

Happy Trails Animal Updates — Tribute To Aladdin

Another Animal To Cross The Rainbow Bridge This Week — Aladdin The Lovable Yet Grumpy Pot Belly Pig

Aladdin was always stand-offish. A warning grunt would tell you to keep your distance. This is my space. That's your space. However, he always seemed to be *all* talk. Aladdin wasn't into biting. He'd rather turn and run away than confront you or face conflict. Underneath it all he was a gentle soul. He just wanted to live and let live. His best-est friend in the whole wide world was Peaches. Peaches is a big, friendly girl, who was protective of her little buddy. They would snuggle under a blanket together underneath a warm heat lamp, dealing with the bold winter temperatures together.

Over the past several weeks Aladdin had quit eating, was lethargic, and clearly not feeling well. He was definitely not acting like himself. He was no longer interested in scolding us, in running out the door if his shelter, in jumping up and spinning around, or dancing in anticipation when his servants arrived with his dinner.

His first trip to the vet a few weeks ago was to Metro Animal Hospital in Copley, with an overnight stay to the tune of over \$700. Good grief. We just wanted to treat the pig, not buy part of the hospital. However, not a lot of veterinarians in our immediate area treat pot belly pigs, and we knew he needed immediate medical attention. Aladdin came home to Happy Trails with the diagnosis of potential bronchitis and some medication.



Peaches (left) and Aladdin were inseparable friends. Peaches is missing her little buddy. Hopefully time will help to heal her grief also.



The meds didn't seem to help him, and he continued his downward spiral. He'd often not eat, or would eat just a few of the strawberries that were offered to him along with an assortment of other temptations. Something major was definitely wrong. On Friday, March 22nd, Happy Trails volunteer,

DONATIONS

Donations to help with Aladdin's medical expenses or a donation in his honor to help care for his rescued friend, Peaches, may be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or via PayPal on the website. Write "Aladdin" in the memo.

Metro Animal Hospital ..	\$725
OSU (Ohio State)	\$550
Transport (fuel)	\$125
Medications	\$75
TOTAL	\$1,475

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Deb McCourt, drove the sick little piggy to OSUVMC (Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center) in Columbus, where he would be examined and treated in a state-of-the-art facility and seen by an entire group of veterinarians. Radiographs showed a mass in his upper lung, but they couldn't determine whether it was related to his infection or if it was cancer. Because of the placement in his lung, cancer was at the very top of the list. But this past weekend Aladdin seemed to rally, and the vets determined that he was ready to go home on Monday. They were amazed at how well he was doing! However, as Monday morning got underway, we received the call that Aladdin had suddenly taken a turn for the worse. Our precious little piggy was going downhill quickly and was not responding to treatment. Chances were good that it was indeed cancer, and there were no further procedures that we could, or would, put the older piggy through. He had experienced enough pain and suffering by this point. After a great deal of discussion,

we made the difficult decision to let him go. Angela Rahn, Happy Trails staff member in charge of animal care and protocol, worked tirelessly with Ohio State to weigh all the options, discuss tests, ultrasounds, radiographs, treatment, prognosis, and quality of life. That last one is the toughest one of all — quality of life. It was something that we weren't going to be able to give the little man. Steroids could have potentially staved off the inevitable, but the cancer mass wasn't anything we could fix. Not at his age. Not at this stage. So once again, we gave one last and precious gift to a rescued animal — the gift of a kind hand holding and comforting him as he slipped into the world of the spirit. The gift of euthanasia to relieve his pain and to bring him peace and healing in a way which we could not provide.

So Aladdin — from all of us who knew you — we truly would be thrilled to see you run up to us one day when it's our turn to move on with our journey into the world of the spirit, and to hear you huffing and barking and then spinning around when you greet us. However, we're all also looking forward to the opportunity to pet you without you being afraid. We now send you on with peace and love little guy — but along with gentle, sweet Peaches, we most certainly will all miss you!

*“Aladdin, you will definitely be missed. I will miss you growling at me ever so sweetly every morning when I tried to cover you up with blankets. I will miss you lunging at me when I tried to change your water. I will miss seeing you walk around outside and grazing on grass. You were able to live your life just the way you wanted to at Happy Trails, and that makes me very happy to know that I was able to be a part of that. I definitely love you for being who you are!
Rest in peace my friend.”*

*Angela Rahn, Happy Trails Staff
Member, Animal Care Coordinator*

