

## Happy Birthday!

On October 27, 2002 Trey Frye celebrated his 11th birthday with ten of his friends here at PIGS. His Mom sent out wonderful invitations asking Trey's friends to help him celebrate his birthday by feeding the animals, playing games and learning about the animals that reside at the Sanctuary. She requested that they bring gifts for the animals instead of bringing Trey a present!

Eleven children showed up as excited as could be. We started off by sending the children on a 'farm Scavenger Hunt' where they teamed up and searched for such items as a pitchfork, dog leash, horse brush, fresh egg, etc. That was a big hit and the kids had a blast looking for their hidden treasures. Next it was time to play 'pin the tail on the pig.' Of course we didn't use a real pig, but our banner instead. Then the children ate some cake and ice cream. When the children were done, they lined up to give PIGS staff members the gifts they brought for the animals that included bags of apples, dog food, carrots and much more! We still had time to take a long tour of the Sanctuary. Going from herd to herd, explaining why and how animals end up here and of course, letting them know that the big farm pigs they were petting and hugging, almost ended up as someone's dinner.

The children had the time of their lives. And to be honest, so did the staff that was lucky enough to work that day!



## The Holidays are Here!

Thanks to the special talents of Ed and Loretta Eckman, the animals of PIGS have their very own Christmas tree!

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon when the couple volunteered their time and donated the decorations to adorn the tree which stands alone in the middle of a field surrounded by the potbelly pigs.

Underneath the shining white lights, red bulbs, and bows, are presents of hay and feed. With the tree lit up and holiday spirit in the air, the animals have sent off their Christmas wish list to Santa and are hoping he will remember how much they all enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables and not coal!

From the Staff and Volunteers of PIGS  
Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season!



304.262.0080

8

## Perspective

(from page 3)

his new life at the Sanctuary. I always end the day feeling I have helped make a positive difference in these animals' lives. The ever dedicated caring staff, the generous board of directors and all of the wonderful donations of your time and money make the sanctuary way of life possible for others to learn from . . . I thank all of you for making it possible for me to be a small part of it!



WWW.PIGS.ORG

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Merchandise and donations  
available at our website

RR 1 Box 604  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
304.262.0080 • www.pigs.org



# PigTails

PIGS, INC.

WINTER 2002/2003

## A Long Journey

PIGS received a phone call in August from a woman whose neighbor had abandoned her animals. In the pasture next door were two donkeys and a horse. The owners would come by every two weeks or so to dump a bucket of grain and put out a bucket of water. Neighbors tried to give them hay and water as often as they could, and called animal control and every local authority they could think of, but no one was able to help.

The woman on the phone asked if PIGS would accept these animals if she could buy them. Of course, we said we'd take them in. Well, weeks went by and we heard nothing. Finally, on September 29, we received a message that they were on their way! Unfortunately, she wasn't able to get them out before the horse passed away.

Later that day, a trailer pulled up and two beautiful donkeys came out. Skinny, scared, hooves overgrown to where they curled up, an uncastrated male and a castrated male. They looked horrible, but were sweet and loving and glad to be here. We filled up the water trough, threw fresh hay in the hayrack and some sweet grain in the buckets. As we closed the gate to the barn, we could tell that they knew they were safe!

We named them **Lewis** and **Clark**, for they had been on a long and lonely journey. Our wonderful equine vet, Dr. Swope came out and examined them. We discovered that Lewis, the uncastrated male, was about six years old. His hooves needed the help of a talented farrier, he was way too thin and infested with parasites. But, considering all he's been through, Lewis was in good shape. We took care of the parasites and scheduled an appointment for castration and hoof trimming. Clark is only about four years old. Thankfully, his hooves weren't quite as overgrown as his pasture mate, but he still needs a lot of trimming.

Lewis and Clark have settled in nicely. They quickly became friends with Bert and Ernie (our other donkeys). They love to be curried and



even stand quietly as their hooves are cleaned. We love them dearly and are so glad that their journey led them to PIGS.

In addition to Lewis and Clark, we have several other new animals that have joined the family of PIGS.

**Eugene** is a very handsome 10 year old potbelly pig whose owners, unfortunately, divorced. In the process, they needed to sell their home; neither one could take Eugene with them. He rode in the back of a rental U-haul van all the way from Massachusetts. Eugene recently finished his isolation period and is now in a big pen placed next to another small herd. He has a huge tree in his pen and the one side of his fence borders the other pigs. He checks them out curiously, touching noses between the wires. Soon, Eugene will be able to join the other herd and make many new pig pals.

(continued on page 2)

## Thanks . . .

Dr. Shah and the staff of Lincoln Highway Vet Clinic for going above and beyond! Even though Dr. Shah is over two hours away, he's always willing to help PIGS out with anything we're in need of. He did a much needed eye surgery on Bella (the bulldog). While under anesthesia, Dr. Shah cleaned her teeth and pulled a few teeth that needed to be removed. Bella thanks you! Dr. Shah is always around to answer any questions that we have and he stocks us up with supplies that we need to keep on hand for the small animals.

Becky Becker has given so much to the sanctuary! She donated a wonderful phone/fax/copier/scanner that we so desperately needed. She then called our local store and opened an account there, giving strict instructions that anytime we order shavings that she is to be billed. What an awesome donation! Thanks Becky, for ALL you do for PIGS!

304.262.0080

1

WWW.PIGS.ORG

Bulk Rate  
US Postage  
PAID  
Martinsburg, WV  
Permit # 212



## Dear Friends of PIGS

I can hardly believe that the holiday season is approaching. Seems like just yesterday we were 'sweating like pigs' in the 100+ degree heat. As always, many things have been happening at the Sanctuary. In this newsletter, you'll get a brief introduction to our new residents, you'll read

about some of the lucky animals who were adopted and say goodbye to those who passed away. With so many animals coming and going in the last few weeks and the holiday season around the corner, I think of all the precious animals here that so desperately deserve a home of their very own. So, I'm dedicating this issue to the animals who are up for adoption. After all, the holiday season is meant to be shared with loved ones.

As I'm writing this letter, I glance down at my own 'fur kids'. Four dogs sound asleep at my feet; three office cats sprawled out on my desk (if you see any typos it's not my fault-Blueberry keeps up against the keyboard!). I glance at my seven year old Basset Hound, whom I've had since he was eight weeks old. He's never known what it is like to be homeless, abused, neglected, hungry, in pain. Nor has he ever experienced the trauma of being taken away from his home-the only life he's ever known-to be sent some place strange. I honestly don't think he would survive. Okay, he's a bit (a lot) spoiled, but doesn't he deserve it? He loves me unconditionally.

When I go outside, fifty cats run to greet me. Betty rubs against my leg. Ar buckle helps himself to the opposite leg. Obadiah and Jebadiah chase each other around, running between my legs as I try to walk. Kitten Little follows right behind me. Bernadette stays in the front and as I slow down my pace, automatically rolls over for a belly-rub. Abigail doesn't believe in being subtle as she skips the pleasantries and jumps (or rather, climbs with her claws) up my coat so that I have no choice but to wrap my arms around her. With each step, another cat falls into place next to me, just hoping and wishing for some attention. Show them a few sparse moments of attention and they're happy. More important, show them love.

I go out back and have four dogs flanking me in a heartbeat: Joey, Jesse, Millie and Ruffa. Ruffa barks gleefully as she sticks her head

between my legs. Jesse jumps up to give me a big bear hug. Millie is right there, glued to my left hip. And then there's Joey, who's jumping and running and spinning-just to say 'hi'!

With almost five hundred animals, I do my best to give every animal here personal, one-on-one love. But, it's nearly impossible. Many of the larger or farm animals do not need as much one-on-one love. Heck, as long as they have food, water, a warm place to sleep, and a little love once in a while, they're happy. But the dogs and cats need so much more. Dogs and cats are referred to as domesticated animals. Who domesticated them? People. Over the years, we made these animals not only want, but need human companionship. Dogs and cats thrive on it. They crave it. And, they deserve it!

So, as you read through this newsletter, look at the pictures and brief histories of the dogs and cats that live at **PIGS** and that are available for adoption. If you have room in your home and your heart for a very special dog or cat, please give us a call. We do have a pretty extensive adoption process. But, remember, we're just looking out for the best interest of everyone involved. We want to be good match-makers! We want the new relationship to last forever. We do have an adoption fee. The fee is \$100.00 for dogs and \$50.00 for cats. All dogs and cats are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations.

I also want to remind you that if you're looking for holiday gifts for family, friends and co-workers, we have many items available for sale through our website [www.pigs.org](http://www.pigs.org). Remember, every time someone wears an item in public bearing the **PIGS** logo—they're spreading the word about the sanctuary!

On behalf of all the animals who reside at **PIGS**, I wish every one of you and your loved ones a very happy and safe holiday.

Until next time,

Melissa and all of my 'fur kids'-  
Kiana, Drummer, Hesta,  
Bella, Beaky and Cammie

## A Long Journey

(from page 1)

**Shay-Shay** came to us when her owners moved and the new apartment didn't allow dogs. Shay was thirteen years old when she arrived. A beautiful red, fox-like Pomeranian. What a gentle spirit Shay was. Unfortunately, when Shay-Shay arrived, her tiny body was covered with tumors. We immediately took her to our vet and he said that the tumors were open and oozing. He had also picked up a very strong heart murmur. Shay's tumors were the result of advanced mammary cancer combined with her age and heart murmur, she had little chance to make it through surgery. I held Shay-Shay in my arms while Dr. Shah euthanized her. Although, she was with us so briefly, I fell in love with her gentle soul.

**Blueberry** and **Gilda** came to PIGS on a quiet Tuesday afternoon. Those two cats had nothing in common until they landed up at the Washington County Humane Society and were scheduled to be euthanized on that quiet Tuesday afternoon. Unfortunately, the society was overflowing with homeless cats. The shelter has only ninety cages

and almost three-hundred cats were there. Twenty-one cats were scheduled to die that day.

Unfortunately, the sanctuary couldn't take all twenty-one, but we did have room for two. Gilda is a beautiful 13 year old cat whose owner relinquished her because he or she didn't have time for her anymore. Gilda had been depressed since arriving at the shelter. Blueberry is a big 3 year old grey and white cat with a heart of gold. Blueberry and Gilda, along with Izzy are lucky enough to be PIGS official office cats. They are both thrilled that a no-kill animal sanctuary exists!

**Moose** is a lovable gray and white kitten who was rescued by PIGS President, Laura. Although Moose was initially frightened of all the office furry friends, he is now quickly accustomed himself to them and is best of friends with Blueberry. The two look like father and son, and are inseparable!



## Adoptions

Below is a list of wonderful animals that were lucky enough to find themselves their very own "forever home." Although, we will miss them greatly, we are bursting with joy knowing that these animals now have a family to call their own. We miss everyone---but we wish you all a wonderful life!

**TESS**-Potbelly pig

**VIOLET**-Potbelly pig

**WHEEZER**-Potbelly pig

**TOMMY**-Potbelly pig

*Thanks, Angie, for taking in the 'handicapped' crew here at PIGS! We know you love each and every one of these pigs. Treat them well and give them each a special treat for us.*

**CLARICE**-Pygmy goat

*Linda came to look at potbelly pigs and fell in love with Clarice. A tiny Pygmy goat that once suffered a fractured shoulder that went untreated, causing permanent damage and lameness. We know that Clarice is loved and spoiled in her new home. Thanks, Linda, for caring enough to adopt our special little Clarice.*

**TOBY**-Terrier-mix dog

*The people drove up the lane and said that they had found a dog and couldn't keep him. All the pounds were full and not accepting any more animals. "If you don't take him, we'll drop him off somewhere." Of course we took him. Toby was shaggy, matted and infested with fleas. We took him to the vet where he was neutered, shaved, had his vaccinations, heartworm check and frontline applied. He was only with us for a week when Chris inquired about adopting a small dog. She fell in love with Toby! He is now living the life of a king---just the way it should be.*

**MARYLAND**-Potbelly pig

**LILLY**-Potbelly pig

*We received an email from Mike, who was looking to adopt a pig. He and his partner had rescued two over the years and wanted to add another 'homeless' pig to his family. They had just finished building a bigger barn on their 8-acre land. We set up the appointment for a Wednesday afternoon. Gary and Mike showed up, very excited about the idea of adopting a new family member. We spent hours out in the herds, going from pig to pig, as they tried to decide who would go home with them. These two guys put in so much thought and love into picking their sweet pig. "It's such a hard decision," one of them commented, as they stood surrounded by dozens and dozens of pigs. "How can we pick just one?" Luckily for Lilly, they decided on two! Lilly is a sweet older black and white pig who followed them around all afternoon. And they fell in love with Maryland, one of our white 'Florida' pigs. Not only did they give two wonderful pigs a new home, they also brought donated items when they came and promised to volunteer their time! Thanks guys---we deeply appreciate everything.*

**BELLA**-English Bulldog

*My very first day at PIGS I fell in love with Bella, as does everyone who meets her. A 10 year-old Bulldog with a face of gold, Bella quickly blended in with my family. I guess she figured that she could keep up with Basset Hounds! Everywhere my dogs and I went, Bella followed (slowly-but surely). She began following us up to the fields and proceeded to follow us ALL around the property! She rides in the truck with us when we feed. She rides in my Jeep with my other dogs when I have to run errands. And, she sleeps in bed with us. I just knew that Bella had to be one of my 'kids.' So, I went through with the adoption process to make it official. I'm so glad I did. Bella belongs with us and I couldn't imagine life without her!*

## It Matters Not and Raja

PIGS received an email from an equine rescue group stating that they were filled to capacity and had to turn away horses until they could place the ones currently in their care who were deemed un-adoptable.

Since the Sanctuary has a large pasture with plenty of grazing room, we offered to take in two of the rescue's horses who needed a home.

Raja and Matt arrived on November 22nd! Raja is a beautiful Bay Morgan in her teenage years. She was tied to a tree, and ignored much of her life before arriving at the Pennsylvania rescue. Constantly trying to break free from her rope, Raja injured herself, causing permanent damage and lameness in her left shoulder. Amazingly, after such horrible abuse, Raja still longs for affection from people.

Matt is a standard bred horse who has retired from racing. He is only eight years old and is a gorgeous dark Bay. Matt's ankles are calcified, causing him permanent lameness. He has the sweetest disposition

and no matter where Matt is in the pasture, as soon as he hears his name called, Matt comes right up to the pasture gate.

PIGS is thrilled that we were able to help another rescue group! More importantly, we are delighted to give two very sweet, but un-adoptable horses a permanent, loving home!



# Piglets, Piglets and More Piglets

Recently, PIGS took in several sows who we quickly learned were pregnant. Our first litter was born on Wednesday, October 16. We had five beautiful tiny piglets. As the days followed, we had more and more piglets! A total of forty five.

These piglets are absolutely the most adorable creatures! Their intelligence is amazing and the love and protectiveness of the Mommies are absolutely admirable.

We have black babies, pink babies, white babies, black with a little white, black with just a pink nose, black and white, and white with little patches. The staff at PIGS are enjoying our new additions and making sure that we properly socialize each and every piglet. Of course, as soon as they're old enough, the males will be neutered and every piglet properly vaccinated.

We are willing to adopt out some of the new piglets however, we do have a very extensive and thorough adoption process. If you are thinking of adopting a piglet please do as much research as you can. The very first step is to check your zoning; we won't place any pig without knowing that pigs are legally allowed where you live. Also,

we will not place any piglet as strictly an indoor pet. The pig must have access to an outdoor area including at minimum a yard, mud, housing, etc. We rarely adopt out a single pig. We will adopt the pig if you already have a pig and want another to keep him/her company.

Above are just a few of our requirements/guidelines. I must stress that this is not a decision to be made lightly. You must be willing to follow through with our rather long and intrusive adoption process. But, if you are seriously considering a pig, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss everything with you in greater detail. There is an adoption fee of \$200.00, but we do not require that until the entire process is complete and the adoption is approved.

If you are unable to adopt, please consider sponsoring one of these piglets. The addition of so many pigs will require so much more from us to include, medical, fencing, feed, care, etc. With a pledge to sponsor a pig monthly, we will send you pictures and updates of your 'very own little pig'. And of course, you can come and visit any time you'd like.



## Its A Piglet . . . Baby Shower

PIGS invites you to celebrate the birth of our wonderful piglets! We wish everyone were close by, but since many miles separate us, we have decided to throw a 'long distance baby shower!' This way we can all celebrate the joy of these tiny new lives. If you would like to share in our joy, we are requesting that you send a gift of your choosing to PIGS. A gift can be anything that a baby pig would like or need. Below is an example listing of the many things that are needed to help our piglets.

Gift Cards to Wal-Mart: so we can buy the items needed such as baby pools, fresh fruits and veggies, film for the camera, etc.

Gift Cards to Lowe's: so that we may purchase extra fencing material, paint, etc.

Donation of money: so that we can order feed, hay, bedding, pay for medical care, etc.

Gift certificates to TSC or SOUTHERN STATES: so we can purchase vaccines, hog panels, igloos, etc.

Blankets: we always can use extra blankets and towels. Used and worn is fine with the piglets.

Help us celebrate the many arrivals at the Sanctuary. We would like to thank everyone who takes part in our 'piglet shower' by sending you pictures of our little ones enjoying life here at PIGS.



# Pigs Doing Outreach

As part of our ongoing goal of educating the public, Animal Caretaker, Maria Castor made a visit to the Washington

County Technical High School in Hagerstown, MD. The star of the visit was Porky the Pig, one of the Sanctuary's youngest residents.

Several of the staff and students had a chance to get an up close and personal view of Porky before he made his appearance to the entire student body and faculty. There were many questions about Potbelly Pigs and the Sanctuary, which Maria happily answered as time permitted. The youth ask so many questions!

The main event of the visit, with a standing-room only audience, was in the cafeteria. A contest had been held where students pay money towards which teacher they most wanted to fulfill a dare. The principal had the largest amount of money paid towards him for the best dare planned! After 'winning' this dare, the Principal had to kiss a pig!

PIGS thought about bringing one of our friendliest, older residents, but even the most subdued pig would've been scared walking across a stage with the noise of a few hundred screaming teenagers. So, the only substitute was bringing one of our piglets! Uncertain the students would be pleased with a cute, clean baby, not a 200-pound 'real' pig that they were expecting to see, Maria just hoped that the kiss would go well.

Porky the Pig received an awesome response! The students went into an uproar of delighted screams as soon as they saw Maria walking across a stage with an adorable pink piglet in her arms. There were thunderous shouts of glee from the students when the Principal and pig kissed! After handing out brochures and informing the students they are invited to visit or volunteer at the sanctuary, Maria and Porky headed back home to the quiet and peaceful sanctuary.

What a fun time they had and what an awesome way to educate! PIGS would like to thank the High School for inviting us to participate in their event, and educate about pigs. We hope to do many more educational visits to schools in the future!

## From the Perspective of A Sanctuary Animal Caretaker

By Maria Castor

Today was beautiful! The sun was shining brightly, warming my face despite the 45 degree weather. The West Virginia horizon included leafs of wonderful reds, golds and even orange. I get to enjoy this kind of day in full as I work outdoors at the Sanctuary. Even better, I get to share this great weather with all the animals, whose lives I work to help make more comfortable and peaceful everyday.

After working for the Humane Society of Tampa FL, I did not have any other job that made me feel as spiritually happy as I do working with animals. I had left the shelter in Tampa to attend a veterinarian college program offered at the University of Virginia, however, while there I realized that laboratory work was not for me. I was then disappointed to be working at a grocery store because it was impossible to obtain any animal related employment due to so many students competing for the small amount of shelter or clinic positions available.

Opportunities in management arose while my fiance' and I were visiting friends in West Virginia. Not knowing what to do with ourselves, we decided, why not? So, we moved to Harpers Ferry, WV. I worked happily for just about a year, when a gnawing feeling began to ache in my heart. Despite volunteering both in VA and WV with animal shelters, I still did not feel complete. I began to check the want ad's on a regular basis, but there were no positions being offered in the immediate area. I had just about given up finding a job that

would make me ever so much more happy, when there, unbelievable to my eye's, was an advertisement for a position which I now fill five days a week!



No shelter, sanctuary or otherwise is without it's ups and downs. There are many philosophies and real world problems that each animal welfare organization must face. Despite these tribulations, I feel very happy and proud to be a part of a living example of how people can make the world for animals, the environment and other humans a better place to live in. Since starting my job at the Sanctuary, I have been asked "what difference does it make that you save a couple pigs, when so many are killed every day?" The difference? Libby, Alex, Hamlet, Gimpy, Billy Bob, Alexia, Montana, Bebob, Terry Bear and Eugene just to name a few.

Working at PIGS is truly a sigh of relief for me. The ever burning need to help others, particularly animals, is fulfilled and feels great! No matter if it's scooping poop or soothing an upset pig adjusting to

(continued on page 8)

# Wanted... my very own home!



**Abigail** My name is Abigail and I am around 4 years old. I'm a special kitty because my Mom went into be spayed and they discovered she was pregnant. Somehow I survived and a nice Technician bottle-fed me. I'm very loving & I like to 'nurse' on your shirt.



**Goatee** Aren't my markings unusual? I'm a female who likes to just lie around and of course, get that lovin' that every cat deserves. Won't you love me?

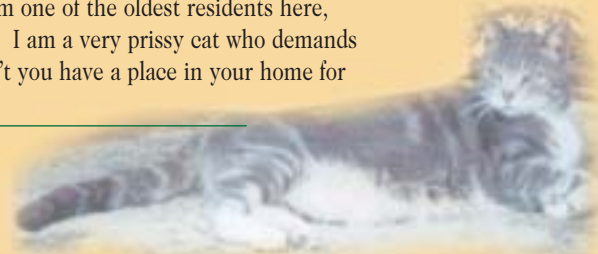


**Esther** Hi, I'm Esther. Unfortunately, I can't tell you my history. Honestly, I don't know it. But what I can tell you is that I'm a beautiful cat with great markings. I love humans and just want my very own human to love me. If you have room in your house (and your heart) for me, I promise that I'll be the best cat ever!



**Jesse** is an adult Great Pyrenees. She was on the way to being a breeding dog when someone intervened and brought her to the Sanctuary. Jesse loves people, however, will try to be 'top dog' when around other dogs. Therefore, Jesse would be best as an only dog. She would feel right at home on a farm. She thrives as a guardian dog and loves to protect her 'herd'.

**Sequel** The people at PIGS call me Sequel, but I prefer Princess! I'm one of the oldest residents here, almost 9 years old. I am a very prissy cat who demands to be spoiled. Don't you have a place in your home for a Princess?



**Susie** (Susie is in the Middle) That's me between the evil twins. As you can see, I'm very tolerant of young kitties, dogs, and all other sorts of animals. I love just about everyone, including you! Take me home, and I'll be sure to watch over everyone for you.



**Obadiah and Jebadiah** We're known as the Twins! Sometimes the farm manager calls us the evil twins-but we're not evil at all! We're just young, playful and very curious! All the dogs get mad at us, 'cause they want us to run so they can chase after us. But we're smarter than those dogs, we know to just sit still. Oh, they get so mad at us. We love each other so much and would really like to go to a new home together. If you're looking for two of the smartest, silliest cats around—ADOPT US! We'll keep you entertained for hours and hours.



**Bernadette** I once had a wonderful home of my own until my owners decided to get a divorce. They couldn't keep me, so I ended up at the Sanctuary. Although I'm a little shy, once I know you, I'll love you unconditionally. My name is Bernadette.



**Betty** Betty here, I'm an adult cat who was wandering around the streets of town. I was just looking for my very own home. I came to the Sanctuary where it's really nice, but I just want someone to love me and spoil me. I promise I'll love you back!



**Ruffa** is a Special Needs dog. She is an adult Chow who is 90% blind. She also has skin allergies. Ruffa needs to be in an adult house without any other animals. She is very shy and leery of strangers, but once she gets to know you, you'll have a friend for life. She will need an experienced dog owner who has the time and patience to show her that life is okay. Ruffa is housetrained.



**Hazel** You already met my sister Bernadette. Well, I came to PIGS with her. So my story is the same. Just like her, I'm a bit shy, but really love people. I have pretty, long hair and would just love to have someone to pamper me with being brushed and groomed.

## Plus Many More!

Please call (304) 262-0080 or Email: [FarmManager@pigs.org](mailto:FarmManager@pigs.org) to find out how you can adopt me!  
all cats and dogs are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations