

# Capri The Pregnant Pot Belly Pig

## SIGN UP NOW TO ADOPT A BABY!!!

**On Thursday, May 21st, a partially blind and very pregnant female pot belly pig arrived at Happy Trails from a scary situation.** Her large belly swaying as she walked, she tried her very best to stay out of the way of the much, much larger animals in the overcrowded barn area where she was kept. She would scurry out of the way of the young bulls, the big goats with horns, the sheep, the rams and the other bigger animals. Her protruding tummy would swing with every step as she would run to get out of the way. Surely her babies (and possibly she herself) would not survive birth in such conditions.



Arriving at Happy Trails, only known by her ear tag as pig #218, she was quickly bestowed the pretty and girly name of “Capri”.



Capri arrived in the van, hot and tired and uncomfortable. Once she was set down upon the cool, lush grass of Happy Trails, she immediately seemed to relax and began to explore her new surroundings. She quickly set her belly down in a shady spot and contemplated life. Though she was quiet, you could tell that she was taking it all in — new surroundings, new animal friends, new people, and a new life. We explained to her, as we do to all new animal arrivals, that she was now at Happy Trails, a place where she would be well taken care of and a place where she could have her babies safely and in peace and comfort. We

seemed to convince her of that, and after a brief nap, she set out to explore the rest of the sanctuary. She went up to the ducks and chickens and gave them a polite oink, and then discovered the pot belly pig barn. She quickly made friends with all the other piggies, and would even set her belly down to rest outside of their yards so she could visit with them through the wire fence. It appears as though she should be due to have her babies within the next several weeks, so we believe that she is very close to her due date.

Unfortunately, as so often happens, young female





pot belly pigs are bred way too young (not that any of them ever need bred with all the unwanted pigs out there), which makes giving birth even more dangerous for them. We believe that Capri is a youngster, and she is at a time in her pregnancy where spaying would be just as dangerous for her as giving birth.

**So, what does a sanctuary do when faced with a very pregnant pot belly pig who arrives and is ready to give birth?**

First we panic... “Oh no, what will we do with all the babies?” Secondly, we start to pray...”Dear Lord, please let her have them when someone else is here.” Thirdly, we get

our wits about us and make plans. The vet wants to *not* stress her out at this time, and since she does not appear to be sickly in any way, wants to wait until Capri has her babies before bringing her into the clinic for a check-up. So as of right this second, Miss Capri has no medical expenses. Our first plan of attack, then, is to begin pleading desperately for homes for baby pigs. We will, of course, continue to screen and educate potential homes on proper piggy care and how to safely and properly care for your new little bundle of joy. When the vet determines that the babies are old enough and healthy enough to be weaned, you will by then be all prepared and approved as a new mother pig...ok, let's say that differently...as the baby pig's new mother or father....



In the past we have dealt with newborn litters consisting of anywhere from three to nine piglets. And there is, of course, nothing in this entire world cuter (or louder) than a baby pot belly pig. The “louder” part probably didn't do much to help talk you into adopting a baby pig, but we're very honest. Cute and loud would be the two key words to describe a piggy baby. And judging by Capri's good looks and curvy figure, her babies will be absolutely breathtaking!

**ADOPTING A BABY PIG**

Please consider adopting a baby pig. Our adoption counselors will help you with all the piggy education you could possibly need and help prepare you and your home for your new arrival. Decorating in pastel colors and piggy decor is not necessary. Providing soft blankets and proper nutrition is.



If you are interested in learning more about getting in line for a baby-to-come-soon, please call Sharon at 330-329-9727. She can tell you soon enough if your barking, er, oinking, up the right tree.

When the babies do arrived, they will need to be vet checked and eventually wormed and vaccinated before they leave. A regular piggy check-up complete with vaccines, deworming, hoof trimming, eye and ear canal cleaning, and tusk trims, through our pot belly pig veterinarian specialists cost approximately \$300 per adult pig, so that is what we will be looking at for Capri. The babies are going to cost approximately \$50 each for shots and worming and a check-up. Please, dear Lord, don't let her have 13 of them like the one pig that we heard about.



### **SPONSOR CAPRI OR A BABY PIG**

If you are interested in helping Happy Trails cover the vet cost for either Mama Capri or the newborns and would like to sponsor a piggy, we will be happy to send you baby pictures! Tax deductible donations marked "baby pigs" can be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or can be made through PayPal on our website (though PayPal does take out a fee for this service) at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org).

*(Photo top right) Capri LOVES moving the straw around and makes beautiful nests. Once satisfied with her handiwork, she sets her soft belly down in the center of her nest to rest. Like many expectant mothers, we are sure that her back hurts after a bit from carrying around all that extra weight.*