



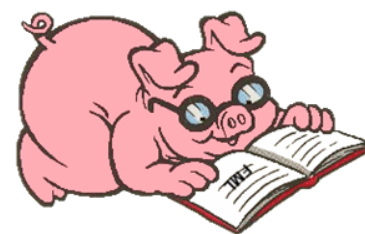
The Examiner

2016 EVENT NEWSLETTER



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Editor's Report

Did you know?

- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP for 25 years published the newsletter every month, but towards the end of 2016, the SCAMPP Board of Directors decided to switch to bi-monthly (every other month) newsletters in order to save costs, so we can help more rescued piggies?
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that **YOU** can suggest piggy medical articles for Dr. Vered to write about? Please submit requests to Peggy at peggy@scampp.com and she will forward to Dr. Vered .
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that **YOU** can submit Newsletter articles, piggy photos, and other piggy-pertinent ideas and suggestions? We would love to have your submittals.
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP has a mailing list and sends occasional meeting and event reminders via e-mail to keep you informed between newsletters of what's going on.? If you wish to make sure you are included on that list, please contact peggy@scampp.com or call 951-685-0467 (if you'd rather receive paper or phone reminders, let us know!).
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP has a piggy vet list on our website and if you do not see your piggy vet on the list, you can contact peggy@scampp.com and ask that it be added? See: http://scampp.com/Vet_Hoof.html
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP has Facebook, You Tube, and A Yahoo Group List and the links are on the back of each newsletter?
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP has a Amazon Smile account and a Amazon Wish List? Check them out here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0428773>
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that you can donate unused portions of gift cards to SCAMPP? Check out the link here: <https://www.charitygiftcertificates.org/GCE/?CID=8880&LinkSource=11243>
- 🐷 **Did you know** - there are several ways you can help SCAMPP and that some of those ways do not involve money, but only a little bit of your time? For info, please contact peggy@scampp.com or call 951-685-0467 or see <http://scampp.com/help.html>
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that all donations to SCAMPP are tax-deductible & you do get a receipt?
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that SCAMPP's website is loaded with many helpful and informative pages? Check it out here: <http://scampp.com>
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that **YOU** are an important part of SCAMPP and **YOU** are needed for SCAMPP to succeed and help us to continue to try and fulfill our Mission Statement?
- 🐷 **Did you know** - that **YOU** can ask for extra newsletters and info for prospective new members or potential piggy adopters? Contact peggy@scampp.com or 951-685-0467.





Tips for Newbies

~ by Dan Richman, Florida ~



Dan and his pig Maxine

Adopting your first pet pig ~ What you REALLY need to know:

It's been about 18 months since I adopted my first pet pig, and I thought it might be helpful to future newbies if I jotted down a few things from the point of view of a fellow newbie.

First, about me: I was 41 when I adopted my first pig. Our house included 2 humans, 4 dogs, and 2 cats. We went into the experience rather overconfident just because we'd done pug rescue for about 10 years and felt like we'd seen it all. Boy were we wrong! I now have 3 pigs.

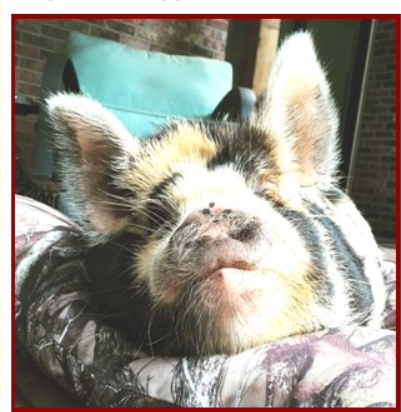
I'm going to lay out some simple bullet points that will hopefully help future first-time adopters avoid the frustration we had.

1) A PIG IS NOT A DOG

This is "Rule #1" in my book. You can't approach a pig the same way as you approach a dog. A dog wants to please humans. A pig wants to coexist with humans. It's very different. Pigs are wonderful companions, but it's sort of like dating a "needy" person vs. dating a more independent person. The independent person isn't going to want you draped all over him/her all the time. LISTEN to the pig. She will tell you how much interaction she wants at that moment.

2) MOVE THE PIG

If you don't already know about "MOVE THE PIG," LEARN IT! This single-handedly helped me turn the corner in the early days with my disagreeable pig. I'm not going to go into detail about it because there are lots of great articles online, but suffice to say this method is CRITICAL and will establish the necessary hierarchy you will need to have a harmonious relationship with your piggy. (Editor's Note: you can find the article entitled "Move the Pig" on our SCAMPP website under Informational Articles or go to: <http://scampp.com/InfoNewsletter-Jan2017/16-17-MTP.pdf> or contact Peggy Wimberly at SCAMPP and she will Snail-Mail or E-Mail it to you)

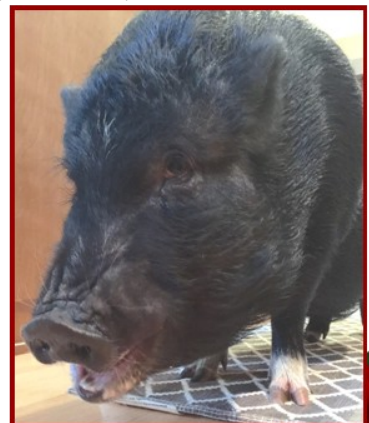


Dan's Sheldon

3) PATIENCE

I am a type-A personality and patience is not my strong suit. Well, guess what ... my pig TAUGHT me patience! It's not in a pig's nature to accept a new person quickly. It takes time. Your pig might go days at a time being standoffish with you. Continue to "MOVE THE PIG" and be patient. Pigs take a while to trust but once that bond is built, you will see it's worth the wait.

~ by Dan Richman, SCAMPP Member in Florida



Dan's Bindi





Once Upon A Swine

~ by Ric Lozano

Mushu



Once upon a time, there was a little piggy named Mushu. Mushu is a very social and friendly little pig. So much so, that Mushu has been a very busy little piggy indeed! She has been traveling all over Southern California attending various events and festivals. Mushu has had three Kiss the Pig events recently at local elementary schools, as well as attending The Butterfly Festival held in Rubidoux (Jurupa Valley) California. She also was the star in a Docu-

mentary Film for some college film students from Los Angeles who wanted to do a documentary film project on pigs as pets. She has been doing very well at the Kiss the Pig events and seems to be more relaxed and calm with each event. She seems to know when we are going somewhere as she comes to the back of the Jeep and waits for me to pick her up and load her. She is very well suited to social events, but she is getting to the point of my not being able to pick her up. Working on ramps and maybe a different vehicle to be able to get her to these functions. We have been attending as many of these events as we can to generate as much money in donations as well as to raise awareness to what it takes to care for one of these fantastic animals. We will continue to attend as many events as possible, but remember we can use all the help we can get.

~ by Ricardo Lozano, SCAMPP President (written May 2016)





Walk With The Animals Event

Riverside, CA ~ March 19, 2016



Mushu



Melba

Mushu and Melba were the stars of the day



Mushu



Melba



Our Annual Walk with the Animals event was on Saturday, March 19th. SCAMPP had 8 members and 2 pigs for the SCAMPP Booth. Our members included Barbie and Scott from Canada who happened to be vacationing nearby here in California. They come out once or twice a year and it is always good to see them. A special Thank You to Barbie and Scott for joining us! After the event, SCAMPP had our Annual Potluck "PIGNIC in the Park" and SCAMPP provided Subway sandwiches for the members present. The pigs enjoyed fresh strawberries as special treats from Peggy B. (the other Peggy) ~ *by Peggy W.*



Yum! Fresh strawberries

Note from Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center, Riverside: What an incredible day the 24th Annual Walk with the Animals was! Walkers completed a 1.3 mile walk around Lake Evans at Fairmount Park then enjoyed an array of about 60 vendor booths and had the opportunity to get pet behavior tips, dogs got to play on agility equipment, attendees watched a demonstration by Riverside Police Department K9 Officers and filled their bellies a hearty pancake breakfast. More than \$53,000 was raised for the cats, dogs, puppies and kittens that reside at the Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center. You can see at least 365 photos taken by our photographer at <http://bit.ly/1pBVxnT> We cannot thank all the vendors, volunteers, participants and sponsors enough! ~ *by Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center*



20th Annual Western Days Festival

Anaheim, CA ~ May 14, 2016



Saturday May 14th ~ The Anaheim Western Days Festival was a nice event, but loooooong. I left my house at 6am to get there by 7am, and didn't get home until 6pm. Ric and Mushu were there a couple less hours because they live closer to the event location. Towards the end of the event, a really sweet couple - Andrey and Klye, came all the way from Mission Viejo to help at the booth. They are not even members, but Audrey had seen our SCAMPP Booth at the Pet Expo the last few years, and had e-mailed me to say she missed seeing us at The Pet Expo this year. When I explained we weren't there because we couldn't get enough volunteers, she said she'd love to come help out when she could. I told her about this Anaheim event and she said she and Kyle could come for at least a couple of hours to help towards the end and to help with tear-down. We know it's difficult for members to spend all day at events, but even a couple of hours helps out, so **THANK YOU AUDREY & KYLE!** There are so many great opportunities at these events in which to network, educate, and try to raise funds so SCAMPP can help more rescued piggies with neuter/spay costs, housing, feed, blankets, transportation, etc. There are so many other interesting booths and activities at these events and if we could get more members to split up our time, we could all enjoy the other interesting things going on at these events. This event featured a classic car show with awards, over 100 vendor booths, craft booths, informational and wellness booths, great food, live entertainment, a reptile show, a magic show, pony rides, raffles, bookmobile, children's activities & carnival booths, Police and Fire Department demos, free giveaways, and much more. The Anaheim Fire Department did a "Jaws of Life" demo and I found out something I did not know about our President Ric.... he has actually used the "Jaws of Life" to rescue people because he is a former Fire Department firefighter. So, did you know these events also help you to get to know your fellow SCAMPP'ers as well? ~ by Peggy Wimberly

Butterfly Festival

Robidoux Nature Center, CA ~ April 16, 2016



SCAMPP Booth



Ric & Peggy W.



Peggy B.



Mushu



Ric & Erin, Mushu's parents



Chloe, dressed for the occasion

SCAMPP has participated in this event for the last couple of years. They have many kinds of craft booths, other various animal booths, many activities for kids, live insect exhibits, live music, food vendors, you can tour the nature museum on site and take a nature walk along the forest creek trail. They also had two "butterfly tents" full of butterflies and you could go in, learn about them, interact with them and even feed them. Then towards the end of the event, the park does a beautiful butterfly release, setting them free to migrate and populate. We only had 4 SCAMPP members to help at our SCAMPP Booth and MUSHU was our only show pig for the day. It was very windy and we were constantly trying to keep literature and products on the tables (it's a good thing Peggy W's husband Jerry came early to put sandbags on the EZ-Ups), but we did pretty good in raising donations and educating folks about potbellied pigs. We were told there was over 1,000 visitors to the event.

~ by Peggy Wimberly



Butterfly Tents



Kiss The Pig

~ by Peggy Wimberly



Ms. Rode, Principal of Ellington Elementary School, kisses Mushu

As mentioned in Ric's article on page 6, Ric and Mushu did three Kiss the Pig events recently at local elementary schools. I tagged along as the admin / photographer / newsletter editor / support person. **April 7th was at Ellington Elementary School in Covina, and April 8th was at Orangewood Elementary School in West Covina.** These two schools heard about Mushu through a "Kiss The Pig" event that Mushu did in December for Washington Elementary School in Glendora. The kids at these schools exceeded

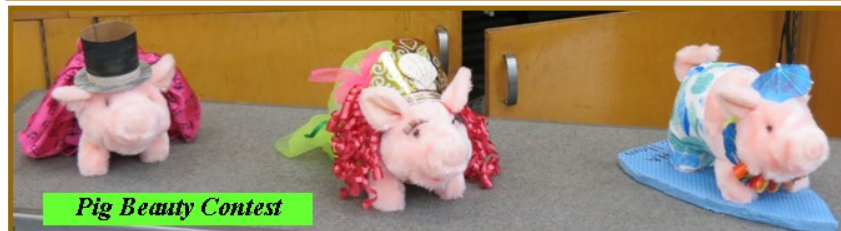


Ms. Shirley, Principal of Orangewood Elementary School, kisses Mushu

their sales goal by selling flavored Gourmet Premium Kettle Korn from Pacific Fundraisers. Ric and I each got a package of the PANDA Kettle Korn for bringing Mushu to the events; it was soooooooo good. And Pacific Fundraisers gave SCAMPP a very nice donation for bringing MUSHU, since the principals of the schools agreed to "Kiss A Pig" if the students exceeded their goal. Pacific Fundraisers made the event more fun by adding a Pig Race and a Pig Beauty Contest (using battery-operated plush pigs that wiggle, oink and walk). Teachers raced these pigs against each other for Top Prize. And classrooms each got a plush pig to decorate and dress up for the Beauty Contest to be judged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. They gave me one of these pigs too. I'm not sure what to do with it yet.... got any ideas (fundraiser for SCAMPP)? Let me know.



Pig Race - first pig to fall off the edge of the table wins



Pig Beauty Contest

continued on next page





Kiss The Pig ~ continued

~ by Peggy Wimberly



4-11-16

Mr. B.
kisses
Mushu



The third Kiss A Pig Fundraiser was on **April 11th at Mariposa Elementary School in Redlands**. Principal Scott Bohlender had to fulfill his end of the deal which was that he agreed to kiss a pig in front of the entire school if the students raised \$15,000 through their annual Scholastic Book Fair. Mariposa Book Fair Chairman, Chuck Cole contacted me (via SCAMPP) to bring a pig, since the students surpassed the goal and sold \$17,206 in books for this year's fair. The funds will be used to buy new books to increase the stock at the school's library. Parents were invited and "The Redlands Daily Facts Newspaper"

was on hand to write an article for the front page of their newspaper - with a picture of Mr. Bohlender kissing Mushu (see: <http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/social-affairs/20160411/mariposa-principal-plants-one-on-pigs-lips-to-benefit-school-library>); there is even a video on the school's website. Before the kiss, Mr. Bohlender (aka Mr. B) acted very nervous, applied his Burt's Bees' Lip Balm, and placed a piece of zucchini in his mouth to entice Mushu into the smooch. Kids giggled with delight as Mr. B's lips met those of Mushu.

Now..... we know that "kissing a pig" is considered, by some people, as a punishment or a gross humiliating reward to the person having to kiss a pig and some think that it teaches kids that pigs are filthy, nasty, disgusting bad creatures. We (SCAMPP) are there to teach the kids just the opposite. In fact, before scheduling these "Kiss a Pig" events, I explain to the school coordinator that pigs can be very precious, sweet, loving, affectionate pets if treated properly. I also explain the dilemma regarding the myth of the teacup pig and the problem of the many abused & abandoned potbellied pigs in shelters and sanctuaries these days. The schools allow us to bring our educational brochures to hand out to kids, teachers and parents. This particular school understood this so much when I told the coordinator Chuck Cole, that they also asked us to also do an educational presentation about potbellied pigs to the kids and explain that pigs are NOT dirty, filthy, disgusting bad creatures, etc. - after all, they saw how sweet, social and tame Mushu was. The Principal was very sweet and told the kids that they must respect Mushu and not scream loudly and frighten Mushu. The kids were very very respectful. The donations we receive from these events also helps SCAMPP to continue doing what we do as far as educational events. The more people we can educate before they make the mistake of buying what they think is "always" going to be a micro-mini teacup pig and then later abandoning it when it doesn't stay small, is worth the work of these events. After all, KIDS are the next generation, right?





Herbivore Festival

Yucaipa, CA ~ May 1, 2016

Editor's Note: This is the 2nd Herbivore Festival, and the second that SCAMPP has participated in. This event is so well attended (**over 3,000 people**) that it is planned to happen twice a year; the first Sunday in October and the first Sunday in May. The first one was last October, and I (Peggy W.) ran the SCAMPP Booth at that time (in the pouring rain). However, this May 1st event, I was unable to attend due to an annual trip out of town. I was glad that President Ric volunteered to run the booth this time, with the help of long-time members Rosalinde & Andreas. This was the first time Ric was in charge of the SCAMPP booth, and the first time that Rosalinde & Andreas volunteered. **THANK YOU to Ric, Rosalinde, Andreas** for stepping up!! The event is a great event for those who are into healthy vegan/plant-based lifestyles. The event is organized by our SCAMPP member, Colleen Hinds, who is a professor of the Crafton Hills College Kinesiology and Health Department. The event features all kinds of booths offering lectures, cooking demos, workshops, performances, fitness activities, vendors, food (for sale and free samples), activities for kids and much more. Since they support & believe in cruelty-free products, saving people, animals and the planet - **SCAMPP is invited to have a booth in which to promote saving, rescuing, adoption and education of potbellied pigs and to help raise donations for our organization** (PETA and other animal organizations are there also!). These last two events, we hadn't thought of selling products, but merely offering a free piggy keychain to anyone who would make a donation to SCAMPP, and of course, be on hand to answer questions and provide educational materials on the proper needs and care, adoption, etc of potbellied pigs. Ric's came up with some great ideas (his message below). So far we were told no pigs could be brought onto the campus, but Colleen is working on changing that for us beginning with the next event in October and is also going to give us a better location. I hope we can get more members to help out. When there are not enough members working the booth, it does not give time for members to leave the booth to go look at other booths (**over 160 booths were there**). The next Herbivore Festival is **October 2, 2016**. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to join us. ~ by Peggy W.



Rosalinde & Ric

Hello again members and guests! I attended The Herbivore Festival on behalf of SCAMPP on May 1st. The festival was a big event, there were many vendors as well as entertainment and lots of food! The foot traffic was steady all day and there were plenty of visitors. Sadly we didn't do so well on donations for several reasons in my opinion. Our booth wasn't located in the best location, there were no other booths around me except for directly across, so I got to see a lot of peoples backs! Also pretty much everyone was selling something and I think people were spending on food and such, more so than donating. We really needed a draw to the booth and Mushu was not allowed to attend. Maybe we need a robot piggy! Bottled Water was an issue and I gave some of my bottles to kids as their parents said the lines at the other vendors were too long... good opportunity for us to give bottled water for donations. Some

toys like the glider planes or something for the kids to play with would have been great, something to think about. I had three couples interested in fostering and several people who wanted to join, wanted a pig or knew people with pigs. Almost all of the literature was gone by the end of the day. Next festival is in October and we can do really well if we put some thought into our booth and goodies. We also need to try and get a better spot and see if we can bring pigs. Special thanks to Rosalinde and Andreas Tropper who came by and gave me a break to eat, Thanks again! I know we are all busy busy busy but we need hands on deck to make these events work for us. ~ by Ricardo Lozano





Herbivore Festival ~ continued

Yucaipa, CA ~ May 1, 2016



Colleen and Jason Hinds, Herbivore coordinators



On behalf of the Herbivore Festival we would like to thank SCAMPP for joining us and having a booth at the Herbivore Festival on May 1st at Crafton Hills College. It made us so happy to have you be a part of this life changing event. We know it is a lot of work setting up a booth and manning everything for the whole day. We were just so excited to share you with all our guests. The festival was a huge success and had a huge turn out ... some sources are reporting 3000 people! We just know that having SCAMPP's presence helped save some piggies and raised awareness. Thank you Rosalinde and Andreas for attending the Festival, taking pictures and sharing your support for SCAMPP. Also, thank you Peggy for connecting with Colleen and coordinating all the materials for SCAMPP's booth. And of course special thanks to Ric for manning the booth all day! We know it is a lot of work planning, driving, setting up, hanging out the whole day and cleaning up.

We are looking forward to having SCAMPP join us for our future Herbivore Festivals on October 2nd, 2016 and May 7th, 2017. We are doing our best to try and help you smuggle a piggy on campus to show people what a "real" mini potbelly pig looks like; Huge and Gorgeous! We hope everyone can join us at these free events where we are trying to save the lives of animals, people and the planet. Thanks again. ~ *by Jason Hinds (husband and helpmate of Colleen Hinds! ☺)*





Bookmobile Event

Anaheim, CA ~ July 23, 2016

By Beth Jordan: Wow! What a wonderful time we had with the Bookmobile event on July 23, 2016! The event, spearheaded by Katrina Ford, was held on what may have been the hottest day of the year - well, at least to us. Since the event was under the Anaheim Public Library and their goal was to reach encourage children to read, they provided the funds to have an excellent event. They have summer STEAM events on Saturdays and we were invited to this one. There were a variety of booths, but SCAMPP's was one of the favorites to all. Most of the kids had never seen a live pig and very few of their parents had seen one either. We were able to share information with all that attended. Since the kids had cards that we needed to stamp, they all had exposure to our message. Even their parents learned a lot. Though it wasn't a fundraiser, it was very educational for all that attended. Many had their picture taken with Mushu. In attendance were Peggy Wimberly, Ric Lozano and Beth Jordan. Hope you enjoy the pictures. We are hoping for a larger SCAMPP presence next year.

By Peggy Wimberly: During the summer, the Anaheim Library Bookmobile travels to various parks, schools, and recreation centers around the town of Anaheim and puts on a free book give-away, as well as lets kids check out books from the portable library on wheels (i.e. The Bookmobile). They also invite community & non-profit educational organizations and activity booths to participate. This event was outdoors at a small park and it was HOT HOT HOT that day (it was 105-107 degrees). SCAMPP had a very down-sized booth with only 3 volunteers and Mushu the piggy. We were not there to sell items, but to educate the public about the proper needs and care of potbellied pigs & promote adoption and rescue. So we only put out our educational materials and we did our Spin-the-Wheel Game for free prizes. I heard there were almost 200 kids from the local community that showed up. One of the booths allowed folks to make their own tie-dye T-shirt. Thanks Katrina for inviting SCAMPP. We met a lady there who fell in love with potbellied pigs that day. She can't adopt one due to zoning where she lives, but she said she would definitely send a donation to help with rescued piggies. So getting the word out is very important. We can really use more members to help at our events.



ABOVE: Ric wearing his tie-dye T-shirt as a head bandana ☺



ABOVE: SCAMPP Volunteers: Peggy W., Beth J, Prez Ric



RIGHT: Bookmobile Coordinator, Katrina with Mushu



A little girl reads one of her new books to Mushu





Pet-Chella Pet Adoption Fair

Los Angeles, CA ~ Aug. 20, 2016

By Beth Jordan: The LA Pet-Chella was my second event with SCAMPP. It was an event I will never forget. So many people didn't even know there was an organization that would support potbellied pigs. Everyone seemed so interested and especially loved Mushu. For most of the children, it was their first time seeing a pig, so it may stay with them for a lifetime. Peggy did an excellent job setting up the booth (she has done it so many times she knew exactly how it should be done) and there were people from other booths that wanted to come check us out. We even had people interested in adopting pigs! I have never known there was such a following for people to want to join SCAMPP. It was a wonderful time and we were able to educate many people. I hope to go to another one in the future. The people who came to help were amazing and had no trouble giving visitors information.

By Audrey: This is my second time volunteering for SCAMPP. Peggy, the event coordinator is a pleasure to volunteer with. Ric, the President, has the sweetest pig, Mushu who loves strawberries! It's so much fun bringing awareness to potbellied pigs as pets and seeing all the excitement it brings to those stopping by the booth. I am excited for the upcoming events.

By Tanya: This is my first time volunteering with SCAMPP, it was a pleasure volunteering and meeting everyone, including Mushu. This is a much needed organization to get pig awareness out in Orange County. Can't wait to help out in the future.

By Peggy Wimberly: This was the first annual event for the Pet-Chella Pet Fair, sponsored by Centinela Feed & Pet Supplies. The event was held at a park in Los Angeles and the first time we had been to Los Angeles for an event. I received a E-Mail back in April asking SCAMPP to partner with them and other adoption groups to promote rescue and adoptions of many animals who need a second chance at a loving home. Besides 20-30 adoption groups, there were pet demonstrations, food trucks, vendors, free pet-related samples and entertainment. Besides President Ric, myself and Karyn, we had 4 volunteers who were not even SCAMPP members to help us (Beth, Dawn, Tanya, Audrey). For two of those volunteers, it was their very first time helping at a SCAMPP event; and they did great! What a big help they were, so THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who helped!



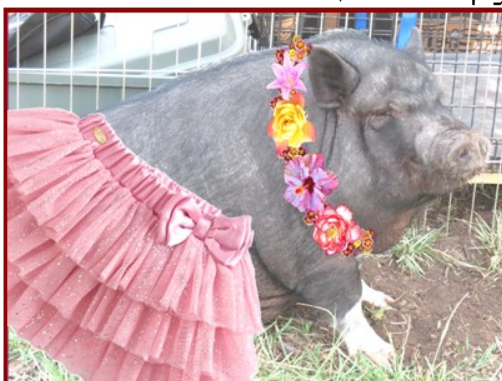
ABOVE: Beth & Karyn work the booth
BELOW: Audrey and Tanya with Mushu



ABOVE: Peggy W. takes care of the booth
BELOW: Mushu, our star pig



ABOVE: Dawn and Ric
BELOW: Kids loved Mushu



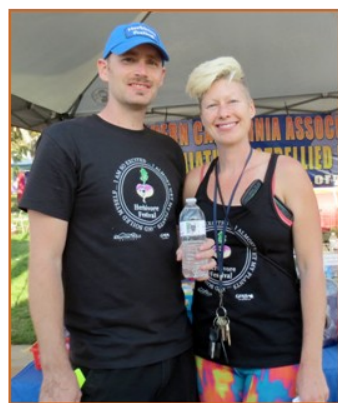


Herbivore Festival

Yucaipa, CA ~ Oct. 2, 2016



Above: SCAMPP Volunteers - Jovannah, Ric, Mason, Alex
Below: SCAMPP Volunteers - Jovannah and Dawn (Peggy W. was taking the pictures)



Above: SCAMPP Members and Crafton Hills College Herbivore Coordinators, Jason & Colleen Hinds

Thank you SCAMPP for joining us for the 3rd Herbivore Festival on Oct 2nd at Crafton Hills College. We love that you have been with us from the very beginning! It is always such a pleasure to have you. And this time... we loved having you even more... because of Melba!

Oh wow, was she a huge hit or what! Everyone LOVED that little girl! All I could hear that day was.. there's a pig.... did you see the pig... did you feel the pig... the pig is so wirey... they didn't even cut it's hair and it is like that...I need a piggy one day... haha! And... the madness has continued. Every day this week someone has come up to me and said something like..."oh my gosh, I touched a pig.. I can't believe I touched a pig!," "she was so sweet, I love pigs now." Melba was the star of the show.

We really appreciate her being at the festival because we are encouraging people to live a vegan lifestyle not just for their own health, but for the animals too. Having so many people connect with Melba and realizing that she is a living creature with personality, compassion and feelings makes them change the way that they view the bacon or sausage on their plates. I think people are so disconnected now days

with what they eat and don't take the time to realize they are eating living creatures. I think Melba helped save lives because she was at the festival!

Please, please, please bring Melba back on May 7th for the next Herbivore Festival! She is helping save lives!! And ... she is so sweet and cute!

Thank you Peggy and everyone who helped make this happen ... you are all Superstars! ☺ ~ by SCAMPP Member Colleen Hinds, PhD, Crafton Hills College Faculty and Professional Development Coordinator, Department of Kinesiology and Health ~ For more info and to see more pictures from this event, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/herbivorefestival>

Melba was the star of the day





Products



Many members have loved the square vinyl piggy pools from PA Heartland for years. However, those pools are difficult to come by these days. Thanks to a fellow piggy lover, there is finally a new manufacturer for piggy pools! These new pools are better because the old pools were "stitched," which could allow for ripping or for water to get into the foam sides. These new pools are not sewn, the sides are a little stiffer and the bottom is textured so that little hooves don't slip! The new pools measure 3 x 3 feet inside measurements and is 4" in height. Price is \$259.95 plus shipping, which is around the same cost of the original ones which were smaller. Order and pay for your pool here: <http://www.thefoodtrain.org/piggie-pools.html> Each pool is Custom Made and there is a 2 week turn-around time. Color Choices are: Green, White, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Red, Orange, Yellow, Black, Charcoal, Large Camo "Woodland" and Small Camo "Digital."



What is ScratchnAll?

ScratchnAll is a durable scratcher pad used by animals large and small. It provides safe relief from itching which plagues barnyard, domestic and zoo animals. The ScratchnAll animal scratcher pad is easy to install and has the ability to bend over corners and interlock. Because of its unique shape and features, you can create a pattern which best suits the animals' enrichment needs. The pad's 212 points can touch key acupressure areas. Originally invented for the horse, the scratcher pad is now satisfying many different species of animals. **Our Pigs LOVE them!!**. The more you order, the less the price per scratcher pad. Check <http://www.scratchnall.com> or call 1-888-972-7282 for special costs and **mention SCAMPP when you order!!!**



Oktoberfest Pet Adoption Event

Ramona Humane Society, San Jacinto, CA ~ Oct. 15, 2016



From Ramona Humane Society:

What a phenomenal Oktoberfest Adoption Event we had on Saturday Oct. 15th. We found forever homes for 160 animals. There were an awful lot of happy tails wagging and whiskers held high as these 160 dogs and cats were adopted. The special lowered adoption fees were extended throughout Sunday Oct 16th also, even though the crafters, vendors, animal organizations and kids activities were only on Saturday. Another 10+ animals were adopted on Sunday.



Tanya and Audrey at
The Oktoberfest
Pet Adoption Fair

From Tanya:

Oktoberfest in San Jacinto was so much fun! Melba and Mushu had a blast eating the tomatoes Audrey brought. It was such a treat watching Melba perform tricks such as sitting, standing and turning. Always enjoy the great crowd and watching the kids get excited for the pigs. Can't wait for the next event! 😊

From Audrey:

Oktoberfest was another amazing event. We had the opportunity to educate more people on potbellied pigs, which is always great! Hearing different people's opinions on potbellied pigs and seeing them find out what great pets they are is so much fun! I got to meet one of our amazing member's potbellied pig, Melba, who is super sweet! Mushu and Melba, our stars of the event, were both fantastic. I couldn't spend enough time with those two! 😊





Oktoberfest Pet Adoption Event

Ramona Humane Society, San Jacinto, CA ~ Oct. 15, 2016



The Booth before set up.
This is only some of the stuff needed



Above: Melba showing off her tricks



Above: SCAMPP Volunteers - Audrey, Tanya, and Ric (Peggy W. was taking the pictures)



Melba and Mushu

Melba and Mushu were our stars of the day!



SCAMPP Pigs

Melba and Mushu

To see more SCAMPP Event photos, go to:
<http://scampp.com/PastEvents.html>





OC Pet Days

Costa Mesa, CA ~ Nov. 5, 2016

From Peggy W: This was our first time participating in this event, even though it is an annual event and we have been invited in the past. Because it is a two-day event (Saturday and Sunday), it is too difficult to get enough volunteers to come out and help with set-up, bring pigs, man the booth and tear-down for two days in a row. The Fairgrounds coordinator wanted us there so bad, but I told her we could only do Saturday, and she was accommodating to us on that. We were required to purchase liability insurance for the day and we did not make enough in donations to cover that cost, but we did make a lot of contacts, handed out a lot of literature, and educated a lot of folks on the proper needs, care and adoption opportunities of potbellied pigs. We had a brand new volunteer who found us on the internet ahead of time and came out to help us; thank you Erica! Erica says she LOVES pigs, just cannot have one due to HOA regulations. We only had one pig at the booth, Mushu, who was a huge hit! People who came to our booth automatically went straight to Mushu's pen. Thank you, Ric, for bringing her, even though she did not want to get up quite so early to be transported; I do think Mushu enjoyed it after all, because she sure got a lot of attention. Enjoy the pictures.....



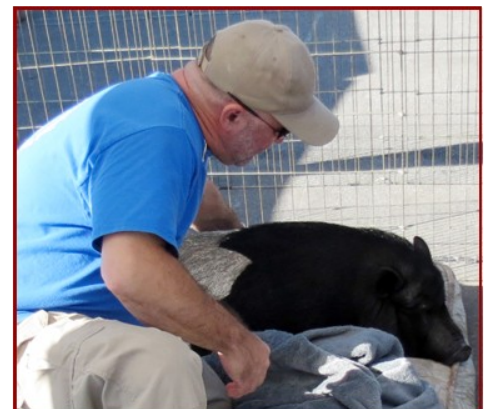
Volunteers who helped at the event: Erica, Ric, Peggy W., Jessica, Audrey, Tanya, Kyle



Mushu



Jessica shows off our SCAMPP Booth



Dad Ric, spending some time with his girl Mushu

To see more SCAMPP Event photos, go to:
<http://scampp.com/PastEvents.html>





OC Pet Days

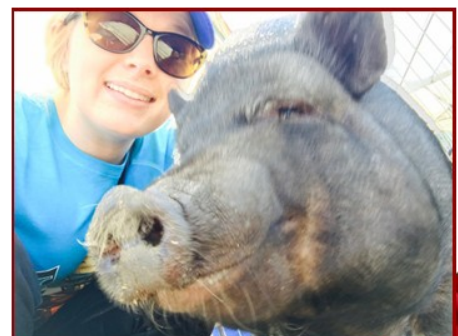
~ continued ~ Costa Mesa, CA ~ Nov. 5, 2016

From Tanya: OC Pet Days was another great event. I love seeing everyone come together to spread awareness on pot-bellied pigs. The kids love playing Spin-the-Wheel and petting Mushu. I always have a blast volunteering with SCAMPP and I can't wait for the next event!

From Audrey: OC Pet Days was another fun event! Seeing the kids play with Mushu and talking to the parents about pigs as pets is awesome. The kids LOVED Mushu (how could they not), getting excited to gently pet and give Mushu treats. We continued to educate more people who were interested, or had no idea about Potbellied Pigs as pets. Seeing the love and support that people have for helping pigs is heartwarming. Mushu loves it too, especially when it comes with belly rubs! Can't wait for the next event!



Everyone loved Mushu





Medical Article ~ by Dr. Vered, DVM

Importance of Spaying/Neutering

There Aren't Enough Homes For Them ALL.



Spay or Neuter Your Pet.

Recently, I saw a client that just purchased a two month old, female pet pig from a local breeder. The new owner brought the pig for an initial health exam. Everything turned normal and I advised the client about general care and future vaccines and deworming. I also recommended when the pet is between three and four month to get it spayed. The lady looked puzzled at my suggestion and said that her pig is the only pet at her home and that she does not see a reason to put it through "un-needed surgery just so the vets can make more money." Beyond that, she did

not think that we have the right to take away the animals sexuality and ability to reproduce!

I had to explain to the client that personally, I do not agree with the ethical and moral aspect of her comments (but I respect other people's right to their philosophical opinion) , and that on a medical level her knowledge is flawed and lacking.

I will keep my ethical opinion on the matter of a pet's right for reproduction to a minimum. and maybe it will be interesting to hear what other SCAMPP members think about the subject of those animal rights.

I want to say that veterinarians take an oath to care for animals and act on their behalf and none of us do un-necessary surgery on animals to make more money.

As for the medical aspect both castration of male pet pigs and spaying of females, those are important for everyone to understand. Neutering surgery does remove the sex hormones out of the body and alters some aspects of the animals behavior. Unfortunately, most of those behavioral traits make both male and female pigs very hard to live with as pets and usually lead to owners wanting to get rid of the animal.



Adult male pigs can become aggressive and mark their territory with urine and pheromones. If no female pigs are available, they try to mount and hump other animals and people which is unpleasant and can lead to injuries to both the pig and the other animals. The boar develops very thick skin and has several glands that secrete materials with very strong and bad odor which hangs in the environment. Their tusks grow larger and faster than neutered males' and unless they are taken care of, can cause oral problems to the pig and pose a risk to humans and other pets who are in contact with the pig. Older boars have a high rate of penis, testicular, prostatic, and preputial diverticulum

medical problems. Those include infections, abscesses, prolapses, and cancer/tumors.

Castration prevents all these conditions. ~ *Continued on next page* ~



Medical Article ~ by Dr. Vered, DVM

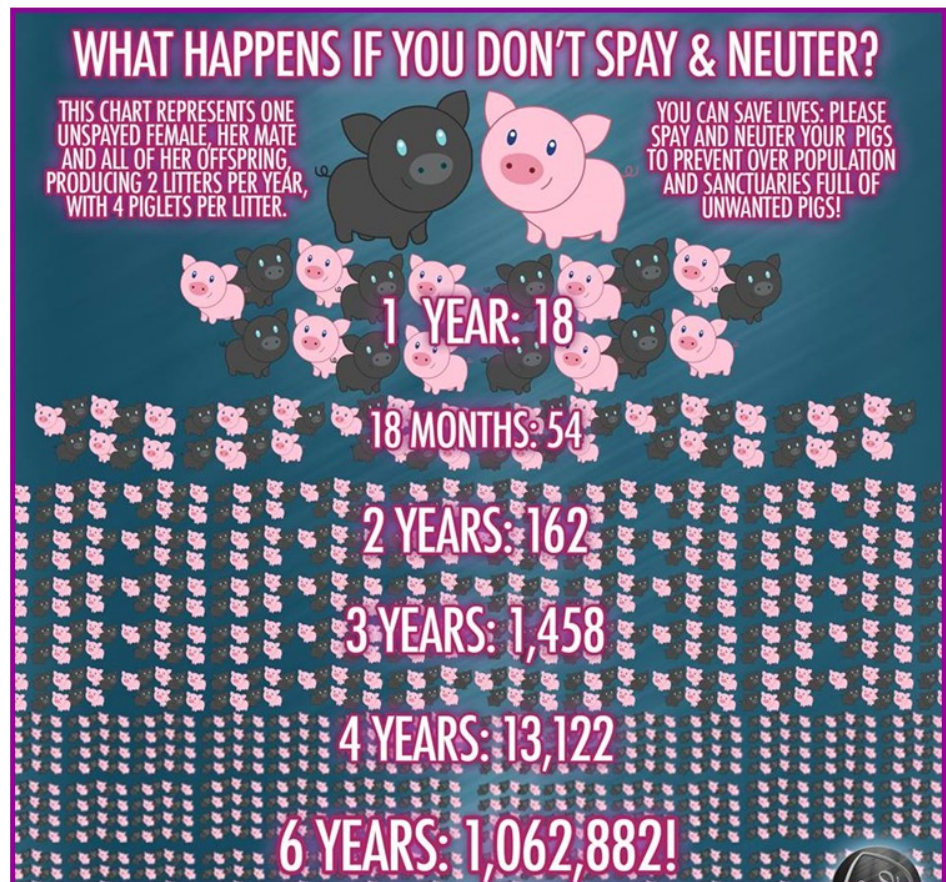
~ continued ~ Importance of Spaying/Neutering

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Intact female pigs cycle about every three weeks from the time they are about three months old. Most of them show personality changes when they are in heat. Some are aggressive, bite, nip, some are moody and go off feed and get quite vocal. Often they lose their house breaking and urinate all around. There have been cases of pigs in heat breaking out of their pens and yards and straying, getting lost and being hurt or killed. Many years ago, a client of mine who was pig breeder, found in her boar pen an unknown female pig, It turned out that the pig belonged to people who lived a few block away, was in heat escaped from their yard, found the boar down the street and got pregnant. She was too small to deliver the babies and ended up needing a C-section. The owners did not want the piglets and turned them and the mother to a rescue group. We already have a problem with over population of pigs who end up in rescues needing home and there is no reason to contribute more to this issue.

Un-altered female pigs tend to suffer several medical problems of the reproductive tract which are influenced by the constant hormonal changes. They are prone to bladder and uterus infections including life threatening conditions like pyometra (pus in the uterus) that require emergency surgery. They are at high risk of uterus muscle and ovarian cancer. Mammary gland infections, abscesses and cancerous tumors also occur quit often. All these diseases are not present or extremely rare in spayed pigs.

So with all this information, ethical considerations set aside, I still think that it is the obligation of every veterinarian who treats pet pigs to recommend to their owners to get there animals fixed at a young age. My preferred time is about 6-8 weeks of age for the males and 3-4 months of age for the females. ~ Best wishes,
Ron T Vered, DVM





Medical Article by Dr. Vered, DVM

Rabies Vaccines, Ticks, Sedatives

The first question was from a member that took her pet pig to have surgery at her veterinarian. At the time of surgery, the clinic updated the animal's vaccines. The owner did not specifically request a rabies vaccination to be given, but she noticed on her receipt that one was given. She remembered hearing in the past that there are no FDA rabies vaccines approved for pigs, and friends told her that pet pigs should not be vaccinated for rabies. Now she was worried that her pet might get sick or harmed from the vaccination he got.

Although it is true that none of the available rabies vaccines in the USA have been labeled for use in pet pigs, we do not expect the vaccine given to the pet pig to cause any harm. The procedure to label a vaccine for use in a particular species of animals (even if it is licensed to be used in a different species) is quite long and expensive. Pigs can get rabies, but they are relatively resistant to the virus. Because of that fact, and because most swine operations being closed, insulated barns, pig farmers do not look at rabies vaccination as something they would do in their herds. It will not pay a drug company to spend the time and money to license a rabies vaccine for pigs, as the market for it is small. It is likely that some of the vaccines available for other animals will create immunity in pigs, but we do not know how well and for how long.

I do not recommend to vaccinate all pet pigs for rabies. Specially if they are mostly indoor pets who live in areas where rabies is not of risk. However; pet pigs who have out side exposure in parts of the country where rabies is a risk, should be vaccinated for rabies both to try and protect them from the disease and also to protect the people around them from possible exposure to the deadly virus.

In such situations, I recommend to use a rabies vaccine called "Imrab-3" which is labeled to use in several different animals including dogs, cats, ferrets, and horses.

The second question came from a pig owner that moved to a new home and noticed that he was finding ticks on his pets. He was wondering what can be used on the pigs and their environment to kill the ticks. There are several insecticide products made for treating farm pigs for external parasites and most of them kill lice, mites, and ticks. Usually, they come in forms of dusts, powders, pour-on, and sprays.

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Medical Article by Dr. Vered, DVM

~ continued ~ Rabies Vaccines, Ticks, Sedatives

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The same applies to several environmental insecticides. When using those, one should be careful that the compounds are used in a safe manner to minimize the risk of toxicity either from contact or oral exposure. Ivermectins are chemicals used to treat both external and internal parasites in pigs and other animals. They are available in both pour-on, oral, and injectable forms and all are safe and effective in killing ticks. It is usually recommended to repeat those treatments for 2-3 times about every two weeks in order to break the tick's reproduction cycle and prevent re-infections from hatching eggs. Some veterinarians have tried using the monthly topical tick and flea products made for dogs and cats on other species of animals with mixed success. These products were not tested or labeled for pigs, but some of them contain chemicals that have been used in other forms in pigs (for example, "Revolution" is a product for dogs and cats that contain Ivermectin). They are probably safe for pigs, but it is hard to know how well they will be absorbed in pigs because their skin and fat layers are so much thicker than the ones dogs and cats have and for how long they will work. The same applies to some of the newer oral products for tick and flea prevention made for dogs. They might work, but we do not know how safe they are and for how long they may work. Most of the older type tick and flea sprays, powders, and dips are safe for pet pigs. They are usually fairly short-acting and have to be used at least weekly and sometimes even more often.

The third question was whether we have any oral drugs that can be given to pet pigs in order to sedate them for procedures like hoof trims, tusk cutting, and travel. Unfortunately; there are no licensed drugs for such use in pigs. I have used some oral medications made for dogs and cats and they help in some situations. Two drugs that are available in oral forms in veterinary medicine are acepromazine and diazepam. Both may cause mild sedation and reduce excitement, but the level, the dose, and the time to onset varies a lot between individuals. Recently, a new oral gel called Sileo was labeled to use in dogs for treatment of noise aversion. It contains a drug called dexmedetomidine that has been used in its injectable forms for sedation of dogs, cats, and horses. Related compounds have been used for anesthetics in pigs. I have not tried Sileo yet, but it would be nice if we could talk Zoetis (the drug company that makes the drug) to try and test it for use in pigs...

I hope that the information above will be helpful for you and your pets and would like to wish you all a safe Summer. ~ *Best wishes, Ron T Vered, DVM*



Understanding Dominance, Part 1

~ by PositivelyPigs.com (used by permission)



One of the central issues with dominance theory is that by definition, it only works if you are right there to control the animal. Dominant animals get priority access to food, mates, etc... so do the submissive animals just always have to wait their turn? Certainly not. In actual dominance hierarchies, the non-dominant animals often develop alternative strategies in order to secure food and mates. Across species, males that are not the dominant member of the group still find ways to mate with females and pass on their genes. They just learn to be sneaky, to wait until the dominant male is otherwise engaged, or is far away. They don't just automatically give up trying to find mates because they know they aren't the dominant male. The same goes with

procuring food... did you know that low-ranking capuchin monkeys will give false predator calls that cause the rest of the troop to drop their food and flee up to the trees? They then have the opportunity to grab the food and eat it quickly before the more dominant members of the group return! In fact, if you have two pigs, consider what happens if the lower-ranking pig finds a pile of food when the dominant pig isn't around. Does the submissive pig leave the food alone because he knows the dominant pig controls all the resources? Absolutely not! He will frantically eat as fast as possible until the food is gone or the dominant pig shows up and pushes him away. These lower ranking animals don't automatically relinquish all resources because they aren't dominant. They simply get creative.

So if we want to use dominance theory as a way to manage our pigs, we should be aware that it will ONLY work if we are right there, ready to stop a behavior. When a pig attacks someone or something (whether it has anything to do with dominance... that's a topic for another day), I often hear people exclaim that we must attain dominance over the pig so that the pig knows that we control the space and stops attacking. Well, it MIGHT work... so long as we are standing right there. Are you prepared to stand within striking distance of your pig for the next 18 years? Pigs are sneaky and clever as it is. Manage them through force and they will just learn alternative strategies for getting what they want. On top of that, we often risk further exacerbating aggression problems by using force and punishment when we want to stop a behavior.

More effectively, why don't we make sure to control the environment so that Pig doesn't get into trouble in the first place? If Pig can't get into the kitchen to open the cupboards, not only will we avoid being tempted to use aversives, but Pig also won't have the opportunity to learn to be sneaky and to go into the kitchen when we aren't looking or aren't paying attention.

Managing the pig's environment to prevent problems is one of the most effective ways of avoiding problem behaviors. Showing your pig that you are dominant probably won't stop behavior problems; it will simply create a pig that learns alternative strategies for getting what he wants. Controlling the environment to avoid behavior problems in the first place often leads to more successful, less stressful relationships. While it might be possible to manage a pig through dominance, we should be aware, scientifically, of what dominance actually is, so that we know what to expect. Attaining dominance over a pig won't lead to a pig that automatically behaves and stops getting into trouble.

It *will* lead to a pig that is sneaky and devious about getting what he wants.

~ by <http://www.positivelypigs.com/blog> ~ continued on next page ~





Understanding Dominance, Part 2

~ by PositivelyPigs.com (used by permission)

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One of the central tenets of dominance theory, with any animal, is that we should model our own behavior off of that of another animal in order to effectively "speak the animals' language" so that they understand us. Whether we utilize dominance theory or not, it is easy to appreciate the notion that acting like a conspecific might be worth trying (especially if we are at our wit's end, dealing with a problem pig). However, if the goal is to behave like a herdmate would, we must ensure that our actions truly are "what another pig would do." Fortunately, there is a significant amount of research into the social structure and behavior of both wild, feral, and domestic pigs, to which we can compare our current ideas and better understand any deficiencies in our current applications of dominance theory.

Unfailingly, when someone is told that they need to gain dominance over their pig by behaving like another pig, they are told that they must randomly make the pig leave the bed, because this is what another pig would do. It might seem to make sense at first glance... in theory, a dominant pig controls the resources, and so would therefore control whether another pig could sleep in the bed. But what does current research into pig behavior tell us?

In reality, current research tells us that pigs belonging to a herd actually sleep in communal nests. While in fact a dominant pig MAY well push another pig away from a food source, pigs that belong to the same herd DONT seem to kick each other out of the sleeping area. As prey animals, communal nesting is an important adaptation to help provide social support and protection from predators - it doesn't make sense, from a survival point of view, to randomly make your herd mates leave the nest. You would both be in a more vulnerable state and more prone to being attacked and eaten by a predator. Studies have shown that even in large herds where the pigs form smaller subgroups to forage during the day (which allows easier maintenance of dominance hierarchies), the pigs all return to the same resting area at night. Additionally, these studies show that resting preference locations don't seem to correlate to social status within the herd - that is, the dominant pigs do not seem to exert 'dominance' over the lower ranking pigs in the sleeping area! So where does this idea come from?

Perhaps the impression lies in the behavior of artificial social groups of pigs that are set up in close confinement systems, especially on production hog farms. Unfamiliar, unbonded pigs from different groups that are randomly and abruptly thrown together absolutely will chase each other out of the bed. But why would we want to treat our pet pig like an unfamiliar competitor? Moreover, even when two pigs fight after they are first introduced, they almost always settle down and start sleeping in the same area after they have become familiar with one another. As social animals, pigs are biologically hardwired to seek companionship and the security that nesting with herdmates brings.

Perhaps the notion also lies in the fact that pigs are indeed noisy, do jostle each other and do sometimes head-swipe each other when they are all settling down for the night. But that's generally just pig-speak for "Hey! I'm trying to sleep! Quit moving around so much!" You might get annoyed and nudge or sharply tell your spouse to stop jostling the bed, but you certainly wouldn't randomly get up at night and make your spouse get out of the bed over and over again!

Conversely, if we are to accept that pig behavior and social dominance within a stable social group doesn't ordinarily involve chasing herd mates out of the nest, and we have a pig that chases us away from the bed, what might this tell us? Unfortunately, it leaves us with this perhaps disconcerting realization: A pig that is chasing a person from the bed probably doesn't view that person as a herd-mate, and therefore probably isn't trying to climb any social ladder... consequently, dominance theory wouldn't make sense in this application. More likely, a pig that aggressively chases someone away from the bed may view that person as a threat and is trying to scare that threatening thing away (and don't forget - if the behavior is happening repeatedly, it IS being reinforced!).

Of course, there are no hard and fast rules about the best ways to manage our pet pigs. There is undoubtedly some logic in behaving like the animal in order to more effectively communicate. But we should be very careful about asserting that something should be done because it's "what pigs do" when in fact that may very well not be the case. ~ by <http://www.positivelypigs.com/blog>

GREAT VIDEO: Counter Conditioning Aggressive Potbellied Pigs: <https://youtu.be/APunihATG6Y>

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Understanding Dominance, Part 3

~ by PositivelyPigs.com (used by permission)

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When we talk about dominance aggression in pigs, there is often a combination of traits that seem to lend to this description easily. These pigs usually seem confident and will actively approach people, only to charge, snap or bite at the last moment. It's easy to assume this type of pig must be dominant, because a fearful pig certainly wouldn't actively approach a person, would it? Well, probably not. But what about a conflicted pig?

Let's say I'm a new pig parent. I've done my homework and have read that pigs, because they are herd animals, often try to become dominant towards people or other pets too. I've been told, too, that in order to avoid this problem, I need to be 'top-pig' in our relationship, and so should randomly show dominance or make him move out of my way.

Because I want to do my best to be a good pig-parent, I start utilizing these techniques - maybe even before I see any signs of bad behavior. That should allow me to build a strong relationship with my pig right from the start, right? So why do so many pig-parents who utilize these dominance-based techniques have so many instances of aggression develop in their pets? Perhaps they aren't 'good enough' or 'convincing enough' as top pig? Consider though, that often even success with these techniques means a never-ending cycle of needing to show the pig every now and again who is boss. After all - if we assume that it's just in a pig's nature to try to become dominant towards people; indeed, we WILL need to spend a lifetime occasionally battling the pig for dominance.

First - Let me state plainly: Using dominance-based techniques doesn't make someone a bad pig parent, and it certainly may work for some. Pigs are difficult, smart, and challenging and there is no one right way to parent (whether it's pigs, dogs, kids or anything else for that matter!). We are all just trying our best to keep our porcine-friends happy and healthy. And none of us bring a pig into the house unless we genuinely love them and enjoy their company. But therein lies the key to perhaps understanding why unwanted aggression is so often labeled as 'dominance' when in fact, I believe it is often conflict-related aggression instead. After all, it's very easy to see how these behaviors could seem dominant. If pig actually approaches you and then bites, he's obviously not fearful, right? Perhaps, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the pig is displaying dominance-aggression either.

In the typical house-hold where dominance-based behavior modification techniques are utilized, and where aggression develops (either before or after these techniques are employed), I tend to see this type of scenario:

(1) Pig loves his owners, as pigs do- we all know that pigs form very strong bonds with their people. Pig loves to have people give him belly-rubs and learns to approach them for treats, food and affection. Pig being a pig though... he does still get into mischief. And many of us are accidentally inconsistent with training. Maybe sometimes begging is ignored or punished, and maybe sometimes it earns a (dropped) treat.

(2) Once Pig starts misbehaving, his owners often double-down on showing dominance or maybe just begin utilizing dominance-based techniques or punishments to try to stop pig from getting into trouble. They randomly move the pig around, perhaps even barking at him, stomping their feet randomly, etc, if he doesn't move immediately when they want him to; or swat him on the nose or yell at him when he is misbehaving. So now for the pig, laying in bed may either earn him a belly rub or it may mean getting randomly kicked out of said bed.

So... how does pig know at any given time whether you're "nice-person who wants to give him a belly rub" versus "unpredictable-person who is chasing him out of his bed"? Pig still VERY MUCH loves his people. He's just very conflicted. He approaches you because he likes you, wants a belly rub, etc (or maybe because he's been inadvertently taught that begging equals treats)... but because he is conflicted and confused about what type of treatment may be coming his way - he reflexively bites or snaps once he gets to you- just in case you were going to do something he deems unpleasant like show dominance or punish him instead of giving him affection or treats.

We have seen this with many pigs, but one particular long-term resident here comes to mind: The pig in question was surrendered because he was large and INCREDIBLY aggressive. He had bitten multiple people and drawn blood. He is ALSO incredibly outgoing and is the first one to run up to new people. These two behaviors combined seem to shout 'dominant', right? A very large, confident pig who runs up to people and then bites and snaps?

Well, in his case - he's actually not 'dominant' at all towards people. He just LOVES people. He was well socialized as a piglet. But he was also spoiled rotten and started biting when he wasn't getting his way. Once the previous owners started using dominance-based techniques, he became uncontrollable and dangerous. But because at one time, he had positive relationships with people, he still actively sought people out. However, once he reached them, his brain would start screaming something like, "wait! stop! They're going to do something unpleasant!" and then he would lash out, just in case...

Many years later- he is a dream. He doesn't receive any aversive measures here (he also isn't spoiled! Remember, PREVENT problem behaviors first!). He doesn't bite, charge or snap at people, and hasn't for many years, despite us not using dominance-based training methods. If he was truly 'dominant', we wouldn't have just been able to stop using dominance-based training methods.

But he, like many pigs, wasn't trying to be dominant... he was just conflicted. Of course, once a pig has started biting or showing other signs of serious aggression, it's not so simple to resolve. In this particular case, it included significant outdoor time & mental stimulation, a very structured routine including NO accidental reinforcement of these unwanted behaviors (not through the use of punishment, but rather through modifying the environment so that the pig didn't have access to things that caused the problems, like being underfoot while people were eating... and actually in the beginning, he was kept away from all people except for very controlled interactions so that he couldn't practice those unwanted behaviors), and counter-conditioning new, appropriate responses to people along with being VERY consistent in never using aversives or punishment. This pig needed leadership, for sure - but he also needed to learn that he could CONSISTENTLY trust that any interactions with people would be positive or neutral. The appeal of dominance-based methods is that they are fast; show dominance and the bad behavior will stop, often very quickly. Unfortunately, from my experience, in actuality, it's a very short-term solution and the aggression almost always comes back even more severely down the road.

Inconsistent interactions with our porcine friends often lead to inconsistent behaviors from the pigs themselves. Pigs thrive on consistency, both in routine and in their expectations of how people behave toward them. A well-mannered pig is often simply the manifestation of a combination of a consistent routine, the prevention of unwanted behaviors before they happen, and a firm understanding of expectations, both of the behaviors expected of the pig, as well as the behaviors that the pig can expect from his humans. ~ ~ ~ from <http://positivelypigs.com/blog> (date 5-12-16)





The Snapping, Swiping, Biting Piglet...

~ by PositivelyPigs.com (used by permission)

We all know that a pig is essentially the equivalent of a toddler. And what do toddlers do? Touch EVERYTHING. A pig uses their mouth and nose just like a toddler uses his hands. Of course, we don't necessarily want Piglet to bite and nose everything in his path, but using punishment isn't always the best way to discourage these behaviors either. I receive a lot of questions from people with new piglets who are worried because the piglet snaps when they try to touch his face. Is the piglet being dominant? Aggressive? What possible reason could a piglet have for biting and snapping when their owner is just trying to show affection?

Keep in mind that pigs are incredibly curious. They are extremely intelligent animals with an EXTREMELY LIMITING body-shape. They don't have hands, arms or any other means of investigating like we do. Even dogs and cats have enough mobility in their front legs to reach their face and head. Pigs aren't so lucky... most pigs can, at most (barely), reach their chin with their front hooves. They have poor eyesight and so can't necessarily rely on vision to investigate things either. What they do have is a snout and mouth. Don't assume that every snap or bite is aggression-based or because a pig wants to dominate you. Pigs use their mouths and snouts for MANY different behaviors. Using punishment in many instances only makes a pig more nervous and anxious and can lead to significant behavior problems down the road.

Back to that snapping, swiping, biting piglet... **Let's consider a couple of scenarios:**

Scenario A: You're resting calmly in bed, and you're almost asleep. You feel something brush against your face. What do you do? Maybe you reach up with your hand to see what it is, or brush it away. You realize it was just a stray hair, and so you brush it away, or ignore it, and go to sleep. No big deal. You investigated, found it was nothing to worry about, and went on with things. The next time you feel this sensation, you just ignore it- you know it's just a hair, nothing to worry about!

Scenario B: Let's say piglet is in bed. He is too cute, and you want to pet him while he's lying there! Who can resist that adorable little baby?! You reach over and touch his face, and he whips his mouth around and swipes at you. WHOA! Why did he do that? Well, remember, piglet doesn't have hands. He uses his mouth to investigate things. He's a pig- having a person touch his face while he's sleeping is NOT something that pigs are born expecting. That's a new thing for him and he's curious and maybe a little nervous! If we proceed by gently and slowly desensitizing him to this, he will likely learn that having people touching/petting him is really great and relaxing.

Okay now let's explore these slightly different scenarios:

It's Scenario A again: You're calmly resting in bed. You're almost asleep and you feel something brush against your face. You go to brush it away - well, guess what - it's a spider, and it bites you as you touch it! YIKES!! It startles you and also hurts! Now you're nervous and anxious the next time you lay down. How will you react the next time you feel something brushing against your face? Will you assume it's something benign and ignore it? Probably not... You'll likely react even more aggressively, jumping up and swatting at it because you are anticipating a negative experience, and are worried you might get hurt again! It's important to note that EVEN IF it isn't a spider next time, you will likely assume that IT COULD BE - one bad experience will change how you react to that sensation for a long while in the future, even if next time it IS only a stray hair brushing your face.

Okay, let's go back to Piglet. Piglet is relaxing in bed. He feels something touch his face, and tries to grab it with his mouth to see what it is. You respond by punishing the "bad" behavior by swatting him on the nose, scolding him, or kicking him out of the bed. Well, now Piglet has learned that something touching his face when he's in bed, means that something bad is going to happen, much like the spider in the previous scenario. Can you really blame Piglet for preemptively biting more aggressively the next time you try and touch his face? Remember how you reacted after you were bitten by the spider?

My preference for dealing with this behavior is twofold: first, I simply ignore it. If Piglet is doing it because he's curious, eventually he'll get used to it and won't bother investigating. Secondly, I work on generally desensitizing the pig to having his face touched. I start by giving the pig a belly rub, and then working up to the jaw line. Once Piglet is okay with that, then I begin touching the cheek/snout area. I continue to progress (at the pig's comfort level) to the nose & mouth. It may take only a few sessions or it may take a few weeks. Don't rush it. It's important for a pig to accept having his mouth inspected, and having his ears and eyes checked and cleaned, and if he associates those things with pleasant activities like belly rubs and scratches, he'll be much more willing to allow it. If he expects punishment when people are touching his face, he will react accordingly by being defensive.

Remember that because pigs have such a limiting body and must use their snouts and mouths to do nearly everything, it's incredibly damaging to immediately label any and all biting or swiping behaviors as 'aggression' and/or 'dominance' related. Consider the many other things a pig might be attempting to do when they utilize these behaviors. Responding with punishment may take a perfectly innocent, investigatory bite and turn it into a truly defensive, aggressive bite the next time. Of course, force-free training does NOT equal permissive parenting, and I never allow biting behavior to continue, regardless of the reason. A careful understanding and thoughtful response, rather than a reactionary punishment, can go a long way in building a trust-based, positive relationship between a pig and his human....





Know Your Mushrooms

Before they kill you or your animals

In California, Poisonous Death Cap Mushrooms Are The Forager's Bane

FROM: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/03/20/470825175/in-california-poisonous-death-cap-mushrooms-are-the-foragers-bane?sc=tw>

WARNING!
POISONOUS MUSHROOMS!
DON'T MAKE A DEADLY MISTAKE!

Death Cap
Amanita phalloides

Destroying Angel
Amanita bisporigera

KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS



Mature death caps

Donna Davis thought she had hit the jackpot with the two bags of mushrooms she collected in the woods of Northern California's Salt Point State Park. Instead, she ended up in the hospital, facing the possibility of a liver transplant, after mistakenly eating a poisonous mushroom known as the death cap.

The 55-year-old life coach and her boyfriend had collected chanterelles, matsutakes and hedgehog mushrooms, all sought-after edible species.

That night, Davis made mushroom soup for herself, her boyfriend and a group of their friends. "It was amazingly delicious," Davis says. So good, in fact, that she had two bowls.

And she felt fine. Until the next afternoon.

"I slept for three days," says Davis, of her illness in December 2014. "I was kind of in and out of it, just drinking water and not being able to really hold anything down."

When she dragged herself to a mirror, she realized she had turned yellow. Davis isn't the first or only forager who has fallen victim to the death cap.

Between 2010 and 2015, five people died in California and 57 became sick after eating these unassuming greenish mushrooms, according to the California Poison Control System. One mushroom cap is enough to kill a human being, and they're also poisonous to dogs.

"Dogs die in droves," says Debbie Viess of the Bay Area Mycological Society.

The trouble is, people feel fine for six to 12 hours after they've eaten death caps, says Dr. Kent Olson, the co-medical director of the San Francisco Division of the California Poison Control System. But during that time, a toxin in the mushroom is quietly injuring their liver cells. Patients then develop severe abdominal

pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

"They can become very rapidly dehydrated from the fluid losses," says Olson. Dehydration can cause kidney failure, which compounds the damage to the liver.

When Davis went to the hospital, doctors put her on intravenous fluids. They also pumped her stomach full of activated charcoal to help absorb the poison out of her body, although some doctors question the usefulness of this treatment when many hours have elapsed since the poisoning occurred.

For the most severe cases, the only way to save the patient is a liver transplant, says Olson. (Davis didn't end up needing one and went home before Christmas.)

Researchers are looking for better treatments. One group of scientists is testing the drug "silibinin," which can protect a patient's liver and make a transplant unnecessary. And other scientists are trying to learn more about death caps - hoping to find a weakness they can exploit to defeat them.

If you pull the adult mushroom out of the ground, "it has a cute little cup on the bottom of the stem called a volva that holds it up," said Adams. "And it definitely smells like food." ~ continued on next page ~



Death cap mushrooms have gills from which they launch spores in order to reproduce



Death cap mushrooms - bottom of stem upside down



A piece of tissue called the annulus helps identify the death cap mushroom. The annulus can be shaped like a little skirt, or like a ring, as in this photo

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Know Your Mushrooms

Before they kill you or your animals

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One mushroom cap is enough to kill a human being, and they're also poisonous to dogs. Death caps are believed to be the number one cause of fatal mushroom poisonings worldwide. (**Editor's Note: We know that pigs love to forage.... a fellow pig owner told me her pig died from ingesting poisonous mushrooms... so please beware where and what your pigs forage**).

As many fungi do, death cap mushrooms live off of trees, in what's called a mycorrhizal relationship. They send filaments deep down to the trees' roots, where they attach to the very thin root tips. The fungi absorb sugars from the trees and give them nutrients in exchange.

The death caps arrived in California from Europe as early as the 1930s and '40s, says Anne Pringle, a biologist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She discovered this timeline through genetic testing of death cap samples collected in California during this era. She says death caps likely sneaked into California from Europe attached to the roots of imported plants - and they got really comfortable, spreading all over the state.

Through genetic testing, Pringle is trying to better understand how death caps propagate, and how long they live. **In mushroom-producing fungi like the death cap, much of their body lies under the earth's surface.** (The mushrooms are just there to help the fungus spread spores and reproduce.) Pringle wants to know how long the underground bits last - would simply plucking the mushrooms to prevent them from spreading their spores through the air be enough to kill off individual death cap fungi? Or is the death cap more resilient - does each individual develop a vast underground network that would be near-impossible to eradicate? For now, it's looking like the death caps are here to stay.



Death caps under a tree - Death caps are popping up in California year-round in irrigated areas like gardens and under trees

With this year's mushroom foraging season well underway, health workers and experts are warning aficionados to be careful. Death caps, which are abundant in California, can easily be confused for other edible mushrooms, growing mainly under coast live oaks. Death caps have also been found under pines, and in Yosemite Valley under black oaks.

And it's not just amateurs who mistake death caps for edible mushrooms like coccora or paddy straws. "I've seen expert mycologists arguing good-naturedly about whether a mushroom they were looking at was the deadly one," says Dr. Kent Olson, co-medical director of the San Francisco Division of the California Poison Control System. "At certain stages of development, the mushrooms can be confused."

In hindsight, Davis thinks she confused young death cap mushrooms which have a rounded yellowish-green cap, for hedgehog mushrooms, which are yellow and rounded. Mature death cap mushrooms are big, smooth and an olive green color.

Hedgehog and death cap mushrooms are fairly different-looking. While hedgehogs don't have any gills - ribs under the mushroom cap - death caps do have gills.

"It is easy for folks to make ID mistakes," says Viess, "which is why I encourage strong caution for beginners."

"Assume nothing, and learn for several seasons before you eat any wild mushrooms," warns Viess from the Bay Area Mycological Society. "Use good, regional books, find a mentor, and have your initial IDs checked by more knowledgeable and trusted identifiers."

As for Davis, after temporarily losing her taste for mushrooms, she is now looking forward to foraging again. But she says she'll be much more cautious and "I don't need to collect all that I see," she says. "I'm good with just, you know, a handful."

For more info, see:

<http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2016/02/23/this-mushroom-starts-killing-you-before-you-even-realize-it/>

http://bayareamushrooms.org/mushroommonth/amanita_phalloides.html

<https://youtu.be/bl9aCH2QaQY> (KQED YouTube Video)

<http://www.namyco.org/poisonings.php>

<http://www.mushroomexpert.com/index.html>





Potbellied Pigs and Dogs



Pigs and dogs can get along, but for the pigs sake they should **NEVER** be left alone together. They should always be supervised. Now why do we say this?

Dogs are predators by nature and pigs are prey. If something upsets the dog, and it is the pig, it is natural for the dog to attack. And sometimes it is the pig that starts things, but the dog will finish it.

They should **NEVER** be fed close to each other.

If you are not going to be around, make sure you have your dog and pig separated. We know of one pig who almost had his face ripped off by a dog. This happened over food. So, if you are going to have a pig(s) and a dog (s), just know that you **MUST** supervise them constantly. **NEVER LEAVE THEM ALONE TOGETHER!**

While some dogs do well when pigs are young, there comes a time when the dog has something the pig wants (like food) and pig will not back off like another dog. Then there is a problem.

While some dogs tolerate the pig, they also get their blood in an uproar when or if that piglet starts screaming. Even the best natured dog can lose it with a pig. Not that the pig doesn't ask for it because they won't back off, but that's of no help to the pig when the dog decides he has had enough.

Almost every week there are E-Mails of a dog somewhere who has killed or hurt a pig. Many times it is a dog and pig that have lived together for years. But, something happens and the pig pays the price.

Even the most well-behaved dog can blow his cool and the pig **WILL** pay the price. Then there are dogs that will run a fence with the pigs on the other side and literally run the piglets to death. That pig scream is an open invitation to a dog. There are people that have lucked out, but the luck may not be everyone's and again it's not worth the risk. Anytime you put two species together with one being predator and one being prey you can have problems.

Potbellies normally adjust quite well to joining a home with other pets. Being herd animals they tend to adopt the other animals in the household as part of their herd. Cats are rarely affected by the introduction of a pet pig. But dogs can be a different matter. Some dogs, not all, have a great sense of the "hunt". They see it as their natural job. It is best to **NEVER** leave a pet pig alone with the family dog until there is no question that the dog and the pig are friends. It should be remembered that pigs and dogs speak different languages

and use different methods to express what they are thinking. The piglet may Misinterpret the good intentions of the dog and the dog may frighten the piglet by just trying to play with it.

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Potbellied Pigs and Dogs

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Sometimes the pet dog decides that it is his "job" to hunt down and attack the pig. The new pig owner needs to be prepared to ward off the dog's attack, should one occur. Potbellied pigs have no defense against dog attack. They are not as agile as dogs and cannot stand up on their hind legs to fight back like the dog. Because it is a prey animal, the pet pig does not fight back. Running is the pig's only defense in this situation. A running pig can cause the dog to flip into his perceived role as a hunter. The dog will chase the pig. Should this occur, it is imperative to stop the dog immediately and to train the pet dog not to chase the pig. Not all dogs respond in this manner. Certainly a non-aggressive pet dog can be trained to not chase or hurt the piglet. Occasionally the hunting instinct in the dog is just too great and the pig and the dog are forced to lead separate lives. This all depends on the nature of the dog and the training by the pet owner. On the other hand incidents of the pig harming the dog is very rare. It is suggested that the safest combination is when the dog's nature is not predatory or aggressive.

In all situations, the unfamiliar dog is the one to be concerned about. The pet pig should be provided a secure fenced area that will protect it from the dangers of a stray dog. When you are out in public or at someone else's home, where you are not sure how the dog will act, it is wise to have a good pig harness and lead on the pig. At the first sign of aggressive behavior or too rough "playing" by the dog, the pet pig needs to be removed from the dog's presence. The harness and lead will help the pet owner do this. An aggressive situation can turn badly very quickly, so it is better to be



overly cautious than to ignore the possibility of a hurt or killed potbellied pig; many pigs have been injured or even killed by dogs. Some of our members have rescued pigs with ears & tails torn off, deep gashes, some pigs are blind or deaf due to dog attacks. Please, even if your pig(s) and dog(s) seem to be getting along great, you never know when the dog will turn on the pig. Be advised, we hear stories all the time of pigs and dogs who have "always" gotten along until one day

.....

Just a few examples of what can happen when pigs are mauled by dogs





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The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be: To provide advocacy, action, and necessary support towards attaining the best quality of life for pigs as pets; to supply education about the pig and pigs as pets to current pig owners, prospective pig owners, the general public, civic partners, and community partners; to give back to the needs of the community through services provided by SCAMPP and collaborations with SCAMPP, with the interest of the breed incorporated into these endeavors; and to continuously enhance the association to meet these objectives and purposes.

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Name: _____ Your Birthday (year not necessary) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Do you have potbellied pig(s)? If so, how many? _____ Age(s)? _____

Pigs Names and birthdates _____

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