



How we Celebrated National Pig Day, March 1st, 2009!
VegasPigPets makes a trek to Utah with a Final Destination to Mack, Colorado!

It actually started last year... I got a placement call for a pig named Peyton. She was "rescued" by an ex-boyfriend and just left at his ex's home. She was kept in a outdoor chain link dog kennel but wanted out to the point where she destroyed the bottoms of the fencing. They said it was too much of a chore to get her back in, so there she had to stay. She seemed friendly enough on my first visit, but very apprehensive. She also looked like she was abused at some point in her life, part of her head was pushed in and part of her ear was missing. It took a little while, but soon after, she was flopping for belly rubs and seemed to really want attention. She just didn't seem to want to stand still! I had my vet assess and vaccinate her and she got a clean bill of health. We got a few offers for her, unfortunately winter was approaching and she would have to wait til the snow season was over. The owners agreed... Phew, what a relief! I hoped the family could take it that long! As soon as the weather got milder, Laura Hernbloom, who has rescued other pigs, big and small, put out my plight again but this time no one stepped forward. I was afraid that due to the economy and the amount of abandoned, unwanted and abused pigs had filled the sanctuaries and homes I could place her in! I almost gave up... But then, Sioux from Pig-a-Sus Sanctuary in Mack, CO emailed and said she would take them as soon as the snow was gone! That was ok, we had a ray of hope! No sooner did I get the offer for Peyton, Maggie came along. The owner was foreclosing and Maggie was just like Peyton, she just could not stay still! Again, not exactly pet material! But once more, Sioux offered to take both of them! What a godsend! Then I thought, Colorado? How am I going to get them all the way up there by myself? Eeeks! Then, another small miracle happened, Yvonne from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, manager of their Piggy Paradise up in Kanab, UT offered to help! What a relief, I thought, that's about halfway there! So, I took her up on her offer! I had almost a month to get them prepared for their trip. Another godsend, the Bradley's stepped up and offered to house both of them and try to get them to like each other before our transport. The health certificates were done and we were set! I also decided to sneak the trip in with Yvonne so I could see and meet this wonderful woman taking in pigs that I could not adopt out!

The day before we were set to leave, I got an email from Mary at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in Arizona... someone had emailed her regarding a piglet they rescued (5 of his 6 siblings were already killed by the parents and he was starving to death) from a so-called "Sanctuary" out by Tule Springs here in Vegas! The piglet was only a few weeks old and still needed to be hand-fed! What in the world was happening? I thought, I can't hand-feed this little piglet now, I will be traveling for 3 days! Gosh, now what?! But again, Sioux stepped in and said "bring him, too!" How many miracles can happen? I couldn't believe it! The family who rescued Napoleon (nicknamed, Hitcher Hawg, now named Tobias) already had him vet checked (another miracle as they only had him for 3 days) and met me at the Bradley's... piglet in hand and formula ready for our long road trip! I fed the two girls some food "laced" with Pig-B-Calm, an all natural, vitamin feed supplement meant to help calm the pigs on transports just like this... loaded the girls and the piglet up... and off we went to Kanab, UT! Everyone made the trip wonderfully, the girls slept through most of the trip and the thanks to the Bradley's who fed the piglet one more time before leaving, Tobias also slept the whole way! We transferred everyone to Yvonne's horse trailer, put the piglet in her backseat, and off we went, headed for Mack, CO! We arrived right before sundown, but that was ok, we had just enough daylight to put the girls into their quarantined area and Sioux ran Tobias in and got him fed and happy!

We decided to stay overnight before our drive back to Kanab, so we could tour the Pigasus' facilities and celebrate, not just National Pig Day... but an even more special day, it was also Sioux' birthday! What an honor it was (and gosh, the amount of work!) She was already out feeding by the time we arrived in the morning, but wow, there were a lot of hungry pigs to feed! It's very eye-opening to see what kind of dedication it takes to care for 65+ pigs (now 68 with my 3), plus a lot of the pigs are special needs, including one pig that has asthma and needs her daily "inhaler" meds! On my way back to Vegas, I also got to tour the Best Friends Piggy Paradise! What great improvements Yvonne has made there in just the last few years! The pigs have large pens, room for walks, and lots of volunteers! What an awesome accomplishment from just a few years ago!

I think all "pet" pig breeders should be required to visit a sanctuary like this and maybe "irresponsible" breeding will stop! I cannot reiterate this enough, that all breeders can spay/neuter their piglets as young as 6 weeks old, so why not stop the madness and carelessness! Sanctuaries like Pigasus and Best Friends can only accept so many unwanted pigs and they are all overly full! We, as the human race, are the only ones that can make responsible decisions and remember, before buying one of these "cute" "adorable" piglets like Tobias... THEY GROW UP! And please, current pig owners, also remember that one day you may not be able to keep your pig, even with the best intentions, please have your pig spayed/neutered because females go into heat every 21 days and they don't make very good pets at that time, and it's a medical fact is that they develop uterine tumors and other medical problems in their later years when not spayed, costing you even more money! As for the males, they are always in "heat" if they not neutered and besides eliminating that "male odor", they make the most wonderful pets when fixed! Piggpets are a 15-20 year commitment, a commitment you may not be able to fulfill, so please be a responsible pigpet owner! Help stop the overpopulation of unwanted, abused and neglected pigpets!



Please go to www.pigasus.org to see the wonderful work they do, and at the bottom of the home page, ***“Click here to find out more about the Western Colorado Potbelly Pig Educational Health Center”*** to find out more about the work they do with special needs pigs as well as special needs people!



For more information on the the work Yvonne at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is doing, go to <http://network.bestfriends.org/potbelly/news/>

Vegaspigpets.org would like to thank, Sioux and Rocky, owners of Pigasus Homestead Sanctuary, Yvonne and the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Wes & Kandice Marks, who kindly and generously rescued and took care of Napoleon (now named Tobias), the Bradley family, pigpet rescuer/owners themselves, the supporters who rallied behind Vegaspigpets to find and get these pigs to their new home in Mack, Colorado! We could not have done it without you! Peyton, Maggie, Tobias and Vegaspigpets THINKS you again and again!

Please... Don't buy a Piglet... Adopt a Pigpet!