



Patch, the reason behind us

THE CRITTER CHRONICLES

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

G Force...The Good, The Bad and

Happy Summer, as you can guess I'm writing this at the time of the G Force opening weekend. I have mixed emotions about the movie. I'm excited guinea pigs get a feature film. After all, we all know they are stars. They are computer generated but I'm sure we will identify with some of the attitudes of the pigs in the movie with pigs in our own lives. The bad, yep you guessed it- most of the movie, from what I hear, takes place around a pet shop, and we all know what those guinea pigs go through. If you don't, contact me and I'll be glad to tell you. Another worry is that they show guinea pigs in remote control cars, balls, and who knows what else. Anyone who really knows guinea pigs know these things are no no's and all we can do is hope that kids and their parents don't think you can really do this with living, breathing animals. Especially the balls. Thanks to Mary Wu for setting up some movie theater educating. I will be the first to say I want a poster though!!!

On another note, as you can see our walk is coming upon us and as always I'm begging. We presently have two guinea pigs who have gone through surgeries and one that has had x-rays to rule out stones. It doesn't take long for the medical fund to disappear.

Open House plans are underway and as always we NEED volunteers. If you can help, please let us know. In closing and on a personal side, please keep the troops over seas in your thoughts and prayers. My son Marc is now in Iraq and as any mother can imagine every day I look for a letter or email to know he's safe. Anyone wishing to support Marc and his platoon with letters please contact me and I'll gladly give you his address.

Hope you have had a wonderful summer so far. Hope to see lots of you at the walk!!

Rose

**SAVE THE DATE for the
2009 POPCORN PARADE:**

Saturday, Sept. 12 in the Bemis Woods, Grove 1.
Sign up at 10am.

Walk the 5K route or volunteer at the event. Be sponsored by your friends and family— any amount helps!
Can't join the fun? You can still sponsor the Critter Corral's volunteer Chris Vaughn who will walk on behalf of guinea pigs past, present and future. Donations go to the medical fund. Contact Rose directly at zoo357@crittercorral.org for a pledge sheet.

This annual event is being presented with our friends at
The House Rabbit Society and
the Greater Chicago Ferret Association.

Send your pledge to:
Critter Corral, PO Box 291, Steger IL, 60475
Mark your envelope and/or check
"Popcorn Parade"

Mark Your Calendars!
ANNUAL CRITTER
CORRAL
OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, November 1
Time to be announced
Willard Wood Center in Crete, IL.
Keep your eyes open for more information in the weeks to come.

A reminder: if for any reason you are unable to continue caring for the guinea pig you adopted from the Critter Corral, we ask you to return him or her to the rescue—no questions asked! The Critter Corral Adoption contract has more information, or contact Rose directly.

A ROUND OF THANKS TO ALL

Thanks to our current Special Needs and Senior Sponsors!

Linda Whinton, Amy Gardner, Jill Tooley, Conni Sowin, Ken Evans, Ira Novoselsky, Pam Howard, Keith Sbiral, ProTravel, Jim Cunningham, Linda Koehler, Laura Kloske, Jan Miller, James Stein and Karen Hollister.

Thanks to those who are current members. You keep our rescue efforts going!!

Mike and Ann Grossman, Jim Cunningham, Laurie Andres, Cindy Mende, Greg & Mary Miller, Kelly Ceranski, Carolyn Burke, Amy Brownson, Patti Oelrich, Sharon Haugh, Maureen Enright, Marisa Comba Rachel Galvan, Kathleen Baker, Janice Kuse Hamilton, Ruth Heylek, Jeannette Srivastava, Robert Zalewski, Matthew & Catherine Gregait, Cindy Matulewicz, Lisa Pape, Pam Howard, Betty Butler, Belinda Hein, Katherine Weir, Elaine Frederickson, Linda Pennington, Karen Hollister, Roger & Marcie Stencel, Nadine Nehmzow, Andrew & Jean Sill, Nicole Tiberi, Deborah Drobny, Valentina Poggi, Karen DeBruler, Christine & Robert Kolaczewski, and Sandy Finch.

Special Thanks To:

Jeri Lynn Sherby, Lori Black, Pat Bernecki, Ira Novoselsky, Brandy Breaux, Samantha Malusky, Judy Black, Rebecca Orth, Cindy Mende, Robert Ramsey, Patti Oelrich, Sharon Haugh, Mike & Ann Grossman, Jeannette Srivastava, Alice Marin, Cindy Matulewicz, James Wheeler, Thalla Rothach, Paul & Cori Madsen, Pam Kubasiak, Belinda Hein, Katherine Weir, The Clifford Family, The Ratain Family, Heather Marin and Joy & Dave Inverso.

A special round of "wheels" to: The Swiss Family for their sponsorship of the 2009 Open House.

Shop online? **iGive** is easy to use and a portion of your purchase goes directly to The Critter Corral. Go to iGive.com and check out the large list of retailers, companies and services that participate. It is easy to sign up. Choose The Critter Corral as your organization of choice, and start shopping! Just remember when you do shop online through iGive, you must go to the iGive website first and choose the store from their list. Somehow, through the miracle of the internet, your purchase is recorded and each month Rose receives a check to help the piggies. Over the last several years, over \$1400 has been raised through iGive for The Critter Corral!

Remember, when you are at **iGive.com**, click on the **iSearchiGive** link. For each search you do, 1 cent is donated to the rescue. Of course, there are rules about searching so take a moment to read them. If you are already signed up with iGive, then you are already set up to donate to The Critter Corral with iSearchiGive. It's that easy!

Members: You can receive each edition of The Critter Chronicles in your e-mail inbox! (Membership is only \$15 a year!) Receiving the newsletter electronically will allow us to direct the price of the stamp back to the everyday needs of the rescue.

Please e-mail Laura at laura@crittercorral.org or
Rose at zoo357@crittercorral.org.

Check out this website!

www.mypiggie.com/helppiggies.htm

A portion of each purchase of **My Piggie Wear** goes to rescues like the Critter Corral. They also have a newsletter, and helpful links. Spread the word!

Do you have some extra fabric laying around? The Critter Corral can always use donations of fleece and cotton blends.

These are made into guinea pig sleeping bags and sold. All proceeds go to the medical fund.

Calling All Open House Volunteers and Vendors

Planning for the Open House has started.

Volunteers to help plan this annual are needed.

Do you have merchandise that you would like to sell at the Open House?

Contact Rose directly to sign up or for more information on how to reserve your table.

zoo357@crittercorral.org

IN LOVING MEMORY

We are always saddened to hear when piggies we have adopted out have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. It's so hard to lose one of these cute little critters that bring so much joy and love into our lives. They are here such a short time and leave such a big hole when they go. We, at The Critter Corral, extend our deepest sympathies the families of:

- "Little Bit" Russell
- "Domino" Cutsinger Cox
- "Cecily", "Lilac" & "Ratatouille" Bernecki
- "Oreo" & "Twinkie" Berent
- "Tarzan" & "Marsh" Schloz
- "Kendall" Reidies
- "Squirt" DeLisio
- "Cleo" Finch
- "Molly" Stenzel
- "Buddy" Butler
- "Marigold" Gittleson
- "Woody" Silhan
- "Brooke" Albring
- "Annabelle" Howard
- "Bambino" Howe
- "Sugar" Gould
- "Fire" Koloczewski
- "Rambo" Brugam
- "Maggie" Teachout



The Critter Corral would like to say a special thank you to "Uncle Ira" Novoselsky who over the years has supported the rescue with his time (he has been to almost all events and is known for handing out goodies), energy (he is *the* Uncle Ira who was sponsored during the Popcorn Parades), and financial contributions. A little known fact is that he has never owned a guinea pig! Uncle Ira is heading westward and his presences at Critter Corral events will be missed. *Wheels and hugs from all the piggies you helped over the years.*

PIGNIC 2009

Thanks to all who attended the Pignic on June 14. Eight guinea pigs were adopted into their forever homes. Fun was had by all—cavies and humans! Special thanks to Shirley Baston-Portegys for her sponsorship of the Pignic. We look forward to seeing you there next year!

MEMORIALS

In Memory of :

- "Oz" by Jeri Lynn Sherby
- "Cindy" by Ken Trusch
- "Charli" by Dave and Joy Inverso
- "Ginger", "Roxy" & "Tootu" by Cindy Mende
- "Momma", "Betty" & "Wilma" by Matthew Eisenbaun
- "Reid" by Patricia Sechan
- "Flutters" by Janice Kuse Hamilton
- "Nathan", "Onyx", and "Daisy" by Chris Jenkins
- "Dynamo" by Lisa Pape
- "Squeakers" by Karen Breitenbach
- "Addie", "Icy" & "Cadbury" by Elaine Frederickson
- "Sophie" by Lindsay Fitzgerald
- "Cecily", "Lilac" & "Ratatouille" by Pat Bernecki
- "Marigold" by the Gittleson Family
- "Honey" by Jan Miller

Check out the new t-shirt at our store of special items at www.cafepress.com/crittercorral

As most of you probably have heard by now, there is a new Disney movie release called **G-Force**. It is about a team of specially trained guinea pigs who soon discover that the fate of the world is in their paws. Although we are happy to see our furry friends on the big screen, we cannot forget the aftermath of 101 Dalmations. Unfortunately many people who saw the cute puppies in the 1996 movie ran out and purchased a dalmation without thinking of the consequences of owning a dog, let alone a dalmation which is an active and social dog with quite a personality. Animal shelters and rescues were overrun with these wonderful animals. Guinea pig/small animal rescues are holding their breath that in the months after G-Force, the same thing does not happen with hastily bought guinea pigs, especially for children who quickly lose interest once the novelty of the movie and the work of taking care of a pet wear off.

What can you do? Continue the good work that the Critter Corral has been doing in educating the public. If you know of someone thinking of getting a guinea pig, encourage adoption and talk to them about the responsibilities of owning a cavy. See if your local movie theatre might let you post a flyer about guinea pig adoption in their lobby. Continue to encourage pet stores to stop selling animals—speak to managers or write letters. Post flyers in your local vet office promoting the Critter Corral. Continue to volunteer your time and send in your donations to the Critter Corral. Each adoption event or other opportunity to get out into the community is invaluable. **Thank you to each of you for your continuing support!**

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CRITTER CORRAL

Sponsor A Senior Program: This is a great way to help us care for the elderly and special needs pigs that have come into the rescue. Think about doing this as a gift for a friend. \$20 for a 6 month sponsorship. Sponsors receive a certificate, picture and story on their piggy.

Memorial Program: Have a piggy named after a loved one or loved one's pet. This is a \$10 donation and the person will receive a picture of the piggy with that name. What a great way to remember or honor someone!

Become a Member : This program was formed to help offset the cost of our newsletter. A one year membership is available for a \$15 donation.

Donations: Donations of any kind are always greatly appreciated. We can always use water bottles, bowls, food, stamps, gift cards, and fabric to be made into sleeping bags for the pigs.

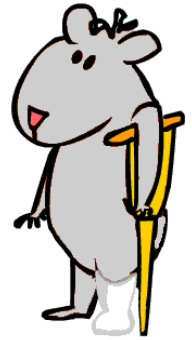
Shop online: The Critter Corral gets a percentage of each sale through iGive.com. Check out our store of special items at cafepress.com/crittercorral or make a donation to Kleen-mama's Hayloft in the name of The Critter Corral and we can order directly from them.

Pennies for piggies: Have a bunch of pennies sitting around that you don't know what to do with? Donate it to our Pennies for Piggies Fund. Feel free to drop them at any of the events.

For more information visit The Critter Corral website at www.crittercorral.org.

For a list of adoptable guinea pigs visit www.petfinder.com/shelters/crittercorral.html

Donations can be sent to: Critter Corral, PO Box 291, Steger IL, 60475



Calliope's Corner

updates from adoptees and their owners

Two New Families

On July 11, **Chris Hegg and her daughters Caroline and Catherine** became the new family for Squeaky, who is now called **Matilda** or Mattie for short. They are enjoying getting to know Mattie who is getting lots of love and daily laptime. So far there isn't a fruit or vegetable that she doesn't like! The family pig-sat a friend's guinea pig and quickly realized that this pocket pet would be a great fit for their family. Chris even asked herself what has crossed each of our minds- "Why did I wait so long to bring a pig into my life?" The family has been telling everyone they meet about the Critter Corral and look forward to attending the Open House in November. Congratulations on your new friend!

Robin Dunn and family recently adopted **Sara**, a chatty pig who always has something to say and has determined her favorite food is organic dandelion greens. Sara is kept company by Oliver the cat, and the newest addition to the family, Harriet the rabbit. All three are well taken care of by Robin's four-year old son **Roger** who volunteers at the Animal Care League with his mother and prides himself as an "Animal Rescuer". Needless to say that mom is proud too. Thanks for giving Sara a great home!