



RR1 Box 604  
Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443  
304.262.0080  
FarmManager@pigs.org ■ www.pigs.org

THE SHELTER WORKERS'

# Guide to Pigs



DALE RIFFLE  
and the staff of PIGS

## Acknowledgments

PIGS Inc., a sanctuary would like to extend thanks to:

The William & Charlotte Parks Foundation  
The Snyder Foundation for Animals, Inc.  
PETsMART Charities  
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)  
Doing Things For Animals, and  
Doris Day Animal League

*Grants received from these organizations have made this booklet a reality.*

Pipe Dream Design and Christine Treiland for her patience and for doing such a great job on design and layout, and Progressive Printing for their excellent advice, attention to detail and many kindnesses.

Dale Riffle would like to extend special thanks to:

Jim Brewer for editing, content and just being there.

Dr. Benjamin Byers for all his hard work, dedication and infinite compassion and knowledge.

Most importantly, we thank the wonderful supporters of PIGS Inc., a sanctuary. Their steadfast support has enabled us to provide a permanent, loving home for hundreds of Pigs and other needy animals for a decade.

## Dedication for Heidi Ho



Heidi Ho came to live at PIGS, a sanctuary, in the winter of 1994. She was only five weeks old when she arrived. She had been purchased as a Christmas present by well-meaning people who believed the breeder's propaganda that the pig would only grow to 30 lbs. and could live in the house full time. The purchasers needed a full-time house pet, because the zoning laws in their town prohibited the keeping of swine within the city limits.

Heidi Ho had never been around people before and was quite feral. After two days, Heidi Ho managed to escape from her new home. The people who had purchased her were unsuccessful in their attempt to catch her and contacted animal control.

The animal control officer arrived just as Heidi Ho was attacked by two neighborhood dogs. Once she managed to get free of the dogs, the animal control officer shot her with a tranquilizer gun. Unfortunately, the tranquilizer dart hit Heidi Ho in the back, shattering a vertebrae and rendering her paraplegic. Heidi Ho only weighed five pounds at this time.

We monitored Heidi Ho's quality of life very closely and were amazed at how well she adapted to her disability. We were advised that she would probably only live for a year to a year and a half, but Heidi Ho went on to live at the Sanctuary for nearly seven years.

Showing no signs of illness, Heidi Ho died during the night while sleeping next to her best friend, Phyllis Louise.

If this booklet can prevent a situation like this from happening to another innocent victim of the exotic pet trade, then I will have accomplished my goal in producing it.

—Dale Riffle