



At 54 years of age, I have always had animals of one kind or another. I was always bringing something home, usually a "stray" of some kind. Blind animals, 3 legged creatures, the "ugly" one, etc. In October of 2011 I was going through CraigsList and came across FREE pot belly pigs...said they couldn't keep through the winter. 4 adults and a piglet. Within 2 hours I was on my way home with the piglet, a little male I called Hammy. Even if I had realized at the moment I saw him how sick he was, I would only have been more determined than ever to bring him home. I should have known immediately by the surrounding conditions that it was a bad situation. I should have known that when they had him in a closed box ready to throw him in my back seat upon my arrival, this was not right. I should have known, after begging to see the parents, that the adults were in serious need of medical attention. Again, it would not have changed my mind.

That evening I was positive there was something wrong with my little guy. I tried calling my vet and the receptionist said "NO" the vet did not treat pot bellies. I tried calling several area vets only to be told the same thing! I had "assumed" pot bellies were popular pets and would be the same as taking a cat or dog to the vet.

By next morning Hammy was very lethargic and I knew I would lose him if I didn't do something. I loaded him up in the car and took him to my vet. I thought that after 30 years he would surely be willing to help in some way. And besides, how could anyone look at this little guy and refuse! Upon entering the vet's office, Hammy was an instant hit! They grabbed him and did a complete examination! They could tell immediately that he had sarcoptic mange mites.

For the next 2 months he was treated regularly for this. And not only did it affect Hammy, I, myself, was bit with the mites and had to seek medical attention! It was a real mess to say the least. But my vet was kind and helpful. Hammy was neutered shortly thereafter.

He is already at the 50 pound mark and it will be 3 or 4 years until he reaches full potential. My life revolves around Hammy. We are learning together. Through various websites of pig sanctuaries, especially Ross Mill Farm and Piggy Camp in Pennsylvania, I have made many wonderful friends and contacts who have been a great encouragement and wealth of information. My only regret... I do not know what happened to the other 4 pigs they were trying to get rid of. The ad from Craigslist was deleted by the time I reached home with Hammy. My goal and hope is to be a part of a team that educates people about these wonderful animals! So glad I was directed to this site!

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