www.cppa4pigs.org and search EVENTS/ UPDATES

ONE RECENT RESCUE

When we used to put out a paper newsletter many years ago, we used to write about each pig we rescued. I decided to include one such recent story.

Many of you might remember ESPN from our Hog-I-Day party three years ago. She was brought up from Southern CA, and was adopted by a wonderful family in Antioch. They loved her very much and things were going great.... until they lost their home. We didn't have much time to find a new home for her but Sue Foster of Cuddly Critters offered to foster her. When Chris and I went to pick her up her human dad, with tears streaming down his face, said "Please tell her new family that at bedtime make sure to put her bed where you want her to sleep, sprinkle a few Cherrios on it and cover her with her blanket. Promise me you will tell them." Chris and I left his house and cried all the way to Sues. We were very lucky to have found ESPN a wonderful loving new home with a family with 4 children. At first I was apprehensive about placing ESPN in a home with young kids, but Sue gave the thumbs up and everyone is doing great. ESPN even has a new little pig brother that they adopted from Sue. This was the first time I ever removed a pig from a home that had me in tears. It was so sad, but ESPN is doing great.

