Celebrating Animals

Stella and her sisters Daisy and Dixie arrived on our Maryland farm last July, courtesy of my husband. A few months later, I asked where we’d keep them during the winter. That’s when I learned Josh intended them to be dinner. I told him we had to have a conversation—“They’re already named, so I don’t know what you think is going to happen to these pigs!”

They’re just like big dogs. We call their names, and they oink back at us and come for snacks. When we had visitors over recently, I looked outside at one point and saw that each pig had a person and was lying belly up in the grass.

One day last spring, Daisy decided to meet the neighbors. We were expanding the pigs’ pen and had rigged up a temporary gate, planning to finish it the next day. That morning, a mud-covered animal control officer showed up, asking if it was my pig she’d been wrestling for three hours down the road. Apparently, Daisy had even held up traffic. Thank god it was a Sunday morning.

The officer said she’d given Daisy to a neighbor who offered to take her in his truck and return her to us. Hours went by; no Daisy. By noon I was highly irritated. Then our neighbor showed up. He’d been on his way to church, so Daisy went for a nice long ride, sat in the parking lot, and came back after she’d been redeemed!

— Kris Nicodemus, Ijamsville, Maryland

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in All Animals, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it’s meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7” and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humansociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)