

Another Happy Ending - Finally!



I remember the day well, I got an email about a couple splitting up and the husband was going to take the house in the divorce. Chauvie, who had been with them for 5 years since he was a baby was about to lose his home. He was already banned from being inside the house, so he was already transitioning to being an outside pig! His mom, forced to move into a condo, sadly could not take Chauvie with her and could not find anyone to take him in. When I called his mom to do his assessment and get his pictures, she really had hoped to find a home here that she could visit him. Because he was a large (not fat) male, I could not be picky as Las Vegas has a 120 pound weight limit. I put him on posters and posted him on my website, Vegaspigpets.org... no bites.

Marlies put him on her petfinder site and lo and behold, two months later someone fell in love with his cute face! Marlies put me in touch with Dee, who was already having a tough time with another adopted pig (and eventually had to put her down due to the pain she was in.). By Thanksgiving, we had it set, I would drive Chauvie to Marlies' house, who was nice enough (again) to allow her house to be the meeting place, and Dee & Steven would drive down from Snelling. We both had a long trip to the Marlies' so we arrived before mid-day to give Chauvie a chance to rest up for his second leg of his journey.

Chauvie who was already harness trained and rode all the time in his owner's car, took the first part of the trip pretty well. He even did well at Marlies' holding area, walked great on a leash and was still as lovable as ever. A couple of hours later, we loaded Chauvie up and Dee and Steven were on their way! Well... almost! Before I could get out of Marlies' driveway, oh my gosh... they were pulling back in! Chauvie decided he did not like the crate and was trying to get in the front seat with Dee! (Because they only had a PT Cruiser and Chauvie was quite big, we decided he would probably be more comfortable without the top of the crate on... wrong!) So out he came, we put the top of the crate back on and squished him back into the crate. It wasn't the most comfortable ride home, but he made it and did fine his first night, went right to bed.

We all would like to think that re-homed pigs are just happy to have a new home... Wrong! As with most abandoned or unwanted pigs, he went through a nasty depression, gashed Dee in the forehead (she said it wasn't his fault) but decided maybe he didn't want a new mommy! He was great with his new dad most of the time, in fact, when he was bad inside of the house, he would be outlawed to the outside porch and Chauvie and Steven would be sitting out there having a man to man talk!

Finally, feeling Dee had no other options, she made a place in the barn for Chauvie and he could bed down next to her horse. Surprisingly, he did fine! Maybe he liked being an outside pig after all! Or maybe he liked that fact that he went from a tiny little backyard to a whole acre to run around in! Dee said that when he is outdoors, he is great, even with the both of them and the dogs, but inside he would do everything a piggy parent hopes their pigs never do! So out he went. I'm sure he wants to be an inside piggy again, but he hasn't learned his manners yet, and thank God for people like Dee, who has been more than patient with him and could have easily given up! Chauvie is finally happy in his new home, still not the "wonderful, perfect" pig his first mom bragged about although we all think our pigs are the most perfect pigs, right?!

I do think we "newbies", in any pig placement, can understand how hard it is for a lot of the pigs to adapt to new homes and it is not anything like adopting a dog... patience and understanding is key and sometimes depression leads to aggression before finally finding that happy home and that special person for that special pig makes for a final Happy Ending! Thanks again Dee and Steven for not giving up! ~ Crystal from Vegas Editor's Note: Welcome Dee and Steven, new SCAMPP Members!!



Chauvie after a long day



Dee and Steven getting acquainted



Renew Your Dues