



# CPPA eNEWS

SUMMER 2013

## Soak in the Summer!



"Pigs in Mud" cake (also known as "Pigs in the Pool") was originally created in 2012 by the Dutch bakery [Taartjes van Fiona](#). Best of all, it's not nearly as difficult to make as it looks. Check the next page for the recipe and more yummy pics.

We wanted to open this issue with something really summer-y, like a story about a surfing pig or a county fair or something--but then we saw pictures of this amazing pile of gooey goodness and we thought, "What's more summery than pigs in a pool of chocolate mud?" True, we realize you may know several completely valid answers to that question, but work with us. This is a massive chocolate cake with candy bar side rails and pigs on top. Do you really expect us to be rational?

# Pigs in Mud cake

The original recipe was written in Dutch, but you can see a great step-by-step version [here](#), or follow our generalized instructions on this very page.

## Step One: The Cake

Get yourself two chocolate cakes 8" across. Make 'em from scratch using a recipe like [this one](#), buy a mix, or buy the whole cake pre-made. Whatever.



## Step Two: Filling and Frosting

Pick your filling. This can be almost anything. Jam, butter cream, chocolate fudge . . . maybe raspberry creme like the author of [A Parenting Life](#) used. Once you've made your decision, slather it all over one cake and set the other cake on top of it.

Then cover the sides with your frosting of choice. Again, you have options here. Chocolate ganache seems quite popular, but [FriendsFoodFamily](#) went with peanut butter fudge frosting for a Reese's kind of flair. It all sounds good to us.

## Step Three: Fencing and re-frosting

Take five or six Kit-Kats, a fistful of Twix bars, or if you want to be classy like the author of [Crustabakes](#), Pirouette cookies and stick them into the frosting to make a fence. You might want to tie something around it to hold them in place if the frosting isn't sticky enough yet.

If you want great-looking "mud", make [chocolate ganache](#), and when it's cool enough to flow without running out between the candy bars, pour it in. Or just frost the top before you make the "fence". Notice your cake is now complete.



## Step Four: The Pigs

"Hold on!" you say, "What about the little bathing piggies?"

You have to make those too (preferably ahead of time), but it's easy. They're made of fondant, which is basically edible modeling clay. We found fantastic [step-by-step instructions](#). You can also watch this [how-to video](#). You can even go to Etsy and enter "fondant pig" to [buy them pre-made](#) (but they're expensive). Or find yourself a child with Play-Doh experience.

However you get your piggies, your last step is to set them swimming and pop the cake in the fridge for an hour. All done!



If you make Pigs in the Mud cake, please send us a picture at [info@cpga4pigs.org](mailto:info@cpga4pigs.org)

# Video break: Introducing the rotating treat dangler!

Keeping our piggy friends engaged and entertained is important, but it doesn't have to be hard. Mike and Kelli from Sloppy Seconds came up with [this neat treat dispenser](#) that anyone can easily assemble from PVC pipes and common eye hooks (and one good anchor, like a clothesline pole, or possibly a tree branch) in an hour or two.



## Spotty humor:

Our friends at the [Happy Pig Collector's Club](#) recently sent this joke over.

Question:  
Why did the spotted pigs run away?

Answer:  
They thought the traveling salesman told the farmer to put his name on the dotted swine.



## Swine lake



The main character of the Nanny McPhee films is a sort of homely, pre-Extreme Makeover riff on Mary Poppins. But the real stars of the second film were a litter of CG-animated piglets. [This 90-second clip](#) shows them performing an impromptu water ballet. Naturally.

## THREE great ways to help pigs without even trying (almost) <sup>4</sup>

### Option One: GoodGames

This is one of those things that leaves you asking “what’s the catch?” but there isn’t any. Here’s how it works:

1. Go to [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), which may be your home page anyway. Make sure you’re logged in, and click on “more ways to raise” in the row of links at the top. Then pick “[goodgames](http://goodgames).”
2. Play any of the site’s 15 online games.
3. Repeat.

For every three games you play, CPPA gets a penny. Granted, it’s not big money, but it’s free and fun to earn. The games are all variations of tried and true games you already know and probably love. PegLand is Peggle. Mahjong is tile-matching with a 3D twist, EggBlast! is like any bubble-popping game, Solitaire is well, solitaire, but they have four versions of it. Every game has instructions, and most are timed, so you won’t spend three hours and make only three cents.



### Option Two: GoodShopToGo

While you’re visiting “more ways to raise”, consider installing [this helpful browser add-on](#). Once installed, whenever you go to a website that GoodShop supports, the app puts a little drop-down alert to tell you. It’s a great way to make sure you get your discount--and CPPA gets a tiny cut at no cost to you--at online shops ranging from Saks Fifth Avenue to Walgreens to ebay to Amazon to iTunes.

Note: GoodShopToGo looks fishy to some browsers and antivirus programs. We can testify it isn’t.

## Option 3: Why do fleas need their own market, anyway?

If you live anywhere near Pleasant Hill, California, we have another option for you: The Contra Costa Humane Society yard sale/flea market! We have a combination selling/info booth this year, where we’ll talk about potbellies and “teacup pigs” and sell donated items to raise funds for CPPA.

How can you help? Several ways.

First, PLEASE start saving items you would be willing to donate to the sale. We will take ANYTHING. And whatever we don’t sell, we will make sure gets donated to another animal thrift store. Thank you in advance for any help or donations you can provide!

Second, if you can join us at 2590 Pleasant Hill Dr, Pleasant Hill on **Saturday, August 24**, we’ll need help setting up, tearing down, selling our items, and perhaps most importantly of all, educating people about what pigs are (as in, wonderful, amazing companions) and what they are not (as in, 20 lbs when fully grown). We may even continue the sale at a second location on Sunday, if we can get enough volunteers to help us move everything. For more information about donating or volunteering, please contact Marcie at [info@CPPA4pigs.com](mailto:info@CPPA4pigs.com)

## Beautiful tribute: Tiny the Pig

Sometimes, the most tragic-sounding stories turn out to be the most uplifting. Such it is with this article, [My Time with Tiny](#), which our description really can't do justice.

The hero of this story is Tiny the Pig, who lived a comfortable life at the [Lewis Oliver Farm](#) in New York, surrounded by people who loved him. However, Tiny developed a spinal malady so severe that even the best veterinarians at Cornell University could do nothing. Euthanasia was the only way to relieve Tiny's pain. Therefore, this article is a chronicle of his final hours, written by one of his caretakers. And it is one of the most beautiful things you are ever likely to read.

Be warned: This is the part of the newsletter where you happy cry. A lot.



## Meet Nikki - best friend, loving mama, true survivor

We're just going to let Tiny's facebook page tell this one:

Tiny made a good friend at Cornell, named Nikki. She was in the pen next to him, and although they couldn't see each other, they became fast friends and had many friendly conversations. She provided Tiny comfort in what was a very scary and new environment. See her story [here](#).

We won't spoil it for you, but Nikki has a great story as well.



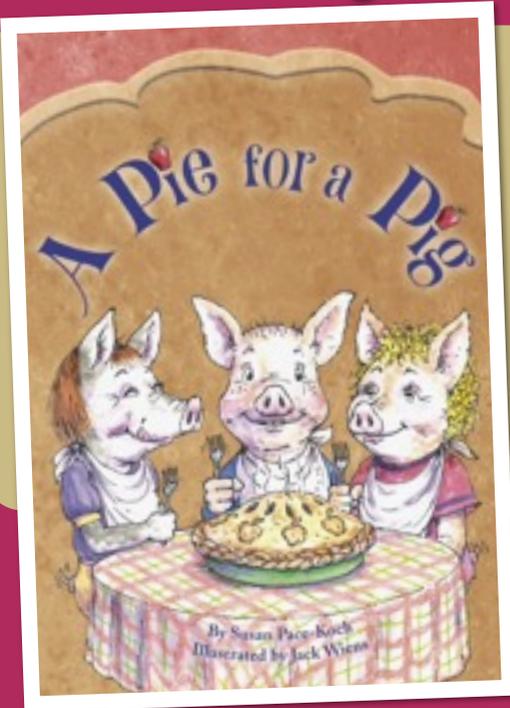
### Update: Slimming Sammy, Part Two



Last newsletter, we pointed you to a [video](#) about Sammy, a lovable little guy-make that *big* guy-who came into [Best Friends Animal Society](#) weighing 300 lbs. And the good news is, he's doing fabulously. You can read a quick overview [here](#), and follow his ongoing process at his [Guardian Angel blog here](#), which gets updates every two-to-four weeks.



## Delicious reading for kids: A Pie for a Pig



Although it made us very hungry, we have to admit we were charmed by the rhymes and illustrations in the children's picture book, *A Pie for a Pig*. You can check out our review on the [CPPA website](#), or grab your own copy of the book (in either e-book or tree-book form) [here](#).

Full disclosure: We did find the book to be cute and adorable, but we should also mention that a portion of every book sold will be donated to CPPA, to assist in pig rescue veterinary expenses. It's a win-win!

**Want more pig chat?  
Check out CPPA on facebook**

You may have noticed this newsletter doesn't come out every day. Or week. Or month.

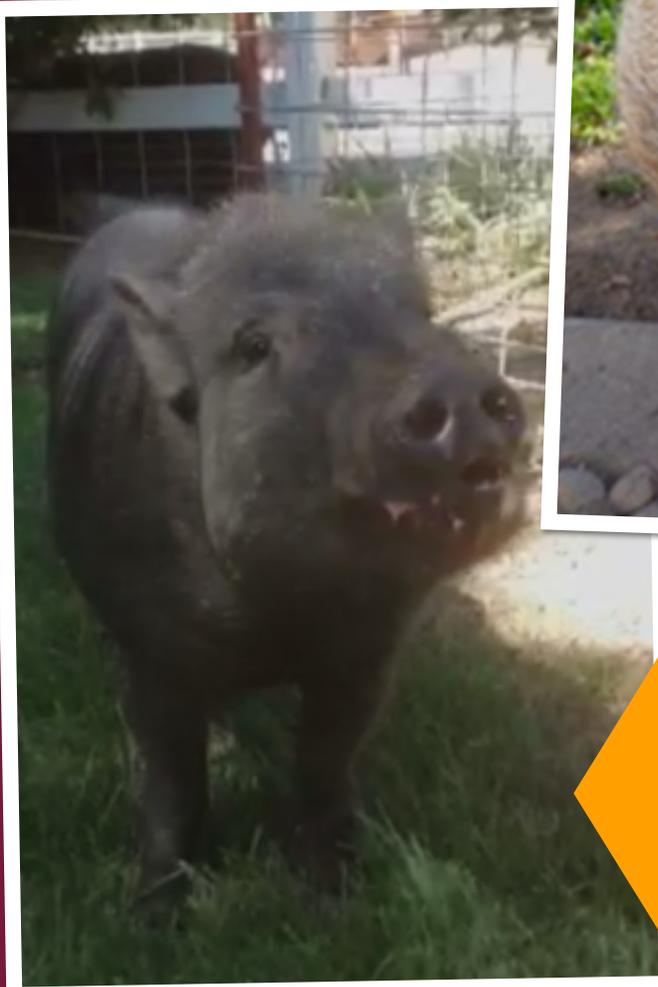
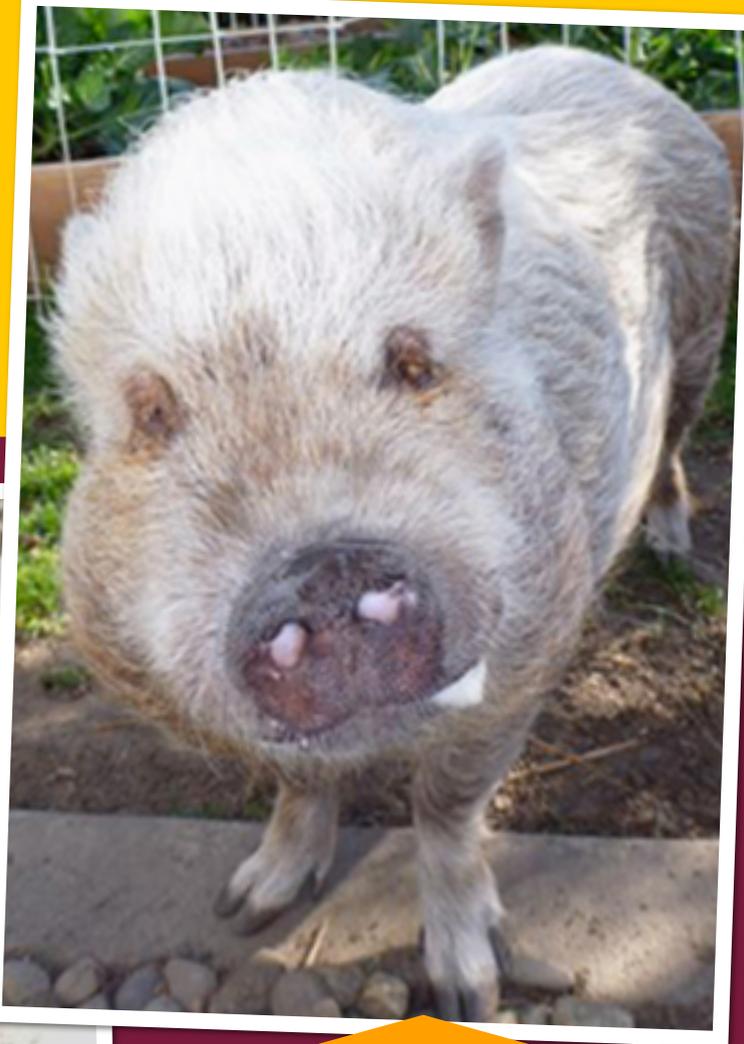
However, the [CPPA facebook page](#) is always jumping. So head over, check in, and give us a follow.



## Wanted: Someone to help CPPA find new homes (and maybe some belly rubs) for lovable pigs

Do you love pigs? Do you have a phone or a computer? And do you have a few minutes each month to help CPPA help deserving pigs whose first homes have gone wrong to find new, better forever homes?

CPPA needs someone to help us keep the adoption listings on our [CPPA website](#) up to date. If you can help, please contact Marcie at [info@CPPA4pigs.com](mailto:info@CPPA4pigs.com).



[Ziggy](#) (left) is a neutered one-year-old male who loves belly rubs and hand-fed treats. He's very outgoing and used to living indoors and out.

[Mocha](#) (above) has beautiful brown skin and white hair, and even though she would prefer to be an only pig, she'll still go down for belly rubs from someone she trusts.

## In Memory of Fifi: Why even non-breeding female pigs MUST be spayed

Many people think that female pigs need only be spayed if there is a danger that they could get pregnant. This story, In Memory of Fifi, explains why that couldn't be further from the truth.

We encourage you to read the full, four-page story on the [CPPA website](#), because there are a ton of pictures and Fifi was a doll. Unfortunately, some of the pictures on the third page are difficult to view. Fifi developed a massive uterine tumor, and although it was successfully removed, she succumbed soon afterward to an infection she developed as a side effect of the procedure.

What does that have to do with whether or not Fifi was spayed? Simple. Unspayed female potbellies have a roughly 73% chance of developing uterine cancer by the age of ten. That's almost three out of every four.

So please, everyone, if you have a female pig, spay her. A full spay, not just an ovariectomy. It may be the single most important thing you will ever do to keep her healthy.



Isn't Fifi adorable? Special thanks to our friends at [SCAMPP](#) (Southern California Association for Miniature Potbellied Pigs), who originally published this story in their own newsletter.



# Reader question: Pigs, Plants, and Poison

**CPPA member Bonnie:** Which plants in my landscape might be toxic to pigs?

Eric: It's a tricky question, because almost nobody has done toxicology tests specifically with pigs. And the things that poison dogs, cats, horses, cows, etc. don't always poison pigs. Pigs are more like people. Before we get into specific plants, here are a few things to keep in mind:

**1. A plant does NOT have to cause a fatal reaction to make the list.**

Some "poisonous" plants just cause vomiting or tummyaches. Others are truly fatal, though. Nightshade, for instance, is a big one to avoid.

**2. Often, only part of the plant is poisonous, like the root or the fruit.**

For example, our pig, Bacon, used to eat "poisonous" fallen acorns by the faceful without even getting a tummyache. It turns out, only the green acorns and leaves are poisonous. The ripe acorns are safe. On the other hand, every part of Oleander is mega-toxic, and Acontium (right) is poisonous to even touch.

**3. Finally, some pigs don't show an interest in specific plants.**

Bacon has never tasted anything in our yard. Other pigs will mow the entire landscape.

All that said, would you really want to risk it? Probably not. So check out this sample list of plants to avoid and click our links to additional resources.



### Toxicity of Plants to Pot-Bellied Pigs

<u>Extremely Toxic</u> (one leaf can kill them)		<u>Minor Toxicities</u> (Vomiting, diarrhea, nausea)	<u>Oxalates</u> (pain and swelling of mouth and throat)
Angels Trumpet	Lantana		
Azalea and Rhododendron	Larkspur	Aloe Vera	Begonia
Black Acacia and Locust	Licorice Plant	Amaryllis	Caladium
Bleeding Heart	Lily of the Valley	Bird of Paradise	Calla Lily
Camellia	Lobelia	Birch	Diffenbachia
Carnation	Lupine	Boxwood	Dumbcane
Carolina jasmime	Milkvetch	Cedar	Jack in the Pulpit
Castor Beans	Milkweed	Chrysanthemum	Philodendron
Christmas Rose (roots)	Monkshood	Daffodil	Schefflera
China Berry	Morning Glory	Daisy	
Clematis	Mountain Laurel	Eucalyptus	<u>Food Leaves</u>
Coffee Tree Plant	Narcissis	Gladiola	Tomato leaves and vines
Cyclamen	Nightshade	Hydrangea	Avocado
Daphne	Oleander	Hyacinth	Moldy walnut shells
Delphinium	Pea family	Iris	Rhubarb
Easter Lilly	Pigweed	Juniper	Corn stems (nitrates)
Elderberry	Potato Plant	Redwood Tree	Cotton seeds
Flax	Privet	Ranunculus	Decayed sweet potato(black parts)
Foxglove	String of Pearls	Sweet Pea	Potato leaves and green parts
Four O'Clocks	Thorn Apple	Sweet William	
Geranium	Toyon	Violas	<u>Rosaccea Family (leaves and seeds):</u>
Heavenly Bamboo	Tulip		Apple, Apricot, Pear, Peach, Almond,
Hemlock	Vinca		Nectarine, Cherry, Plum
Holly Berries	Wintergreen		
Ivy	Wisteria		
Jerusalem Cherry	Yew		

### Additional Resources:

[ASPCA Toxic Plant list](#) (cats, dogs, horses)

[Cornell University Toxic Plant List](#) (swine)

[UC Davis List of Livestock-Poisoning Plants of California](#) (downloadable)

[Best Friends 10 Most Common Toxic Plants](#) (non-species specific)

[NAPPA - What to do when your pig is poisoned.](#)

# Treat Box!

The holiday season is months away. Guess you'd better just keep these goodies for yourself

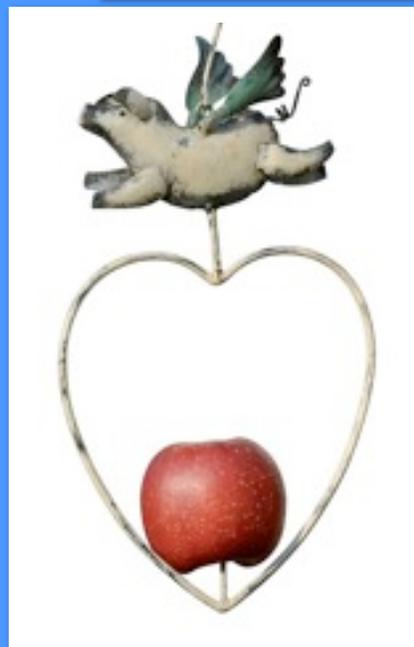
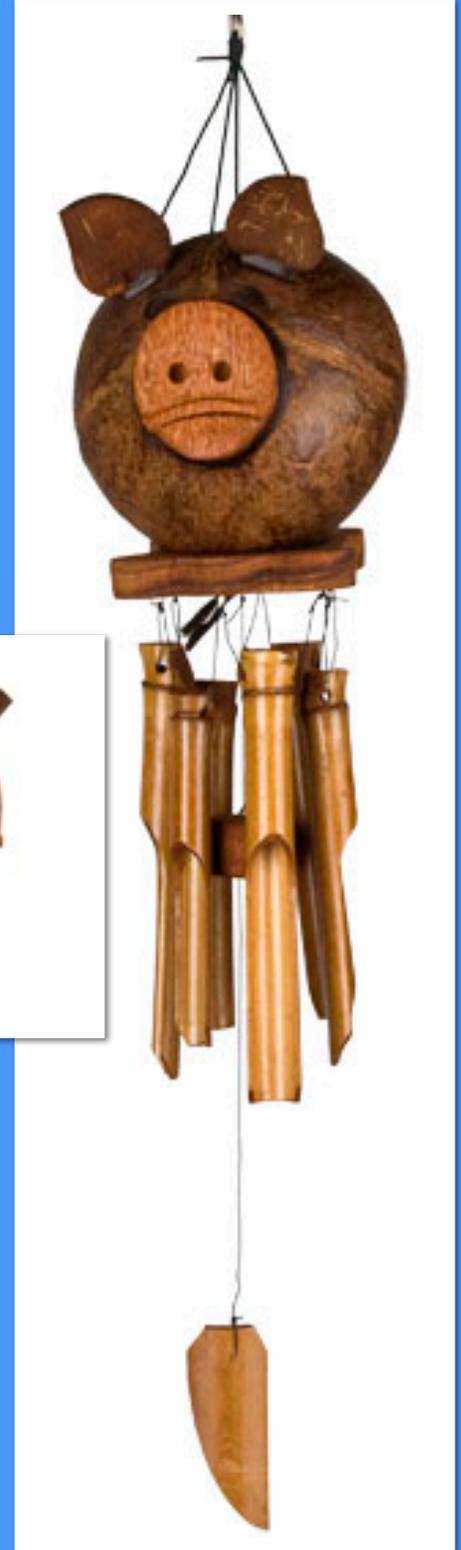


Great uses for recycled metal: Although it's a bit pricey at \$80, we love the look of this [wall sculpture](#) from Plow & Hearth. The [garden stakes](#) come a bit cheaper at just \$40. And Gardenfun's [Myrtle the Flying Pig](#) planter is the cutest of all.





Wind chimes come in all shapes and sizes, but we're partial to the Good Directions Flying Pig, which comes in a "blue" weathered copper finish. You can find it all over the web, but the cheapest price we saw came from [debnroo.com](http://debnroo.com). And if you really love it, Good Directions also makes a matching [weathervane](#). And for something more South Pacific in feel, check out the Asli Arts [Coco Pig](#), which comes complete with a little tail.



Everyone knows birds love birdseed, but dozens of species, from robins to finches to blue jays to woodpeckers, will also eat apples. Especially when you offer them up on this fine [flying pig birdfeeder](#). Note: there are several animals to choose from.

If you're like us, you've gotten "pig face" on pretty much every piece of clothing you own. But this is the first shirt we've ever owned that came with the pig face already on it. Available at tons of retailers, and Amazon has it in so many [different sizes](#) they needed a [second listing](#) to squeeze them all in.



Okay, maybe you can't sculpt little pigs out of fondant. No problem. With Siliconezone's piggy [muffin tin](#) and [cake pan](#), you can still make sweet treats so adorable you won't want to eat them. But you will.





Are you tired of arguing with people who say pigs are unclean animals? Good news! The Pig in a Pen [scrubby brush](#) from Boston Warehouse gives you concrete proof that porkers keep things spic and span. The manufacturer's picture didn't do it justice, so we borrowed one from vegan cooking blog [limabeanlover](#).

There are some who say coffee simply cannot be improved upon. But we think it just tastes better coming from this adorable [pig mug with matching spoon](#). It makes us smile just looking at it.



Remember how 2007 was the Year of the Pig in the Chinese Zodiac? Nike made a shoe to commemorate it. They're [tough](#) to [find](#) now, but if you like a challenge, point your google to "Nike Dunk Year of the Pig Edition"

