

July 9, 2012



## How To Keep Cool On A 100+ Degree Day

*By Recent Happy Trails Arrival, Willow, An Eight Week Old Farm Pig*

OK, to start with, us pigs can't sweat. These crazy high temperatures can give us heat stroke and our pink skin sunburns so easily!

So first of all, casually chase all the ducks out of the way at the kiddie pool. Act like you're in charge.

Secondly, step in carefully one leg at a time. Walk around the edges of the pool to get the feel of the water. Ignore the duck feathers and other unmentionables that are floating around.

Make sure to keep both ears straight up and out to catch even the slightest breeze.

Occasionally drop your nose into the water to create bubbles. It's fun!

Don't try to lay down though! It's too deep and scary. I tried it. Trust me on this. Just keep walking slowly in circles and you will cool off. Honest!

And when you're done, take your wet, drippy self over to lay down in front of a fan. Then a volunteer will show up from somewhere and hand-feed you a grape icy pop! It happens every time!

On Thursday, July 5th, we received a call from the Concord (Delaware) area of Ohio. A small, two month old pig showed up on someone's property and they couldn't find the owner. "*Could we help?*"

Well, I gave the same explanation we always do, how we support humane societies and law enforcement, and that our intake criteria is that the animals have to come from a situation of abuse, abandonment or neglect, and that an owner has to have cruelty charges filed against them. I advised the caller to contact her local humane society, explain the situation, and assure them that we would indeed step in and help with the stray pig, but they would need to handle the case and then give us permission to assist them. Sadly, the

response the caller received from the local humane society was that they only handle companion animals and that they wouldn't take in a pig. Interesting. Does that then mean that though a county has a humane society, not all the animals in that county are protected from cruelty? If you are a horse, pig, goat, sheep, or chicken, do you then simply fall through the cracks? Even if another organization is offering to help out with the situation? And if you are that person who has a conscious and you come across an animal in need that is not a dog or a cat, what exactly are you to do in that situation? It's a tough call in many instances. People want to do the right thing, but many humane societies sure don't make it easy for them.

Take Willow for example. Willow (officially named Willie by her rescuer, but she needed a pretty female-sounding name since she's a beautiful little girl) was a stray pig. She was hungry, looking for food, a safe place to sleep, and decided that this nice yard looked to be the perfect place for an abandoned pig.

None of the neighbors claimed her. One person might have owned her, but he stated that he just figured that a pig of his had run off into the woods so instead of finding it and bringing it back, he just "replaced it". He figured it would just die. Sad. Really. Hopefully, he doesn't have a three year old daughter who wanders off at some point.

So, what does one do with a young, not much more than a baby, pig, when the local humane society simply refuses to help? Call Happy Trails back again! Of course we'd help, and we headed down to the Columbus area that very evening.

Her rescuers had grown quite attached to Willow during her short stay in their yard. As we drove down the long driveway, Kevin and I saw a person standing in the yard next to a pig. They seemed quite content with each other. Great friends.

Without too much drama, baby piggy was ushered into the oversized dog kennel that we brought to

transport her highness. Luckily we drove at night, considering that Thursday was one of the record breaking hottest days of the year so far. Tears were shed as Willie Willow literally drove off with us into the sunset to a new life at the sanctuary.

Dr. Randy Alger gave her an initial examination, and with the help of Bethany Silcox-Woodford, a Happy Trails Animal Care staff member, about a jar of ticks were pulled

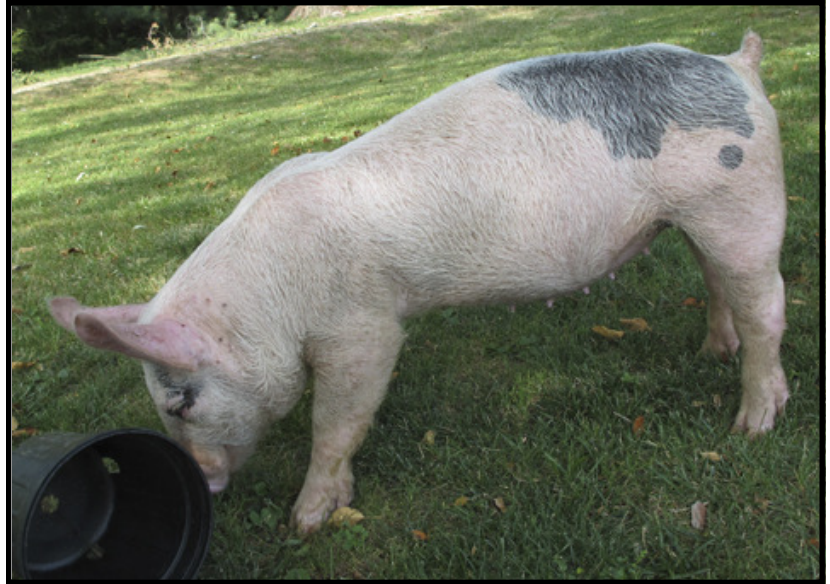
off the poor girl. She was well on her way to being anemic. She was also vaccinated and dewormed.

You can easily feel her ribs. Her rescuer stated that when the big storms came through, the sweet little girl disappeared for about three days when they didn't see her at all. I am guessing that she hadn't found much to eat with everything drying up.

So the beautiful Willow is now in isolation for about ten days to make sure she is not bringing any piggy health issues to the other rescued pigs. She is NOT happy about that, but we keep explaining to her that it's only temporary. In the mean-

time, she is trying to keep cool, and was happy to share her knowledge of that with the masses.

Willow is incredibly loving and affectionate with her peeps. She adores being with people, so Willow will be available to a loving and



caring home where she will, of course, plan to be the center of attention.

In the meantime, Willow gets grain, fresh straw, clean water, treats, sunscreen, fly spray and tons of attention. Donations toward her care will cover these expenses and also her veterinary/medical costs.

Willow is no longer a stray, unclaimed farm animal left to die in the woods. She is safe. She is precious. She has a lot of love to give the people in her world. Many thanks to her rescuers who cared more than the local humane society.

## Are You A Pig Person?

**Experience a personal visit with Willow the Pig when you make a donation toward her care of \$30 or more!**

Donations toward Willow's care can be made on-line through PayPal at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org), by calling in your credit card information to the sanctuary at 330-296-5914, or by sending a check to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 4426.

***Show your support of stray and abandoned animals today!***