

# HEARTS ON NOSES

*A Mini-Pig Sanctuary*



The Pigs greet Luvena on her visit to the Sanctuary

# HEARTS ON NOSES: A LETTER FROM JANICE GILLETT

This morning has us surround by snow and a little pig here in the house has been asking to go out, only to return 15 minutes later wanting to come back. He has been out at least four times in the last hour.

I just brought hay out to all the pigs, to keep them warm and it is good grass so they can all eat in bed or is it eat bed??

Don Juan insisted on coming out with me and followed me from piggy paddock to hay storage with snow up to his elbows and a slight frosting on his nose. Buddy, my canine friend, also follows me around but he doesn't pay attention to when I am done. SO there he was accidently locked up and resting under Comet's tree. Silly pooch acts like he has been away from me forever (15 minutes tops) when I spot him and let him out.

All the ice has been kicked out of water tubs and they will be good until dinner time. Then I will kick out the ice again but I will need to bring pails of water out with me to refill as I feed later.

I have found full time work and start in two weeks so I better get a few projects started around here now as there will be no time to spare.

The Vancouver Foundation has awarded us with a \$5000.00 Grant to fund these projects; a much needed hay storage with an area for volunteers to get out of the weather, out door lighting needs and a drainage system to relieve muddy areas.

vancouver  
foundation



Well, we have all been here in Mission for over a year now and I have been able to address some of our major issues thanks to the B.C. Corrections. They have an off site work crew who came to help us with moving gravel and trimming tree branches on top of the perimeter fencing needs. All low profile offenders, dressed in orange coveralls basically came to our rescue several times. Every one of those guys were respectful and polite, not once did I feel uncomfortable. All of them were great with the animals too, kissing horses, playing with the dog and sharing left over's from lunches with the pigs. The Officers in charge are outstanding and who doesn't love a man in uniform!!

I always have my thinking cap on to find ways to bring awareness to our cause, reach new volunteers and source other ways to acquire funding. Having been a lover of garage sale pickings (holding them is a ton of work but also enjoyable) we are now preparing for an-

other at the beginning of April.

We get an assortment of quality items and some do not sell well at these sales and might do better on another forum. For example we have some vintage movie projectors on Craig's List and vintage cuff links on EBay. If you're an EBay buyer please see our items listed under seller name "willmyheart", named in honor after Willy my very first piggy who started this love affair. If you have some good items we only need pictures of them to list them for sale and the buyer, of course, would be paying for the cost of shipping those pieces.

While I type here I am also reading emails as there is a little pig at one of our shelters a little ways from here. I am grateful the shelters do not turn away a pig in need but most are not set up for them. Pigs need soft footing, mounds of hay, and a peaceful surrounding. Thankfully our adopter who was already pre-approved and home checked is on the way to free this little pig and bring her home.

I hope you enjoy this year's newsletter. There is so much to catch up on these few pages and always so much gratitude for the support we receive from our friends and family.

I am watching the horses now as it is windy outside and this brings the scent in from neighboring farms. I have just called out to the pigs "nothing can get you here"...I remind them..." you are safe here".

Thank-you so much for helping me keep them all this way!

*Janice Gillett*

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# EXPONENTIAL LOVE: STEWIE, BOSSY BOOTS, ANGEL & ROCKO



*Above: Stewie looking cute;  
Right: Bossy Boots taking a dip;  
Below: Angel and Rocko relax.*



**T**his is a story of adoption and a love, which began just over two years ago, that has forever changed our family .

My husband Dave was reading his daily paper and learned of a four month old pot bellied pig that was attacked by the owner's dogs. We brought that bouncing baby boy home and named him Stewie. This little guy gave us so much we wanted to give back, so our journey began to find him a friend and we contact-

greedy, we wanted more love! We had learned about a bonded pair of pot bellies from Janice where their owners just simply no longer wanted to care for them. Dave and I set off to pick them up, scheduling a stay at HONS to finally meet Janice in person, and Dave was dying to see forty pigs! This being our first time leaving Stewie and Bossy, I was nervous but could never think of a better place to go. We were in awe by how one woman could do this alone! Even with forty pigs to care for I am sure they all feel as if they were her one and only.

It was hard to leave the sanctuary but it was time to bring our new family members home. Janice came with us to assist with the loading of our two new pigs. Upon our arrival we were traumatized to see the environment and conditions they

ed HONS with our hopes.

Janice knew of a family close to us that was trying to give their pot bellied pig away so they could travel. We were so excited to have Bossy

Boots join our family and Stewie was head over trotters, despite the fact that she did not feel the same. Bossy was hundreds of pounds over weight from been fed hog grower and from no exercise. She was therefore depressed, blind, scared and cranky! With Stewie's persistence, lots of help from Janice and our love, Bossy is doing amazing.

Bossy has loved us back double but we were

were in. Putting emotions aside Janice and Dave crated and loaded quickly so we could get Angel and Rocko home. That night we questioned whether Angel would even make it, the years of neglect became more apparent and so did the fact that Rocko was not neutered as their owners had assured us. This was a huge problem and an unexpected expense.

I called the sanctuary in a panic and Janice to the rescue! HONS covered the neutering of Rocko and the veterinary care/meds for Angel. Angel has severe arthritis but is doing very well now. We now give big belly scratches to Rocko who just months ago we could not touch. They are all smiling and so are we.

**Pam, Dave, Stewie and the gang**

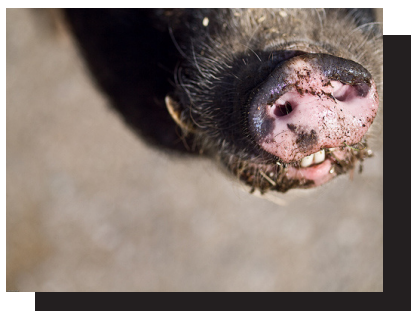
# SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE: KARMAVORE, HON & FRIENDS

I first heard of Hearts on Noses through Karmavore. It was February of 2010 and just the month prior I became vegan. I was looking on Karmavore's site to learn more about them when I saw a bit on HONS. I was immediately intrigued and contacted Janice to see about volunteering. Two weeks later, I got my first dose of pig love. As a vegan, a love of animals is a given, but when you get to be around ones that have been rescued, it brings that love to a whole other love - it really reinforces why you have made the choice to abstain from animals as food and fashion.

Watching Janice and all of her animals together is really a sight that can't be adequately explained. There is such an obvious connection between them that you can't help but smile the whole time you are there. I highly recommend that if you haven't yet had a chance to volunteer, you do so. It will change the way you view these amazing creatures and you will be helping one of the most generous women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Plus, you will walk away with such a sense of peace and happiness that really, you are helping yourself out just as much as you are helping Hearts on Noses.

My goal as a photographer is to one day specialize in shooting vegan food and fashion and really help bring to light the life that vegans live. I was so excited at the opportunity to shoot the amazing Karmavore/Sarah Kramer Fundraiser - Karmavore did such a fantastic job with the event and the lovely Sarah Kramer was on hand to do a meet & greet and sign her fantastic cookbooks and calendars. The night was such a great experience (there were so many people there that at one point, the line was out the door) and a huge success on so many levels. I can't wait for next year's event!

Melissa Fowler  
Melissa Fowler Photography  
[www.melissafowlerphotography.com](http://www.melissafowlerphotography.com)



*Circle of Friends: (from left to right) Janice Gillett, Sarah Kramer, and Karmavore founder Jenny Jam.*



*Karmavore Fundraiser Event: Nancy works the table while Janice talks with friends.*

# A PIG CALLED LENNY

My name is Karena Harvey and I'm a horse trainer and coach in Maple Ridge, B.C. specializing in the Hunter/Jumper discipline. I am also a failed foster mom to a very special pig named Lenny. Janice asked me to write up a little piece to tell a bit about my experience as a horse trainer turned pig fanatic in a few short months!

I met Janice in the Fall of 2009 when she was moving from the original sanctuary location to the current property. I lived only a block away at the time and saw that help was needed with the move. Feeling neighborly

and always being up for an animal adventure I offered the use of my horse trailer to move some of the pigs.

A year later I contacted Janice about a dog rescue matter as I usually have a foster dog or two in my home as well. Of course she was very helpful and I in turn offered to help her out in the future in any way that I could. Not long after that through social networking I saw a post that a foster home was urgently needed for a pig named Lenny. I was hesitant to offer my help at first because I had no experience with pigs whatsoever but there

was a space at my parents' hobby farm that I could use for a pig and with Janice's guidance and being comfortable and experienced around large animals I thought I could do it. So two days later, on December 12, 2010, I was the proud foster parent of a very depressed, grumpy and blind pig. I was instantly in love. Lenny hated me. He had decided at some point in his still young life that he was just going to lay down and wait to die and I was determined not to let him follow through with that plan. The first month with me was filled with depression, aggression and illness. He moved his bed constantly. I contacted Janice daily with questions and had to use every creative tactic I could think of to try and give him some comfort. Slowly I started to see signs of health and happiness. He always perked up when my four year old daughter Bryn was around and I was ecstatic when I got my first tail wag from him. Our big break through was when I caught Lenny trying to scratch his cheek with his hind foot. I jumped in and itched the sweet spot for him and it turned into a ten minute session of grooming with his foot thumping away in pleasure. His always dignified manners earned him the nickname Sir Leonard early on and it's often how I refer to him. He still isn't keen on venturing outside of the barn but for now I am confident in saying that he is a happy pig.

As well as horse trainer, mom and animal foster, I also am an Independent Sales Representative for Silpada sterling silver jewelry and thought that I would use this to add a little silver lining for the pigs (pun completely intended). I will be donating 20% of my retail to Hearts On Noses Mini Pig Sanctuary through the end of March when the pigs are mentioned. Bryn is also hosting a Silpada home party to raise funds. Please check out the jewelry catalogue on my website <http://mysilpada.ca/karena.harvey> and contact me if you are interested in buying something and helping out the pigs!

**Karena Harvey**



# LIFE ON THE ISLAND



When I moved to Vancouver Island in 2009, I knew I would miss Hearts on Noses, Janice, and of course all the piggies – especially the twelve I had fostered for nearly two years. I also knew I would not be breaking my ties with the sanctuary, though I wasn't sure just how I could be of help given the distance and the cost to get to the sanctuary. Clearly, scooping poop and helping feed was not an option.

It wasn't long before Janice figured out a way to make sure I continued to be a piggy advocate. After my first island rescue, in which I helped transport and place an abandoned pig Janice had been contacted about, Janice named me "Vancouver Island Liaison".

That's all it took. Never one to take a title lightly, I figured I'd better do something to earn it. And so when I heard of a rescue event being held in Victoria, an hour or so down island from me, I suggested I participate on behalf of Hearts on Noses. It was being hosted by Your Pet Pals, a pro-rescue, holistic pet store, and rescues were invited to set up tables to inform the public about their organizations, hold meet-and-greets with their adoptable animals, and sell fund-raising products if they wished.

The mild climate and beautiful scenery on the

island make it a popular destination for tourists, and where there are tourists, there are petting zoos. Lots of them. All over the island. And where there are petting zoos, there are potbellied pigs. Perpetually Pregnant Potbellied Pigs who deliver their piglets to delight the children and make money for the petting zoo owners. Unfortunately, those piglets grow quickly and petting zoos are a seasonal affair, and soon the piglets are being sold or given away, usually unneutered and unsplayed, to people who know little about pigs and soon end up dumping them in some other unsuspecting, unsuitable home – or worse, abandoning them in a field with little or no care. So the chance to educate the public, for this retired teacher, was a welcome opportunity.

On a quick trip to the mainland, I picked up a box of supplies from Janice – some items to sell, lots of photos to display, some brochures and business cards. I also prepared some of my own resources - a large stand-up display board with photos and information, handouts for prospective adopters or those just wanting to know more about mini pigs, and a mind full of anecdotes with which to entertain and educate. I was ready. I set off early, driving the beautiful Malahat highway south on a sunny cloudless day. The parking lot was cordoned off, and tables set up, with lots of space for those who had brought cats and rats



and ferrets and dogs to set up kennels and cages and exercise pens. How I wished Roy-Roy or Fizzy or any one of 'my' twelve could have come along! Or Janice's Casanova with his fancy blue ruffle and big kissable snout!

We attracted quite a crowd. Some donated money, some bought trinkets, many read the informational display and oohed and ahhed over the photos, lots asked questions. If even one person became a sponsor, or spread news about the sanctuary, or thought twice about whether a pig was the right pet for them, it would have been worthwhile. Instead, many people learned something new that day and left with memories that pigs are great pets too, but only for the right home and the right people. Pigs deserve the love and care that every sentient being deserves. And Victoria is now a little the wiser.

I'll do it again in a heartbeat. In fact, Hearts on Noses, represented by yours truly, will be part of a huge rescue entry in Victoria's famous Victoria Day parade this year. If you're on the island – watch for us!

**Jean Ballard**

**<http://mylifewiththecritters.blogspot.com>**

# NEW ARRIVALS

## *Panda's Freedom*

I went into a second hand store to purchase a much needed old style wood play pen. I introduced myself to the shop keeper and she told me about a friend of hers who has a pig that was self mutilating itself. She went on about how it was very sad as the pig had bloody ears and a bloody tail. I was horrified and tried to keep my cool and told her it sounded like the barn this pig was in must be infested with rats as I don't know any species that could chew its own tail off or even ears for that matter. "Oh yes", she went on, "there are a lot of rats."

This pig was kept in a barn, in a cement well of sorts, perhaps to hold feed or water in earlier times. There was no escaping the rats that must have crawled over him nightly as they chewed his ears down to rounds and his tail right off.

To see the joy in this pig when he arrived here and when realized he could come in and out of his house at will was a sight to behold. To see the giddiness of an animal when a bale of hay was added to his bed, he rolled and danced in the deep grass like a cat high on cat nip. With his pen doorway open he walked outside and then raced back in his house only to race back out and buck in pleasure at his new found freedom. His first few days here I would catch him laying in the sun, not facing his new world, but his home that didn't prison him.

## *Sherman*

Sherman's human family contacted me the day the family home burnt down. When he arrived he wanted out of the trailer and was climbing the barricade to get out. Not normal behavior, unless this pig was not neutered. I asked his family, reiterating a question "you told me he was neutered right?" The family told me that Sherman was neutered at their farm but that the vet was unable to remove



*(above) Tortilla and Dior. (upper-right), Panda & Roxanne. (lower-right), Sherman's family says good-bye.*



one of this pig's manly parts..... but yes, he was "neutered".

If he is still retaining, he is not neutered. He will act like a boar and could very well still produce offspring if allowed to fraternize with any of my unspayed females. So Sherman, whom is also missing one ear from an encounter with his past owner's dog, can't be let out with the main herd. He does love Winnie though, and she is spayed, so Sherman has a friend.

the horses. Tortilla, in his senior years, would light up when my Mom came over to visit. He would look up at her with a waggy tail as she spoke softly to him and saying "it's Grandma's boy".

Later in life Tory walked so slow, but for as long as it took him he would make his way out to be with his horses. When Tortilla started his journey I reminded him that he would see his Dad there, something I promised him a long time ago.

"You will see your Dad again Tory, your going to see your Dad." I said to him.

# CROSSING OVER

## *Tortilla*

March 23, 2003 is a significant date for two reasons. Willy, my beloved first pig would be going to heaven, and secondly because this is the same day 9 year old Tortilla (Tory) arrived.

Tortilla's human crossed over, and it took a long time for this pig to accept me. Tory would always be Daddy's boy, but he did connect with my Mom - his grandma - and

## *Suzy*

Suzy, my sweet, sweet, Suzy. You were here for such a short time and took my heart with you. Thank you for finding me so that I could feel your gentleness even after you endured so much heart break and suffering before I knew you. Thank you for coming into my world so I could love you. Love and light to you both.

"Here lies one who loved us and whom we loved." No matter how deep my sleep I shall hear you, and not all the power of death can keep my spirit from wagging a grateful tail.

**Tao House, December 17th, 1940**

# COTTON

Last year I talked to a young man who had acquired a pig from his boss at work. Apparently the pig was shipped from a Texas breeder (ugh!) and became unwanted not too long after. I am sure this would of been somewhere around \$1000.00 in cost after the purchase, medical records and transportation costs on top of the 30 day quarantine for one very scared little baby who had been yanked away from his mom. Note that the breeder shipped this pig unaltered (grrr).

I remember trying to get the breeder's name out of the fellow, after talking to him at length, to see if he would help care for this baby. I left messages with the breeder to call me back but he never did. his fellow didn't want the pig either but the next family that took him in loved him, got him neutered and he had a real family for a little while.

A year later as I sat down to catch up on emails, the phone rang. The SPCA had a pig in an eviction crises and while talking to them I saw an email from the pig's family pleading for help. This is the story of that same pig that was shipped from the breeder in Texas.

## December 1, 2010...

Late afternoon a Mom with her baby answers the door to the landlords. Facing eviction, as the economy has taken the toll on this family, they are struggling to get back on their feet. The husband finally gets a job and is working 14 hour days and is not home when Mom lets the landlords in. Once she let them in they were allowed to throw her out. I wasn't there but I can imagine the mayhem that ensued and this is when the pig bolted out the door, in all the commotion, and took refuge under the porch. I spoke to both of the family members and I can tell you I cried along with both of them on the phone.

I live about 20 minutes from there and I jumped in the truck to go to the house to see if the pig was still there. I hurried as the landlords were threatening to take care of the situ-

ation in an unfavorable way. When I arrived I saw a little silver and white pig under the porch trying to keep warm in the hay and the blankets that the family had pushed under there. The family was unable to get to the little traumatized pig and with nowhere to take him they starting reaching out for help once they found help for themselves. I was able to figure out a game plan and spent a few hours back at the sanctuary trying to rally up help to pull this rescue off. No way could I leave this baby pig out there in this cold night and at the risk of being eaten.

I called Carol at SAINTS and she rounded up two friends and we headed out here in the dark with flashlights, a crate, hay bale string and a portable pen. In the dark we quietly fenced the little pig in with his only escape being into a crate.

Then the two of us crawled under the 24"

crawlspace and with a light broom we took turns herding in the little boy. It was a process as he had much more room under the porch to retreat than we did. I cracked my head good on one of the supports under there and I still don't know what one of my hands sunk into. With no place to go, as we were positioned as best as we could lying down under there, the pig went for the crate. With one little push we had him!

We were all back at the sanctuary about an hour and a half later. The girls carried the crate into the great room here and I opened the crate door. He strutted right out tail wagging a mile a minute. He explored all over the house, up down the hallway to the kitchen and back while we fed him treats and laughed about our Saturday nights adventure.

**Janice Gillett**





# SWINE SALVATION

BRATTLEBORO - Five large orphaned pigs from Windham County found a new home after volunteers from across the United States and Canada worked together to rescue them from the slaughterhouse.

When members of the Hearts on Noses web-page, a pig rescue group, heard that some pigs that could no longer be cared for were going up for auction, they decided to contact local veterinarians and animal rescue groups.

The Woodstock Farm Sanctuary in Willow, N.Y., worked tirelessly to find the animals a home after the caretaker of the Brattleboro Retreat Farm agreed to postpone the pigs' potential sale.

Hours before the deadline, Gia Martin, who owns a farm in Valatie, N.Y., saw a post on Facebook that a potential home in North Carolina had fallen through, said she would be able to provide a temporary home for the animals.

"I have the barn space and as long as donations keep coming in, I'll be able to keep them," Martin said.

Loading the four female pigs was relatively easy, she said. The boar, however, had overgrown hooves and was unstable when standing for long periods of time.

People attempted to move him four times with no success onto a trailer to join the other pigs, but they were unable to coax him to move more than 10 to 15 feet, to the edge of his living area.

On Friday, eight volunteers struggled for more than an hour to get the roughly 900-pound pig loaded onto a trailer.

The boar, nicknamed Big Poppa, pushed back with all his might as the volunteers tempted him with apples and tried to use plastic boards to move him up the ramp.

Shelia Hyslop, sanctuary manager for the



*Volunteers lead an approximately 900-pound boar to a trailer at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro. (Zachary P. Stephens/Reformer)*

Woodstock Farm Sanctuary, said the five pigs will serve as advocates for other animal rescues.

"It's ironic we're spending so much time and energy on these pigs when 120,000 are slaughtered for food in the U.S. each year," Hyslop said. "But we feel they deserve a chance to live."

Hyslop said she wasn't sure of Big Poppa's condition before the pigs arrived and planned to merely assess his situation.

"The fact that he got up so quickly on his own suggested his spirit is still strong," she said. "His legs aren't good but it's tough to tell if it's from his arthritis or hooves."

Local veterinarian Dr. Steven Major, who has worked with the Brattleboro Retreat Farm for more than 22 years, disagreed with the decision to try and save the boar.

"The most humane thing to do to this pig would be to put it down," Major said. "It isn't likely to be productive to keep an old arthritic boar going."

He added that the Retreat Farm has always taken excellent care of its animals.

"If he was in really bad shape, he would have given up entirely when we were moving him," Hyslop said in response to Major's comments. "He only half-way laid down when we were trying to move him. With better hoof treatment and a stricter diet, he should be able to live another five or six years."

She guessed that each of the pigs is about 5 years old and through donations from more than a dozen states and British Columbia, Canada, roughly \$540 was raised to support the rescue. Elana Kirshenbaum, program director of the Woodstock Farm, said she fielded calls from all over the U.S., trying to find the five pigs a permanent home and will continue to do so.

"We have a huge crisis in this country with domestic animals such as cats and dogs," Kirshenbaum said. "Farm animals are even more difficult to place."

**By JOSH STILTS, Reformer Staff**

# SPONSOR A PIG

My dream wish is that every pig here at the Sanctuary is sponsored. Sponsoring a piggy costs \$25.00 per month and this time of year that will cover the cost of produce for a little piggy for one month. If we have food covered for all of our pigs then the fundraising dollars can go towards veterinary expenses.

Did you know it costs \$450.00 to neuter one rescued pig that weighs over 60 lbs? Not too often do we get young pigs in so they all are over 60 lbs. An emergency surgery will be a minimum of \$2500.00. This was the cost to save Mouse with her tumor as well as Wyatt, who had a Foley catheter keeping him alive the year before. During these emergencies we were blessed, thanks to your support. Your support ensured that on top of the stress and worry to save these pigs that there was not the added concern of depleting funds to do so. Both pigs are thriving and doing awesome after their life saving ordeals.



# SPECIAL THANKS TO...

**The Kensington Foundation For Animals In Crisis**, a non profit B.C. Society devoted to raising funds and awareness in support of individuals and other entities such as Hearts On Noses. Thanks to their efforts we start the New Year with a credit in our Veterinary account. Visit their website at: [www.kensingtonfoundation.ca](http://www.kensingtonfoundation.ca)

**The Vancouver Foundation** for their \$5000 grant. TVF is Canada's largest and one of its oldest community foundations. Its mission is to create positive and lasting impacts in communities. It does this by bringing together generous donors (large and small, individuals, groups and corporations) and linking their contributions to important work that addresses the needs and improves the lives of communities across the province. To find out more visit:

[www.vancouverfoundation.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca)

# BURNABY PATHFINDERS ROCK!

A special thanks to this awesome team and their leaders who have returned to the Sanctuary many times and worked so hard for the animals here!!!



## Hearts On Noses Wish List

### Volunteers:

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

### Donations:

- Wool blankets
- Rubber backed bath mats
- Large area rugs
- Plywood, 4 x 4 posts, 2 x 6 treated boards
- Clear fiberglass sheets
- Sand, crushed rock, bags of bark mulch
- A carport
- Hay and produce storage sheds
- Large cement pavers (2' x 2' minimum)
- Large quantities of fresh fruit and veggies
- Fence post toppers
- Wood baby pens, day beds, or cribs
- Shavings by the bundles
- Quality hay, straw and Alfalfa
- Quality vintage/crafted items for yard sales
- Canadian Tire money/old fashioned money