

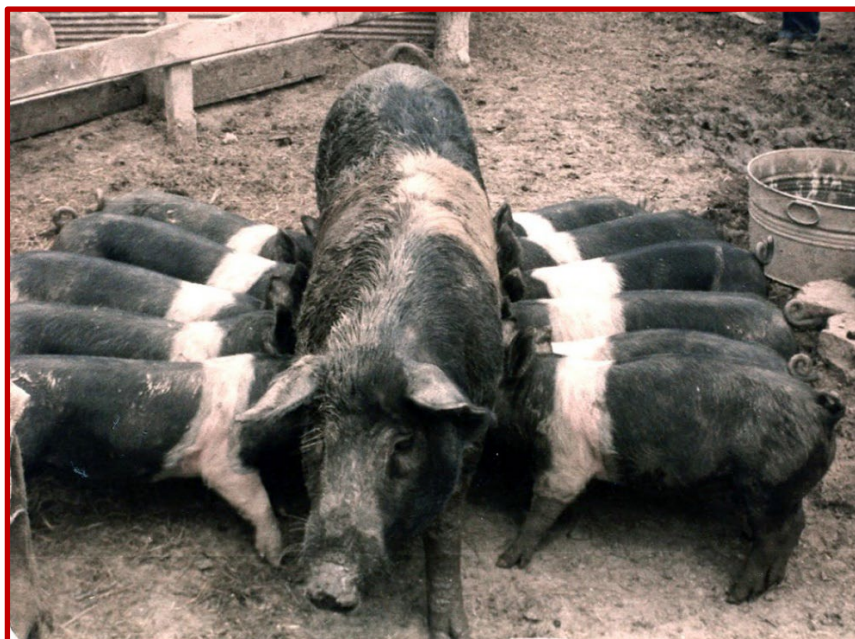
MY JOURNEY INTO PIG-DOME...

... started with my partner, Brian, in Climax Springs, Mo. in the Missouri Ozark in 1977.

While getting to know our new neighbors, I visited a fellow who raised commercial hogs. He had a newborn litter, and one little girl piglet was not doing well — either not enough teats to feed them all, or he considered the “failing to thrive” piglet a lost cause. This pig’s life depended on me. I saved this piglet from....yes...being knocked in the head! (This was a common practice among commercial hog farmers back then and still may be.)

I named her Roto Rooter and was successful in nurturing and tending to her needs to survive. The idea was to have her butchered for meat; but that was not her destiny. I decided to get her in shape for breeding with many walks to the river and a less generous amount of feed.

To make a L O N G story shorter, a neighbor brought a handsome Hampshire boar over for a romantic interlude with Roto. Well, 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days later, she presented us with 11 perfectly healthy, gorgeous, rambunctious piglets. They were evenly sized with white collars and slick, shiny black bodies.



Roto with her first litter

Fast forward to 1981.....We moved to a beautiful piece of property in Rocheport, MO, a small river town near Columbia, MO. It was gorgeous and very big, and beyond what we could afford. But somehow, we made it work. The story of moving in itself is quite an essay. I prefer to leap forward to my Potbellied Pig Life.

In 1989 PIG O'MY HEART POTBELLIES was established!

I had many new adventures and experiences with this up-and-coming breeder pig, Kayla Clair. She was such a great little ambassador. We made visits to many establishments with the mission of bringing delight and a change from the normal routine folks in nursing and retirement homes experience.

Other opportunities to share my wonderful pigs were by attending grade schools and bible schools where Kayla let each child pet her. When showing off her tricks and a treat reward was offered, utter joy spilled out of the kids! Their delight and appreciation were very apparent. Other venues my pigs visited were fund raisers for nonprofit organizations; a special attraction that a business owner gave to employees, and even a local TV interview.

Kayla and I were featured at our local pet exposition. She was quite the hit; not only with the people in attendance, but also with the many cats, dogs, turtles, and various other pets being shared. We even won a prize, second only to first-place winner, Charlie the Lizard. Beat out by a lizard — I just don't get it!



Little boy petting Kayla Clair at event



Nancy with Kayla Clair at event

Kayla Clair was **SOME PIG!** She was the most prolific, mellow, congenial, breeding pig I had in my 24 years of raising and loving my beloved potbellied pigs!

**Seven litters delivered between Sept. 2003 and March 2008 is—
INCREDIBLE!**

**Total Pigs Farrowed by Kayla Clair ...
65 Beautiful Pets or Breeding Stock, for an average of 9 pigs per litter**



*In the house KC's litter of Piglets napping, pre-weaning in the "Piggy Parlor".
Here is where they are socialized and prepared for adoption.*



Piglets on a pig pillow, napping by Nancy's desk in Piggy Parlor while she works on computer. So Sweet! Such content, gorgeous piglets!

Breeder pigs were all Registered, Microchipped, from a Brucellosis-Free herd and a Qualified Pseudorabies-Negative herd, socialized and trained.


Pet piglets were provided with all vaccinations required, neutered, microchipped, socialized and not placed before 8 weeks of age; with the guarantee to assist new owners with any help they need as stated in Adoption Contract:

"This pig(s) is up-to-date on all vaccinations and deworming and comes from a Missouri Validated Brucellosis-Free herd and a Qualified Pseudorabies-Negative herd. Seller guarantees the genetic health of the pig(s) for one year. If within 12 months of purchase the pig(s) dies from, or is diagnosed with, a genetic disease by a licensed veterinarian; the Seller will replace the pig(s) at no charge other than shipping, handling and other services originally not purchased with the pig(s)."

To readers: Thank you for allowing me this wonderful walk down memory lane! I was so immersed in all the potbellied pig opportunities afforded me between 1989 and 2013. At the founding meeting of NAPPA, Secretary of NAPPA & author/administrator of Breeder Code of Ethics, Presenter and panelist at seminars all over the country; Publisher of NAPPA News; Pigs to potbellied pig shows (USA); Sharing pigs at local events and publishing my guidebook, Potbellied Pig Parenting.

And the end result of all these years is making lasting friendships with other like-minded, energetic movers and shakers; those who continue to educate ALL about proper care, needs, and the humane rights of this beloved creature.

Most Sincerely, Nancy Shepherd

 PATIENT DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital 900 East Campus Drive Columbia, MO 65211		
Administration: (573) 882-7821 Small Animal: (573) 882-7821		Equine: (573) 882-3513 Food Animal: (573) 882-6857
Client: NANCY SHEPHERD 304 COUNTY RD 438 ROCHEPORT, MO 65279 H(573)698-3030	Referring DVM:	Patient: KAYLA CLAIR PORCINE VIETNAMESE POTBELLIED PIG FEMALE Case # 4649912 0 g DOB APR 23, 2002
Admit Date: JAN 20, 2012	Discharging DVM: Dr Dusty Nagy Service Chief:	Attending DVM: Dr Dusty Nagy Intern: Resident: Dr Pamela Fry Student: Carrissa Wood Technician:
Discharge Date: JAN 20, 2012		
Length of Stay: 0		
Care Required		
HISTORY: Kayla Clair presented today to evaluate slow progressive abdominal distention. She had one episode of vomiting on January 9, 2012 and another last night.		
EXAMINATION: On physical examination she was quiet, alert, and responsive. Her vital parameters were within normal limits. She had mild ventral, abdominal distention with moderate to severe pain on palpation of her caudal abdomen.		
DIAGNOSTIC TESTS: Complete blood count - the CBC showed evidence of severe inflammation Serum chemistry examination - all organ function appeared normal Abdominal ultrasound - Segments of small intestine were mildly distended with fluid. There was an area that appeared consistent with an intussusception (telescoping of the bowel on itself) Based on the findings we lected to take Kayla Clair to surgery. At surgery we confirmed the intussusception. At it's base was a 2 inch by 1 inch mass that was growing from the mucosa of the small intestine. Multiple large lymph nodes were also present throughout the abdomen. These findings are consistent with lymphoma (cancer). Based on the poor prognosis of lymphoma, euthanasia was elected. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you on Kayla Clair. If there is anything we can do for you in the future, please do not hesitate to call.		
Thank you for bringing Kayla Clair to the University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.		

Kayla Clair's Death Certificate