

Local owner of this unusual pet is as happy as a pig in a poke

Pigs get a bad rap. Think about it. The worst or most disgusting people or situations get associated with the poor pig. Call someone a pig and you have insulted them.

People in the know tell me that pigs are not the dirty animals they are made out to be.

Last summer I decided I just had to have one of those adorable little pot-bellied pigs. When I asked the Big Guy what he thought of my plan for a new pet, I was told that the day pigs could fly was the day we'd get one. If you think this deterred me you are wrong. In direct defiance of the Big Guy's "no," I went ahead and found the pig of my dreams.

This all started innocently enough. Watching a late night television show on different pets, I saw a pig wearing sunglasses sitting on a coach and later strolling down a boardwalk. It looked unique, different and before you could say pig chow I was scanning the ads looking for miniature pigs for sale.

Possibly tossing my marriage out the window, I drove north to Victoria Corners to pick up my eight-week-old pig. Link, as I named him, was a shaky little black prickly-haired bundle. Arriving at home I couldn't get him out of the crate. The next day I tried to pick him up and found out that a pig's squeal is louder than a jet engine. It was not a happy experience.

Running out of pot pourri and patience, I returned Link to the barn of his birth.



Rural
Route
Ruth

Ruth
LeBlanc

One Ballantrae rural router, Gail Ridgway, has a far happier pig tale to tell. Living for more than 14 years in a farmhouse on Hwy. 48 just north of Aurora Rd., Gail has grown to love Ballantrae and the open spaces of the 75-acre property.

Just behind the barn is Vivian Forest where Gail rides Shelena, her 19-year-old arabian horse. Barnmates Apache the pony and Porky the cat are Gail's other pets.

And then we have Bentley Stewart the pot-bellied pig who lives along with Billy the bird in the house. Coming to the Tribune office to pay a visit, Gail and Bentley made quite the good impression. In the door came a pig on a leash that quickly dispelled the myth that pigs are dirty and dumb. Sitting, coming and staying were just a few of his tricks - this is one smart and friendly animal.

Life can be interesting when you have a pig as a pet, Gail tells me, and fun. Last year Bentley entered the Pinto Horse Show in Ballantrae, qualifying because he is also black and white. Things were going along great until he came to the bridge where he stopped and refused to cross. The squealing began and his event ended.

Every day when Gail gets ready for work at her business in Richmond Hill called Dapper Dogs, a grooming salon, Bentley gets ready to tag along. He likes to get dressed up for work. Summers you might see Bentley sporting a straw cowboy hat and a kerchief looking very dapper himself. At Christmastime Bentley goes to work wearing antlers along with a spiffy noel scarf, and if they can tolerate the constant jiggling noise he will don his bells. When he lies down on his bed for a nap in the reception area of the office he looks, as

Gail says, "like a drunken reinpig."

Pigs make great pets, but the closest I'll get to anything pot-bellied is when my husband turns 50.

SUTTON

Hairdressing School

Thornhill Square - Suite 330
Bayview & John

ENROLL NOW FOR MAY, JULY
AND SEPTEMBER CLASSES

FOR INFORMATION

CALL (905) 886-7004

Our Program Can Help You Start Your Own Business?

Business Program: *EntreDevelopment*

- In-class Instruction, On-going Consultation & Administration Support
- Computer Facility & Software Support
- Business Resource Centre

For Who?

- Employment Insurance recipients, insured participants & individuals insured within the last 3 years under the Employment Insurance Act in York Region. Individuals on parental leave within the last 5 years.

People Investing In People
HUMAN RESOURCE CENTRES
NEWMARKET RICHMOND HILL

Fee?

No fees to individuals that qualify. Sponsored by Human Resources Centre Canada.

To register call: (905) 738-7211 ext. 30

VAUGHANTEC, 3300 HIGHWAY NO. 7 Suite 809, Concord (Vaughan), ON L4K 4M3

TOM FLOOR SERVICE

OLD FLOORS MADE LIKE NEW



Installed • Sanded • Refinished
Repaired • Stained • 24 Hours Service
Over 10 Years Experience
Quality Work • Low Prices
FREE ESTIMATES

Phone: (416) 722-3806

Beeper: (416) 377-0965

SUTTON

Hairdressing School

Thornhill Square - Suite 330
Bayview & John

PERM SPECIAL \$15⁰⁰
CUT & BLOW DRY \$10⁰⁰
TINTS \$25⁰⁰
CALL (905) 886-7004

ANTIQUUE LUMBER

for

Rustic Restorations & Reproductions

- weathered barnboard
- hand-hewn beams
- white pine & hemlock flooring
- red oak & other hardwood flooring from re-sawed beams

For all your antique lumber needs call:

WEST LINCOLN BARNBOARD & BEAMS
(905) 643-8878 OR 1-800-719-9051

Since
1968

Thank You MARKHAM

With your help, members of The Works were able to raise over \$8,500 for The Heart & Stroke Foundation at our Fit for Heart event on April 12. Our members collected pledges based on exercising for 2 hours.

We have now raised over

\$27,500

in the last 4 years for the Heart & Stroke Foundation

Thank you to the following local businesses for their help in making this event as successful as it was:

- Forsani's Locker Room
- Potentials Plus
- Kiddie Kobbler
- Gucci Timepieces
- Sgt. Pepper's Pub & Grill
- Ruff Cuts Pet Grooming
- IGA (Didier's)
- Pet Paradise
- Markham Photo Studio
- Country Club Cleaners
- Blacks Photography
- Glamour Shots Photography
- Body alive
- Shoe Strings
- Salon Elite
- Bell Mobility Centre
- The Fox & Fiddle
- Trade Secrets
- Grange Florists
- The Duchess

The Works
Fitness & Aerobics Centre

YOU'RE INVITED TO VISIT
SOMERSET ACADEMY
Wednesday, April 23
1 p.m. ~ 2 p.m.



Here is your opportunity to "Observe and Compare", Somerset Academy's commitment to "Excellence in Education"

A co-educational, non-denominational, day school, for Kindergarten through Grade 8 students. Somerset has been committed to excellence in education since 1974. Based on Ministry of Education Guidelines, Somerset's supportive environment includes:

- Full day kindergarten
- Specialists for all grade levels in instrumental & vocal music
- Dedicated teaching staff
- Small classes with personalized programming
- Enrichment program
- A full range of extra curricular activities
- Visual arts • French • Physical education

905-940-8990

7700 BRIMLEY ROAD
(AT 14TH AVE., MARKHAM)

Free pool school.

Get an education in pool care at our Pool Opening Seminar.

Wed., April 23/97
257 Carlton Rd.
Unionville Curling
Club
7:30 P.M.



SPONSORED BY

