



HEARTS ON NOSES

A Mini-Pig Sanctuary



Comet rests on the Hearts on Noses' front porch.

HEARTS ON NOSES: A LETTER FROM JANICE GILLETT



"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar."

~ Bradley Miller

Pam and Dave's son Blake, offers a flower to Angel.

To all my friends of the animals,

Another year has come and gone and we are just around the corner from Christmas. It's a time where we embrace the old and the new and yet are reminded of days gone by. We can be a sentimental bunch this time of year as we reminisce at gatherings and we both laugh and cry. Love seems to engulf us this time of year and as the new season arrives, although a cold one, we wrap ourselves in these warm memories and they embrace us. It is you I think of this morning and we thank you all for holding us close in your hearts and keeping us all safe this year.

Last year WEE reported being awarded a Grant from the Vancouver Foundation and

the money is being well spent. Project specific, we have created drainage systems throughout many of the piggy paddocks. All systems are contained on the property and drained off into large catch basins filled with gravel and it is working fantastic. Tons and tons of gravel has been delivered and moved into areas both this year and last year and yet those little trotters can sure make it disappear. Already in our heavy rain season I still need more gravel for a few of the piggy paddocks but it is so much better than it was for all of us this time last year.

The structure for the hay and volunteer/visitor shelter is almost done, a project that should have been completed in August and filled with hay already. Thankfully Pam and

Dave drove six hours for a four day stay putting their own winter needs on hold to come and take over this build. The finishing work is now being done by Mike, our new "go to" guy and we are well on our way to completion. It may not be filled with hay now but we are certainly going to be ready for next year.

This was a tremendous year for finding wonderful homes for every pig in need so our numbers here have not increased. There is the one exception of two pigs being boarded here that are cute as a dickens though. They are here while their family settles into life having moved from Alberta.

Equally wonderful are all of our piggy friends who are tucked in their beds this morning so there will be no "saying good bye" stories!! A few of our seniors are slowing down but we monitor their health and hand feed when needed as well as serve breakfasts and dinners in bed as required.

I must pause as one of my cats is meowing his insistence that I didn't feed him this morning so I will stop here and go feed the cats, but not before giving our thanks to all of you who have supported us!!

So much to be thankful for all our pigs here and for the pigs thriving in their new homes all over B.C.

Thank you so much from The Noses, and all the little noses we were able to help by being here for them because you cared about their tomorrows!

Janice Gillett

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TRAVEL TO SAFETY

I have never had the pleasure of a pig in my life but had been told that they worked really well for clearing brush so I contacted Hearts On Noses to see if I could foster a pig. I thought fostering was a wonderful idea because I could help a pig in need but not have the full commitment if I found that having pigs around did not work for me.

It was with some trepidation that I welcomed two pigs onto the property in early October. We had been approved as a foster home some months earlier and had been working on building a home for whichever pig might come our way. Even though we had months to get ready we were still down to the last day with getting the new fence up but all was ready when the girls arrived on October 8.

They travelled well from the mainland but were not overly anxious to disembark the trailer to check out their new digs. We finally managed to pry them out and get them to their new house where they promptly disappeared into a stack of straw. I bet you didn't know a pig could completely disappear when they want to.

I spent the first few days feeding them in their house so that they knew they did not have to fear me but I knew they would have to start moving around so I became quite the nag with them to get them out and moving.

It didn't take long for the girls to realize that if I asked them out of the house, they would get fed and scratched.

Today is our one month anniversary. I can't believe how much I am enjoying have the girls around. I can now call them and they scurry (well, maybe not scurry, maybe waddle) out to get their veggies and pellets and a nice scratch with the horse brush. If they hear me coming down the driveway they will call out to me.

Fostering has been a very rewarding experi-



Kimberly gives PiggySue and SophieLyn a much deserved scratch on their backs.

ence for me and whether the girls stay with me or move on to their permanent home, they will be forever in my heart. There is nothing better than hearing PiggySue groan when I scratch just the right spot!

☆☆☆ A Pig's Viewpoint ☆☆☆

The fires in Kelowna are getting really scary for me and my mom so our human has decided she had better send us off to some place safer. I really don't want to go but I guess she knows best.

Day 1: This trailer smells like a horse! Lucky thing they put lots of straw in here for mom and me because it is going to be a long ride to our new home. I think I'll have a snooze. We just got to a place called Hope. I like that. I hope our new human is nice to us. I really don't want to get out of my snuggly bed and go into that other trailer but everyone is so insistent. Gee, can't a girl sleep? Oh, alright already, I'll move if mom will. Oh, and there is lots of straw here too. I think I'll have a snooze. We've stopped now and I hear a funny horn blowing. We didn't have horns like that in Kelowna and what is all this rocking! My new human is scratching me and mom and they both seem calm so I guess I will be okay. (sigh) This is such a long trip; am I ever going to get there? But wait, what's this? The doors are opening and I am somewhere new. No way am I going to get out of this trailer in

the dark. Are you nuts! I am going to wait until daylight to venture out.

Day 2: Ah, fresh air and everyone scratching me and giving me strawberries! What a great treat. I think I will go and see what else there is around here and then I think I'll have a snooze in my new house. It is so cute and fits me and mom perfectly. Maybe this place won't be so bad but I'll see if the human figures out what I like.

Jump to day 4: Oh, I know that smell. This guy is a vet. I wonder what he wants with me. HEY! He's flipping me on my side. What the heck? Now his is clipping my toes of all things. I hate this. Mom! Help!....Mom? Where did you go? What do you mean it's every pig for herself? Hey! That was fast - I'm all done and my feet feel great. Your turn mom.

Jump to day 12: Here comes our new human. Yippee. She gives us great tasting pellets and lots of veggies to snack on and she has found my "scratchy" spot. I just love it when she scratches me there and I moan to let her know she got it right. I come out for a visit as soon as she calls me now because I know I am going to get lots of love and attention and good food. After that, I think I'll go have a snooze.

Kimberly Taylor

PIGS LOVE CAKE TOO!

I have been volunteering with Hearts on Noses for a few months now, and it all started with a simple decision to sponsor a pig at the sanctuary. At this point I had no real life experience with pigs, and didn't know much about pigs at the sanctuary either (except for a few photos). So I randomly picked and sponsored Cassandra. Shortly afterwards Janice, the owner of the sanctuary, was looking for volunteers, and so I decided it is time to make a visit.

On my first day at the sanctuary, I fed a pig with my own hands, stroked their soft bristles and saw a real life "farm pig" for the first time. I was curious to learn more about them so I decided to make time in my schedule for volunteering at this place. Through my visits I learned to see each pig beyond what they look like, and quickly learned that each pig is unique. Cotton will come right up to me with confidence, while Mouse is ready to run when I get close. Sherman will let me rub and scratch him as much as I want, while Rosie likes to show me who is boss and will use me as a scratching post if she could. Don Juan is ready to challenge anyone coming through his front door, and Dylan is very timid. Not only pigs, but I also learned a lot about the horses, Dior and Lacy. At first I couldn't even tell them apart but now I can tell them apart

just from the way they take an apple or pear from my hand.

One thing all the pigs at the sanctuary like without exception is to eat. They enjoy a variety of foods and like some foods better than others. Their taste preferences are similar to that of children, and like sweet things a lot. Although unlike most children they will eat their vegetables too. I enjoy giving them treats whenever I visit the sanctuary and seeing their reactions. So when my birthday came up I asked Janice if I can celebrate my birthday with the pigs. She liked the idea and so I brought a vanilla flavoured vegan cake from Edible Flours along with some homemade fruit salad.

My mother also joined the party this time, and first we went around giving them spoonfuls of fruit salad, which they really enjoyed. And all of them knew how to take food from the spoon without biting the spoon. In the pen of the twelve's, where there are twelve pigs, they were making a circle around us and it was hard to know who didn't get a share and whose looking for seconds. So they all got multiple spoonfuls.

Then after cleaning up the pens it was time for the cake. First all the workers had a piece

of the cake, and then it was time for another round of spoon feeding. By this time everyone has returned to their houses for a nap, and a few came out reluctantly to our calls to see what the commotion is about. It was amazing how fast good news travel though the pens. And didn't they enjoy the cake; tails wagging like fans; Comet running around in his pen like crazy; even Dylan let me spoon feed him, and Mouse standing on two hooves in no time, and we didn't even have to ask. This time it was easy to figure out who got a piece and who didn't because they had white icing around their mouths like moustaches. I think more pigs fell for belly rubs that day than any other day. All these little things made it such a wonderful day and one of the best birthdays I have had.

Kasun Somaratne



LIFE ON THE ISLAND



A garage sale fundraiser by Hearts on Noses supporters, Jenn and Marie, makes a world of difference for the animals. Jean also take the opportunity to raise awareness.

Living far away from Hearts on Noses still affords opportunities to help the pigs. Doing home checks, helping organize transports, responding to inquiries from people looking for pigs and those wanting to get rid of them, doing fundraisers, making piggy note cards, and providing public education are some of the little ways in which those of us on the island are able to support Hearts on Noses. And together we island folk do make a difference!

This year saw Dawn in Central Saanich adopt Ruby, a pig from a mainland animal control agency. Dawn's daughter, Jenna, also took on two very young piglets, one being given away online, and one found abandoned in a vacant home. Three more pigs safely living the life they should have had from birth.

The SPCA put Kimberly in touch with me when she expressed interest in potbellied pigs. She is now the proud foster mama to

SophieLyn and PiggySue, whose previous owner contacted Hearts on Noses looking for someone to take them. Another two pigs safe and happy.

Ebenezer and Lucy, two of our island rescues from last year, moved up island with their family, and at last report had successfully bonded with each other and made friends with the dogs, goats and horses. I love happily-ever-after endings!

Garage sale fundraisers by pig supporters here (thanks Jenn and Marie!) helped raise money for the sanctuary and provided a venue for me to set up an information booth. Photos and stories attracted attention and some additional donations, too.

Through my blog and public rescue events, I try to raise awareness. It is something anyone can do - any one of you, any one you know, is a potential advocate for piggies. That post you

send out on facebook, or that garage sale you hold, or that young woman you speak to in the pet store might change the life of a pig in need. We always need more foster or adoptive homes, more sponsors and more donations to help the pigs.

The best part of helping from a distance is meeting with the pampered rescued piggies. It only takes one raised piggy snout or madly wagging tail to know beyond a doubt that every minute spent networking, every mile driven to check out a home, every email exchange with someone needing information, is all worth while.

That's life on the island 2011. How're you helping the pigs where you live?

Jean Ballard

<http://mylifewiththecritters.blogspot.com>

PIGGY SMILES

It was breakfast time for the pigs and Dave and I giggled as Stewie ran in short bursts with Bossy Boots following closely behind. Bossy Boots has become smaller in size while gaining in her sweetness and she is no longer a prisoner of fat depression. Our giggling grew louder as Rocko joined in with “what about meeee?” and “I’m awake now!” He is a boy that was once so quiet but has now found his voice, he used to be so timid but is now curious about everything. I consider it a great honor to have him constantly under foot. Rocko’s wife, Angel, who in her first months with us struggled just to stand, now trotters around our acreage and we so cherish every little hoof print that she makes. Both Angel and Rocko have become more trusting everyday thanks to our son Blake as he spends a lot of quality time with his new best friends.



*top-left: Bossy; top-right: "da gang";
bottom: Rocko and Snowball*



This was to be a special spring morning that we wanted to share with everyone. We were going on a journey and would return soon with a new family member! We would soon have a new sister “Snowball”, and we had to be understanding and kind to her because she would be sad to leave her family. The family loved her so much but had decided that it would be best for Snowball to come and live with us. We were so excited to pick up Snowball and when we met her she was excited too. Her tail was going so fast it looked as if it might swing right off (with a little help from some cheezies) and it has never stopped. It didn’t take long to realize Snowball has the hugest personality and the vocal cords to match. This helps with her pursuit of a full time career as “Drama Queen”. She is adored by all as she steals the show everytime!

As our family grows so do the questions of “why another pig?” Dave simply replies “they make us smile all day, every day.”

Pam and Dave Hook

HOOKED ON LOVE

I have always been interested in helping the less fortunate, including animals. In December 2010, Cheri - a lady at work, brought me a write-up about Hearts on Noses and the need for financial help. I wasn’t able to help Janice & HON’s out financially, but I emailed Janice anyway, and offered to help her out with volunteering around the Sanctuary....I was welcomed with a YAH!

My first volunteer day was January 1st, 2011. I knew nothing about pigs – regular or mini, but was about to learn that they are fourth on the intelligence list and they love to be loved. I arrived at the Sanctuary at 9am and spent the first part of the morning with Janice while she fed the animals. My first introduction to a ‘real live pot belly pig’ was to Panda Man. While meeting him it was like we had a connection, and after listening to Janice tell Panda Man’s story of mistreatment and abuse, he had my heart from that moment on. After feeding was done we went to work raking the yards and cleaning the water dishes – we worked hard that first day, and when I was leaving at 11:30, Janice commented that I probably wouldn’t be back... little did she realize I was hooked, and would return again, and again, and again. Several months ago I was able to start sponsoring Panda Man and it’s so rewarding to have a ‘foster pig’, and he seems to know he’s mine - he follows me around the property when he’s out of his pen.

There are two days that are etched in my memory from the past year, one being the day that Panda Man was able to eat an apple without having it sliced into little pieces. He lost all his top teeth from abuse and was barely able to eat. It was an exciting day for me, when Janice told me he had eaten a whole apple 2 days before. The next momentous time was when he got up on my knee to get a treat – that was soooo exciting.

The farm is such a peaceful place to be. There are many sad stories of how the animals at the Sanctuary have been mistreated in the past and I find it a honour to volunteer there and see what happy lives they now live. Each of the pigs know their names and when they are out of their pens, Janice calls them by name and they come running because they have learned to trust her.

I have met a lot of very wonderful volunteers and we have a fun time as we are working. I would highly recommend spending some time at HON because the benefits are both physical and mental!



Roxane with Panda Man

Roxane Larrabee

Charlie

Last year Karena, a horse trainer, wrote about adopting her first pig named Lenny. Karena explained how she and her daughter Bryn quickly formed a deep affection for this fat, blind, and grumpy little pig. Her story told of the days when Lenny first wagged his tail and tried to relieve an itch using his hoof, but couldn't reach, and allowed Karena to scratch it for him. These were baby steps in reaching the trust and inching into the heart of a pig who up until now had not been wanted.

Karena and Bryn would do this all over again with Charlie. Charlie had once been a family member, gone on camping trips and slept in the house. This all ended in a lonely existence relegated to a pen at the side of the big house. Once again Karena and Bryn welcomed in Charlie, a challenging pig.

Charlie tried to keep everyone around him in line with his attempt to gain head honcho status. His fake charges and chomping mouth action was met head on by a little girl who melted his broken heart. Once scary Charlie had a gentle hand on his bristles his body relaxed and he welcomed his new found love. This 5 year old girl, Bryn, now both warns and advises her playmates "it's okay now, Charlie has his happy eyes on".



Yesterday morning an urgent email is opened only to read a 3 year old pony will die if a home can't be found... and we only have 24 hours. The transporter of this little horse is reaching out to us in desperation so we post on Facebook and pray a home can be found. Four hours later Bobby the pony is being transported, by Marcella, to Karena's. Yes that is Lenny and Charlie's house too.

A Special Thank-you

Special thanks to the Burnaby
Pathfinders who return year after
year and work for the pigs!!





(above) Kasun spoon feeds fruit salad; (middle) Buddy and pig friends; (bottom) pigs love vegan pizza



Support

Sponsoring one of our residents is the single most important ongoing fundraiser! Your monthly donation of \$25.00 supports and sustains this sanctuary. Your donation also gives the animals and their caretakers the assurance they need that help is coming every month.

Be a Guardian to the Sanctuary and choose a color from our 'Over The Rainbow Fund' when you give.

Yellow \$5.00, Orange \$10.00, Green \$25.00, Blue \$50.00, Red \$75.00, Purple \$100.00. With these donations you can be the gold for all the animals here.

All donations contribute entirely to the animals needs. We also collect Canadian Tire Money and convert your Air Miles into gift cards that we can use! Please contact us by phone, mail or email. Your donation can also be set up on PayPal, United Way and Canada Helps or come visit us and give your donation directly to the pigs and see how we are all doing!

Hearts On Noses Wish List

Volunteers:

- Sponsors
- Guardians
- Shoppers with a pick up truck or van who can commit to pick up once a week, a month, or every 6 weeks
- Grant writers
- Volunteers
- Electrician to put up outside lighting
- Handy man or women
- Plastic manure forks
- Fund raising help

Donations:

- Wool blankets
- gravel and bags of bark mulch
- Large cement pavers (2'x2' minimum)
- Large quantities of fresh fruit and veggies
- Fence post toppers
- Shavings by the bundles
- Quality hay, straw and alfalfa
- Quality vintage/crafted items for yard sales
- Canadian Tire money
- 'Recovery' (brand name human medication) in capsule form - used for arthritic pigs
- Apple juice for Penny Pig
- Gift cards
- Old fashioned cash