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Dear Friend,

As we anxiously await summer, spring has us hopping! The phone has been ringing off the hook. We have had so many requests to help animals in need. These are a few of our newest residents:

### Billy the Goat

One of our most recent additions is **Billy the Goat**. **Billy** was an adult goat who appeared in a Harper's Ferry, West Virginia cul-de-sac a few days before Thanksgiving. Neighbors called the police and animal control, to no avail. They were told that the no county departments handled stray goats. Weeks turned into months. **Billy** stayed a permanent resident of the neighborhood. One cold February day, **Billy** saw his reflection in a neighbor's glass patio doors. He rammed the doors, causing the glass to shatter. When the police and animal control still would not help, neighbors began threatening **Billy's** life.



After we learned of **Billy's** plight, **PIGS** offered to help. However, we were told that local farmers were going to capture the goat and our services were not needed. A few weeks went by when a story appeared in the newspaper. **Billy** was still running amuck. We contacted the reporter and were told that a group of farmers, a SWAT team, and a Boy Scout troop had all failed in their efforts to capture wayward **Billy**.

**PIGS** gathered a group of volunteers and our veterinarian to get the goat. When we arrived, there in the midst of all these fancy houses, stood **Billy**! Our veterinarian brought a dart gun to tranquilize the goat. It took many hours of patience, but finally, a dart hit **Billy** in the thigh. He became very drowsy, allowing us to load him into the trailer!

**Billy** is now at **PIGS**, living in a large, securely fenced field with twenty-four other goats. He will never again have to worry about scavenging for food or fighting off angry neighbors! Thanks to your continued support, **PIGS** was able to help **Billy the Goat** when no one else could.



### Gabriel

Another very special animal who recently joined our Sanctuary family is **Gabriel** the baby farm pig! **PIGS** received a phone call from a dog rescue asking if we could assist them with a piglet. Little **Gabriel** had fallen off a truck and been found wandering alongside the road. A concerned citizen scooped him up and took him to the local dog rescue. Though they tried to bottle-feed **Gabriel**, the rescue staff could not seem to persuade **Gabriel** to eat.

Because they did not know how to properly care for a piglet, the rescue brought **Gabriel** to **PIGS**. **Gabriel** arrived well after 10 p.m., feeling very hungry indeed! We brought him inside, warmed up some milk replacer, and served it to him in a shallow baking pan. Immediately, the famished little guy began to lap up the milk. After his belly was full, we examined him and found that he had an upper respiratory infection.

Luckily, the rescue group knew of the Sanctuary and reached out to us immediately. The rescue had not known that a piglet of **Gabriel's** age could drink milk out of a pan. He did not need to be bottle-fed. In fact, piglets that age scream when they are being held and forced a bottle. This squealing could cause milk to aspirate in the piglet's lungs.

**Gabriel** is a very happy little piglet who loves life at the Sanctuary! Now that the weather is getting warmer, he has his very own yard. He spends his spring days rooting the ground or taking long naps in the warm sun.

## Goliath

Finally, we cannot forget to tell you about **Goliath**! **Goliath** is a 9-year old, neutered, declawed kitty who was left at our gate one evening. He was scared and nervous as we took him out of the crate. Over the next few days, he became very depressed, not understanding where he was or what happened to his home and the family that he loved.



A few days after his arrival, we received a certified letter introducing **Goliath**. The letter gave his age and stated he was with the family his entire life. It talked about his likes and dislikes and how it was such a difficult decision to abandon him at our gate. The family stated they had no choice and there was nowhere else for **Goliath** to go.

**Goliath** is finally starting to feel at home at **PIGS**. It is very hard for us not to judge his former family, or to criticize how they abandoned **Goliath** one dark night. But, from their letter, we can tell they wanted him somewhere safe. They knew **PIGS** would give **Goliath** love and shelter.

**PIGS** is a haven for over four hundred animal residents. In these days of financial difficulties and strain,

we know we cannot give up. Animals such as **Billy**, **Gabriel**, and **Goliath** have nowhere else to go. The stress and responsibility to keep our gates open can be overwhelming. We are constantly strategizing to find additional funding. We appreciate all of you, our loyal donors and sponsors! Without you, we would not be able to make it another day.

If YOU believe in our mission we would like to invite you to become a **PIG PAL**! “What is a **PIG PAL**?” you ask. It is simply giving an additional \$15.00 above your normal donation.

And since we are being so bold to ask you to go an extra mile for the Sanctuary, we have one more request for our dedicated supporters. We are asking each **PIG PAL** to urge five family members and friends to become a **PIG PAL** too.

If each person who receives this letter donated an additional \$15.00, that would provide us with an additional \$24,00.00 – enough to cover the unexpected additional cost of feed and our resulting financial deficits. If each of your five friends and family members also donated \$15.00, that would bring in an additional \$120,000 – enough to pay for our feed and veterinary bills for the year! Given the rising costs and hard economic times, we need this help more than ever!

What difference can \$15.00 make? Just look into the eyes of **Billy the Goat**, **Gabriel** and **Goliath**. If you ask them, it makes all the difference in the world.

Until next time,

Melissa Susko

Executive Director