

Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm

by Robert Casserly

Like the ripples from a pebble dropping into a pond, we at Sanctuary One believe that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. We've found that something as simple as rescuing a single animal can be a profound demonstration of a paradigm shift to a more conscious way of living.

Consider the story of Lisa, a pig who was raised on a farm in northern Washington State. Lisa is the same breed as the little pig in the movie "Babe," but fast-forward to a two-year-old Babe who has grown up to become a 700-pound pink bulldozer with intelligence on par with a dolphin or chimpanzee. This gentle giant was kept confined in a pen by herself, which is anathema to social creatures like pigs, so she would frequently break free and run away to search for companionship.

Her owner retaliated by beating Lisa with a two-by-four. Law-enforcement officers were called in to rescue Lisa. They took her to a humane society that gave Lisa a temporary home. Then a group of volunteers rented an RV and a trailer and drove more than 1,000 miles round-trip to deliver Lisa to Sanctuary One.

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors from all over the U.S., Sanctuary One was able to give Lisa a permanent home where she'll be safe, comfortable, and loved. Everyone who has donated to the Sanctuary, whether it is \$5 or \$5,000, has thus played a part in rescuing Lisa. The Sanctuary receives no government support and only exists to the extent people voluntarily decide to support Southern Oregon's first care farm.

Formerly abused children occasionally visit the Sanctuary for the opportunity to give Lisa a belly-rub and learn about her story. Children who visit us learn about animal abuse because preventing animal abuse is a key to stopping the vicious cycle of abused children growing up to be abusive adults. Being the center of so much love and attention helps Lisa recover from the trauma of abuse. Learning about Lisa's journey gives children a sense of hope that they, too, are capable of overcoming pain and suffering—Lisa's way of returning the favor.

Several people who heard about Lisa in the news were inspired to volunteer at the Sanctuary. Lisa typically greets people with a hearty, happy grunt and a wagging pigtail that makes a body laugh and feel good. Feeling good about his or her community service helps the

Sanctuary's volunteers enjoy a modicum of lower blood pressure, less stress, and less depression and loneliness.

Rescuing Lisa has helped along the Sanctuary's earth-care efforts, too. Lisa is an expert at turning the farm's spacious, chemical-free pastures into abundant piles of organic manure. Then we compost it, creating rich fertilizer helps feed the gardens and trees which grow food for other rescued animals, and the Sanctuary's abundant wildlife, too.

Last but not least, Lisa has played a critical role in helping us care for Lulu, a piglet recently transferred to Sanctuary One from an overcrowded pig rescue. Lisa and Lulu have bonded closely in a mother-daughter relationship that provides both with the pig socialization they need to remain happy and healthy.

What began as a simple act of kindness—the decision by a group of kind-hearted people to rescue a hapless pig living on a farm in northern Washington State—has created a wave of love and healing that has spread all the way to Southern Oregon, and points beyond, because each visitor to Sanctuary One carries a small piece of the blessing home with them, like a spiritual souvenir. This is Lisa's gift to us in exchange for the gift of a safe, comfortable place to live.

Multiply Lisa's impact on our community by the more than 60 domesticated animals living at the Sanctuary, and you start to get some idea of the cumulative positive effect humane treatment of animals can have on a community. Add in our people-care and earth-care activities, and you start to understand how a series of small actions by many people working together on a care farm can add up to make a big difference.

As American anthropologist Margaret Mead put it, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

You are invited to become part of our solution for healing people, animals, and the earth in a simple, natural, and cost-effective way. We call it care farming, a kind of farming many people have never heard of, but that's changing as more and more people search for better ways of living. Become a part of this most extraordinary and important effort, an effort that is leading us to a more healthful, humane, and sustainable world.

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.SanctuaryOne.org or call 541.899.8627.



Reflections

by Gates McKibbin

One of my favorite destinations for "shop therapy" is Terra Firma, an eclectic gift boutique. I pop in there frequently, to check out whatever is new and talk with Tara Batzer, who manages the store with spirit and panache. (She reminds me of a wood nymph.) Tara has told me about the projects she pursued when she was studying at the Rhode Island School of Design and the garden that she and her fiancée have created here. She is currently completing her own line of jewelry for Terra Firma's holiday assortment.

Recently I asked her, "What are you working on these days?" Her answer was so intriguing, I decided that she should tell her own story, with her inimitable *joie de vivre*.

"We are just at the beginning of a mega-project," Tara revealed. "It's a monument, really – a 20-foot wide, 20-foot tall metal and glass tree of light and life dedicated to the Animal Sanctuary in the Applegate. The sculpture will be cut stainless steel, with more negative space than metal, featuring lace pattern work. It will be in the shape of a hollow tree with a highly polished interior."

"The branches of the tree are lacework, illuminated from either sunlight or a giant light inside at night. The trunk will feature four large hand-cast glass faces. The roots are like giant Brazilian tree roots snaking out in every direction. They will be formed from lightweight concrete covered with glass mosaic."

"When the sun shines down on the sculpture, the light will be reflected in the tree itself and then shine out through

the holes. It will be dark on the outside, appearing to be half wood and half metal – an otherworldly tree, ancient and new, human and celestial. I am trying to push the boundaries between what is seen as natural compared to abstract. The more time people spend with the sculpture, the more they will get out of it. The feelings will come from their own souls."

The sculpture will be both immediate and eternal, needing no maintenance and lasting for centuries. But it doesn't exist yet. Tara hopes that federal funding for the arts will be available as a gift to the sanctuary for their inner-species healing work with people and animals. She also intends to pursue state and local funding sources. It's a long-term commitment, but she has patience and passion aplenty. And when the funding arrives, Tara will create the entire installation herself.

"The sculpture will remind us of how important meeting points and intersections are in our lives," Tara noted. "It's the tiny connections that make larger things happen, but we so often miss them. The sanctuary and this project are all about creating those moments."

I thought about the many small yet meaningful moments she and I have shared at Terra Firma, when we could have made no connection at all. And I realized that the sculpture is eminently who she is. She is living its essence already.

Gates McKibbin moved to Jacksonville after working and living in the Bay Area for three decades as a consultant to major corporations. This column contains her musings about this remarkable community and her new life far away from the fast lane.



Tara Batzer

It's a chain reaction

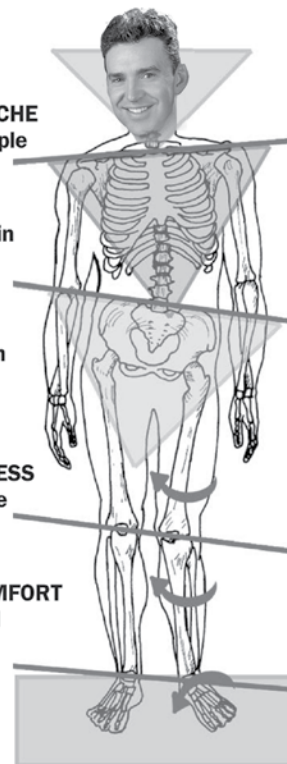
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