



All I want for Christmas...

Pumba wasn't always blind or eyeless. In September, 2011, Pumba was 1 year old, being used as a breeder and was papa to 6 piglets by a backyard breeder. VPP was called by the owner because they were being cited by Animal Control for illegal breeding and a zoning violation for having more than their allotted one pig. When I got there pigs were running everywhere and being fed out of only 2 pie pans! Two of the piglets were tiny and thin but none were tame! The owner reluctantly signed them over and I took Pumba and the two runts and the other

healthy 4 other piglets went to another rescue. They were about 3 months old so they all went straight to the vet's office for vaccinations, chipping & spay/neutering. When I brought them home I asked the vet about what looked like cataracts in Pumba and Percy, one of his piglets. She said she hadn't heard of cataracts in young pigs/piglets but it actually looked like a lens condition and I should find a specialist. After healing Pumba & Percy went to an eye surgeon who confirmed that they had a congenital lens luxation which he had never heard of or could find any information on in pigs so he could not give me a prognosis. He quoted me \$2500 to hopefully fix the problem! I could not believe I had another "odd" medical condition after Reggie's seizures that just costed an arm and a leg! By luck, a local animal foundation gave us a grant for \$2000 and I thought the surgery was on! Pre-op was scheduled and all of a sudden the cost ballooned to \$7500, \$3000 alone for Percy's one bad eye! I almost fell over dead! Since I had raised the \$2500 already, there was no going back. I fundraised at the Pet-a-Palooza, held Facebook Auctions and raised a total of \$6000! We also changed eye surgeons to a vet who could work with our funds including the \$500 pre-ops! Yay! Finally in June Percy got his lens removal surgery but by the time I was able to do Pumba's surgery he had almost no vision left. Glaucoma had set in and we decided to totally remove his eyes to prevent further



infection and complications. There was no going back, too many people had donated too much money and I hoped for the best! I decided not to change anything in his area so he could hopefully smell the familiarity when he got home! It paid off big! He slept most of the first day but by the second day, except for walking into walls and pillars, he was like the energizer bunny! He just kept on going, walking along perimeters, smelling his way around! His hearing actually started to get better about a month later I noticed and I really felt he would be

fine! But who would adopt this sweet blind piggy? Facebook has been a godsend! I had never met this couple but had helped them fundraise for someone else's pig months before. They started as donors and followed Pumba's progress through his whole process! One night I got an email that asked about how hard would it be to adopt him and they had talked about it for months prior to his surgery! I could not believe my ears. I posted updates and pictures and as time went on, there was a post that they really really wanted to give Pumba that "forever home"! They posted pictures of the yard and house area where he would live, dug out every obstacle a blind pig could encounter! On December 15th one of Pumba's parents flew in with a friend, spent a couple days getting to know Pumba and drove him back almost 2000 miles to Mississippi! He never made a peep and they drove straight through for 27 hours! From the moment he stepped out of his crate, he was home! A Christmas wish I was happy to grant because there really is a perfect home for the perfect pig!



Crystal KimHan
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Merry Christmas!