

Mark your calendars!  
 Saturday, September 24, 2005  
 Noon – 4:00 PM  
**PIGS Animal Sanctuary**  
**Annual Open House Harvest Fest**

Look for more information in our next mailing!

## GOODBYE FRIEND

PIGS would like to extend its sincere condolences to Donna Pritchard, Kathleen Pritchard, and the many other family members and friends of Hugh Pritchard for their recent loss. Mr. Pritchard was a true friend to the animals, most especially his dear potbelly pigs. He is dearly missed by animals and humans alike.

PIGS, Inc., a Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of PIGS's registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston West Virginia 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

304.262.0080

8

WWW.PIGS.ORG

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Merchandise and donations  
 available at our website

1112 Persimmon Lane  
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
 • www.pigs.org • 304.262.0080



# PigTails

PIGS, INC. SUMMER 2005

## Patrick

Patrick is an Old English Spotted pig who will be two-years old in September. He came to us from Virginia when there was no more hope for him. Patrick had a horrible infection in his left rear leg and has been under veterinarian care for months on end. His previous owner really tried to help him and spent over \$15,000.00 on his medical care. Yes . . . \$15,000.00!!!

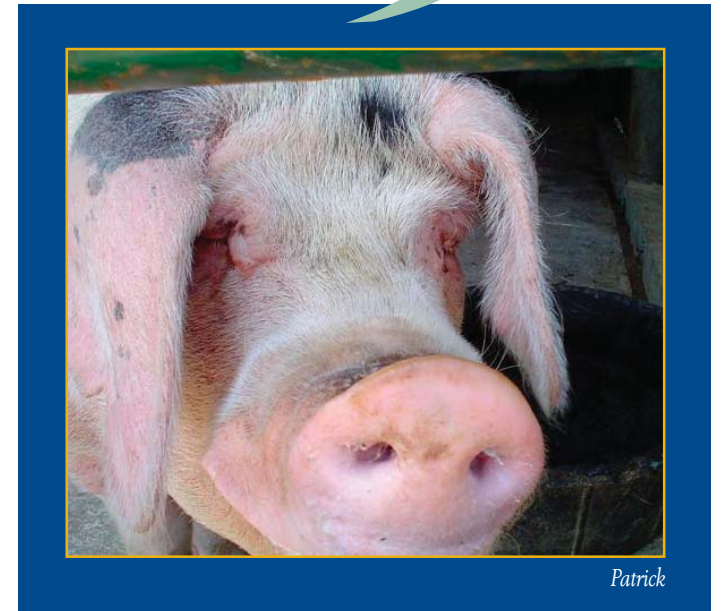
Unfortunately, Patrick was purchased for breeding. Due to his extensive leg injury he will never be able to be used for stud. So, the farm where Patrick lived decided they just could not "put money into him" any longer. However, they wanted Patrick to have a chance at happiness and called PIGS.

We could not say no to that beautiful face and agreed to take him in. Check out his ears!!!! Who could resist them?

Patrick is receiving antibiotics for his infection and will need to be neutered in the near future. Much to our surprise, a one-month supply of Patrick's Clavamox cost the Sanctuary \$1,793.75!

We desperately want to give Patrick the chance to be a normal pig and live his life at the Sanctuary. However, if he is to be on his antibiotics long-term we just do not know where we will get the funding for it.

Patrick is an amazingly sweet, loving pig who follows us around like a four-hundred pound dog. He is gentle and allows us to do anything to him. We go for physical therapy walks to build up the muscles in his hind legs. During our walks, Patrick stops and looks out at the farm pig pasture with longing eyes. Patrick is yearning to roam, root, and bathe in the mud with other pigs.



Patrick

We already decided that once Patrick heals and is neutered he will go live with Blossom, our little "shy" girl. They will be perfect together!

We want to help Patrick fulfill his desire to be a normal, healthy pig. But to do so, we desperately need help covering his prescription medication. We have been trying to contact the manufacturer of this antibiotic to see if we could purchase his medication at cost. But to date, have not received a response.

Any donations for Patrick will be greatly appreciated. Patrick will need several sponsors to provide for his care. If you would like to help support this sweet pig, please let us know. We will send you a photograph of him and send regular updates on his condition. Patrick is very special and deserves all the support he can get!

## Shuggy & Baby



Patrick

Shuggy and Baby are the two of PIGS's newest feline residents. Shuggy is a six-year old spayed female. Baby is an eight-year old neutered male. They both came to the Sanctuary from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They had been living with a wonderful woman whose health was declining. This woman adored her cats and gave them all she had. Unfortunately, the day came when this elderly woman could not live by herself any longer. Her son agreed to take her in, but would not allow her to bring her cats. Reluctantly, she signed them over to a rescue group in Pennsylvania, hoping the felines would be able to find a new home. However, these two kitties are not highly adoptable due to their ages and size. After the Pennsylvania rescue had no luck, PIGS agreed to take the dynamic duo. These two felines truly love each other. It would be great if they could find a home together. Could that special home be yours?

# Director's Note

Dear Friends of **PIGS**,

Can you believe summer is here? The days fly by so quickly at **PIGS**. There is always something new and exciting happening here.

It seems that this spring was the perfect breeding conditions for the **PIGS**'s reptile and amphibian friends. A few local toads discovered one of the Sanctuary's mud holes. Now we have thousands of hatching tadpoles!

Snakes have also descended on the sanctuary! Every year we always find one or two, but this year we have dozens. Dozens! I cannot even open the door to the sanctuary house without finding a snake sitting on my front porch! Since many of these snakes are copperheads, we are concerned about the safety of **PIGS**'s domestic animals. Therefore, we are doing our best to relocate these reptilian visitors.

Other than the snake invasion, we have had a wonderful few months at **PIGS**. We have been inundated with donated items for our fundraising yard sales. We cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity. The items have helped us raise over \$700.00 to date, with still two more yard sales scheduled for this year – Saturday, August 6 and September 3, 2005.

Word has also spread about **PIGS**'s educational tours. We have been busy teaching local youth about responsible animal care, introducing them to our great residents, and sharing our love for animals. During the past three months, approximately 500 children have toured the Sanctuary! Many more camps, youth groups, scouts, and students are scheduled to come this summer. It is so much fun to see children have their first face-to-face encounter with a farm pig! What a great way to educate them on the plight of farm animals.



Every day brings the craziness of animal care, conducting tours, taking in animals and stepping over snakes. Some days I cannot catch my breath. But, then I hear of rescues and sanctuaries closing all over the country and I realize how fortunate I am to continue to be a part of this wonderful organization that provides sanctuary to these homeless, unwanted animals that have no where else to go.

Times are getting hard and funding is becoming extremely difficult. It is very expensive to run a sanctuary. Our feed bill costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 per month. Our vet bill is never below \$3,000. If we have an animal with special needs, this amount can double or triple. Hay and straw prices are through the roof. And there are countless other necessities it takes to care for hundreds of animals every day.

Nevertheless, we have been exceptionally privileged to have all of you as our donors. Without you, we literally could not go on – snakes and all.

Until next time,

Melissa Susko  
Executive Director



# Jake

**PIGS** has been asked to take in all sorts of animals – ranging from alligators to prairie dogs. We try to limit our intake to a few specific species, mainly farm animals and felines. However, when our veterinarian asked us to take in a very special blue and gold macaw who had nowhere else to go, we could not refuse.

**Jake's** history is essentially unknown. We do not know how old she is or how many times she has been passed around from home to home. We also know that she was wild caught at a very young age. Jake's latest owners had scheduled an appointment for her to be euthanized at our veterinarian's office.

Jake has been a feather-plucker for years, but she had now gone past plucking out her feathers to where she mutilates herself by using her beak to rip out chunks of skin right down to the bone. Upon her arrival at **PIGS**, Jake's right wing was badly infected, exposing the bone.

Dr. Petersen asked her owners to sign Jake over to the veterinary clinic instead of euthanizing her. Her condition was bad, but he did not want to give up on her yet. The owners agreed and Jake spent months on end in the hospital wearing an Elizabethan collar to prevent her from further hurting herself. Eventually, her wounds healed and she was ready for a very special home. A place where she will be the center of attention, have a consistent routine, lots of stimulus and enrichment and most of all, security and love.

Jake will never be a normal bird where she can fly or play with other birds. She will need to wear her collar 24/7 and be closely monitored. Since her arrival at the Sanctuary, Jake has had a set back. She has discovered that she can use her claws to rip out chunks of skin. However, a new and improved collar was found to prevent her claws from reaching her neck or back.

Jake lives in the sanctuary office and entertains us all. She has the vocabulary of a sailor and is quite embarrassing when she screams out expletives in front of visitors! She picks up new words quickly and loves to talk. She enjoys cuddling and to give hugs. Her ability to



Jake

imitate is amazing. She sneezes and coughs, mimicking humans, to the point where we literally thought she had a cold. She also mimics the sound of the office phone ringing so accurately that we are constantly picking up non-existent calls! Jake constantly screams out "bad bird". It breaks our hearts to think that someone was once constantly telling her that she was bad.

We cannot undo the damage that has been done to Jake. Now we can only try to give her the best possible life we can, knowing it's a meager substitute for what was taken away from her -- her freedom. If you think that your home may be suited to Jake's special needs, please let us know. This bird truly deserves the best.

## A New Face at . . . **PIGS ANIMAL SANCTUARY!**

After a year in the making, we would like to introduce the new **PIGS** logo. As much as we liked the old one, there were some copyright issues with the little pig we have used over the last several years. In the end, we needed to find a new logo. After narrowing the choices down to three, we opened up a vote at our 2004 Harvest Fest. The above logo was the clear winner! This logo is now registered under **PIGS** Sanctuary at the US Patent Office in Washington, DC and is completely our own unique logo. Look for our new logo on future mailings, fliers and merchandise!



# Gardening Gifts Needed!

Although most of the Sanctuary's 55-acres are used as pastures, we still have a lot of grass that needs to be mowed and tons of trimming along the fences. Unfortunately, our mowers and weed trimmers cannot keep up with us!

We welcome all volunteers (and their lawn equipment) who would like to help mow this summer. If you live far away but would still like to assist, please consider sponsoring a mower or weed trimmer this summer!

- \$25.00 will cover the repair of one weed trimmer
- \$50.00 will cover the repair of one push mower
- \$75.00 will cover the repair of a trimmer and push mower
- \$100.00 will cover the service for the summer of one mower & trimmer

Lawn expenses are an expensive, ongoing need for the sanctuary. Please find it in your heart to sponsor our overworked and under appreciated mowing gear!

# PIGS Yard Sale

**PIGS** will be hosting our final yard sales for the year on Saturday, August 6 and September 3, 2005 from 8:00AM to 1:00PM. All proceeds will benefit the animals. **PIGS's** yard sale will happen rain or shine! Mark your calendars!

# Wish List

If you can donate any of the items listed below, please call **(304) 262-0080** or e-mail us at **FarmManager@pigs.org**. Every item donated means another dollar we can put directly towards animal care!

### CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Unscented bleach  
*(We use 12-gallons each week!)*
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels

### FOR DAY TO DAY ANIMAL CARE

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Straw & hay
- Blankets, towels and rags
- Cat and dog toys

- Non-clumping cat litter

- Revolution  
*(flea and tick treatment for cats)*

### GIFT CARDS

- Wal-Mart
- Staples
- Southern States
- Lowe's
- PetsMart
- Tractor Supply

### MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

- Lawn mowers
- Weedwackers (high grade)
- Large rakes
- Plastic cable ties



# Meet Dr. Shah

**PIGS** would like to welcome our first official Advisory Board member – Nasir Shah, DVM. Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Shah established Lincoln Highway Veterinary Clinic in Pennsylvania in 1983. Dr. Shah has been married over 40-years. He has three children, five grandchildren, and a whole practice full of animals he adores. Dr. Shah loves animals and over the years has been actively involved in several rescue organizations. The staff and animals at **PIGS** would like to thank Dr. Shah for sharing his expertise about animal health with us.



*Dr. Shah and Benny*

# Fan Mail

### Hello PIGS,

I just wanted to give you an update on Wally (now Lucky). Since he came to live with my Mom in March, he has filled her life with joy! He is the sweetest, most affectionate cat. Our vet states that he healed perfectly from the bilateral broken hips. He was a "Lucky" cat the day the shelter called you and asked if you would take him in. Thanks for all you do for your animals!

—Donna Ruby



*Lucky*

### Dear PIGS,

I thought you would enjoy an update on Belle, the piglet I adopted this past spring. She is a big blessing in our life and I believe she is really, really happy! She eats veggies, fruit and mini-pig pellet and is now the right size a six-month old potbelly pig should be! Thank you so much for blessing our home by allowing us to adopt Belle.

—Fondly, Leslie Anderson

### Good Morning PIGS,

I want to extend a huge thank you on behalf of our 25 students who toured your sanctuary on Friday, May 22, 2005! The students enjoyed the time learning about all the animals and truly enjoyed themselves. They were so proud to present you with a check for \$410.00. The 9-11 year olds raised this money by baking and working their little hearts out during the two-hour bake sale we held for **PIGS!** We look forward to visiting again next year.

—Sincerely, Mrs. Gooch  
Lead Teacher-The Jefferson School

# The Sweetest Mare

“The Big Girl” was purchased at a livestock auction in Pennsylvania a little over a year ago. She arrived at her new home in Maryland with overgrown hooves. A farrier told the owners that a veterinarian would have to trim back her hooves under sedation. When the owners found out it would cost them \$80 to trim Big Girl’s hooves, they decided against spending the money and allowed this sweet girl to suffer miserably for months on end. The extensive hoof growth caused the horse to experience crippling, severe chronic pain. The mare was in such pain that she could not walk to her food or grass and she became severely emaciated.

After about a year of suffering, animal control was called in. The owners were given the choice of either euthanizing the mare or surrendering her to **PIGS**. The owners opted to turn her over to the Sanctuary and drove her to **PIGS** the next day.

The owners unloaded the mare on the driveway, approximately fifty yards from the horse barn. When the staff saw the poor mare, our hearts sank. Her hooves were in terrible condition. She was at least five-hundred pounds underweight and her body trembled as her owner tried to get her to walk. Her owner handed over the lead rope, and then stated she would need it back when we

were done. We continued to stand in the driveway because the poor mare could not take even one step due to her extreme pain.

When we asked the owner about whether the horse had been vaccinated or dewormed, she shook her head and said, “Why bother?”. The owner was quick to add that Big Girl was “good for kids.” The owner had allowed children to ride the horse despite the mare’s difficulty walking. Finally, the owner stated that a week ago her stallion was in with the mare while she was in heat so she could be pregnant and therefore we would be “getting another horse for free.” Within five minutes of the owner pulling up, she said her goodbyes and yelled over her shoulder that a cattle probe usually got the mare to move.

It literally took over an hour to for this sweet mare to walk the fifty yards to the barn. We gave her pain medication and called the veterinarian immediately. When he arrived, our vet just shook his head in sorrow and disgust. After a complete examination, he had some good news. He said with a lot of work on her feet, slowly feeding her multiple meals a day, and giving her lots of TLC she should make a full recovery.



His first task was to float the mare’s extremely overgrown teeth so she would be better able to chew her food. We vaccinated her, gave her a massive deworming and put her in a stall for the evening. Her first hoof surgery was just a few days after she arrived at **PIGS**. The Maryland Horseshoeing School brought out their class to witness in person the effects of neglect on a horse. Equine veterinarian Dr. Jay Joyce, his veterinary students, and the Sanctuary staff worked for three hours trimming off the elongated hooves. After much hard work, we finally saw the resemblance a hoof! The transformation was nothing short of a miracle! It will take many more sessions to get “Big Girl’s” hooves back into shape, but already her pain has eased tremendously. We cannot thank the school, instructors, and students enough for all of their hard work. Of course, we are also grateful to the veterinarians who humanely administered nerve block and sedation for this beautiful mare during the procedure!

This horse is the gentlest mare we have ever had the pleasure of meeting. It will take months, even years to undo the damage that her past owners inflicted. But, we are more than willing to give her the chance for a pain-free life. Since she has arrived at **PIGS**, we repeatedly look into her sweet, pain-filled eyes and apologize for her years of suffering. We tell her that she will find a nurturing, loving, and safe home at **PIGS**.

Lastly, this wonderful animal is no longer called “The Big Girl.” We have named her Willow” instead.

It will take many expensive procedures to correct Willow’s hooves. Willow is in need of a sponsor or two to help defray some of her veterinary costs. If you are interested in sponsoring Willow please contact [FarmManager@pigs.org](mailto:FarmManager@pigs.org) or simply write Willow’s name on the enclosed donation card and return it to **PIGS**.

