



Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy Media Packet



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Piglet International Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy

Piglet International Inc.

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PigletMindset.org

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Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy was rescued from a hoarding situation in Georgia along with his dog mom and 3 littermates. He is a Dachshund Chihuahua mix, and the product of two dapple colored parents. Dapple to dapple breeding results in a 25% chance of each puppy being "double dapple". This double dapple color pattern is linked to congenital ear and eye defects that may result in partially or completely deaf/blind puppies. Piglet is deaf and blind and he also happens to be pink!

Piglet traveled to CT on March 4, 2017 because he needed more individual attention. He was a 1-pound screaming baby. His CT family was planning on fostering Piglet until he found his forever home. As things turned out, his foster home was his forever home and he was formally adopted in May, 2017.

After months of screaming and severe anxiety, Piglet finally got into a routine of snuggling in his dad's arms, playing with his dog pack of 6 other rescued dogs, taking neighborhood walks, traveling to house calls with his veterinarian mom, and visiting the animal hospital to see his BFFs. Piglet's family communicates with him using **touch and tap signals**. He is very popular because he has a way of creating smiles wherever he goes.

Piglet faces his challenges with a positive attitude despite his disabilities. He inspires others to do the same. He optimizes his senses of smell, touch, taste, and love to engage and be part of his family, his environment, and his happy life. He is an enthusiastic little dog with a positive Piglet Mindset and an important message to share.

Melissa Shapiro, DVM, a practicing veterinarian of over thirty years, has been rescuing, healing, and caring for animals since she was a very young child. A graduate of Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Shapiro completed an internship at The Animal Medical Center in NYC, followed by a residency at The Veterinary Hospital University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Shapiro's Visiting Vet Service provides custom in-home veterinary care to dogs and cats in Fairfield County, CT. Currently her practice focuses on senior pet wellness, illness, palliative care, and dignified peaceful end of life services. Dr. Shapiro works with a number of dog and cat rescue groups and is the CT State Rep for the HSVMA.

Since adopting Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy, who has become a global social media phenomenon, Dr. Shapiro has used his platform to educate, advocate, and inspire others to foster and/or adopt pets looking for loving homes. In person and virtually, the two also raise funds and awareness for pets with disabilities. Dr. Shapiro is the CEO of Piglet International Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach Program, a free downloadable educational program that uses Piglet's story to teach growth mindset, acceptance, inclusion, empathy, and kindness in classrooms across the United States and the world.

Dr. Shapiro lectures extensively and travels widely with Piglet. They address schools, nonprofits, community groups, and organizations representing people with disabilities. Honored by the Dog Writers Association of America for her writing on various pet care topics, Melissa and Piglet have been featured on NBC and in People Magazine, and in a wide range of local and national media.

Melissa and her husband Warren are the proud parents of three children now in their early twenties. Their household in Westport, Connecticut includes six rescued dogs, three rescued birds, and Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy.



A Piglet Mindset and A Mission

A Piglet Mindset is:

- Facing challenges with a positive attitude.
- Focusing on what you have and moving past what you don't.
- Accepting individuals for who they are and including them despite their differences.
- Having empathy and understanding towards others and following up with positive actions.
- Being kind to all people and animals.

Piglet's Mission:

- Advocate for and support rescued animals through education and fundraising.
- Inspire and motivate others to adopt disabled pets.
- Facilitate Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach to teachers, students, and others in the community.
- Encourage Acceptance, Inclusion, Empathy, and Kindness through the example of Piglet's Inclusion Pack.
- Put a smile on faces all around the world.

Educational Outreach Program

[Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach Program](#) for children reinforces Growth Mindset lessons and teaches Acceptance, Inclusion, Empathy, and Kindness through the authentic, engaging story of Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy.

Animal rescue and how to become an effective animal welfare advocate are also addressed. Available on Piglet's website.

Virtual and in-person visits enhance our program.

Fundraising Efforts through Bonfire.com t-shirts and other Piglet Merch sales- raised and donated over \$70,000 to dog rescue groups around the US and the world.

Piglet International Inc is a nonprofit organization that supports The Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach Program as well as special needs dog rescue groups and other organizations that share our mission of inclusion, empathy, and kindness.



Social Media

Piglet's social media pages give him an important platform to advocate, educate, and fundraise for disabled pets and people. He is an ambassador, raising awareness for animals and people with disabilities as he visits classrooms, and attends fundraising and other events like the NY Pet Fashion Show, Veterinary Conferences, HSUS Animal Expo, and The Special K9 Games! Piglet's inspiring story will be published in a memoir style book and a children's book, both to be released in 2021!

Website:

PigletMindset.org

Social Media Platforms:

Instagram- [@pinkpigletpuppy](#), over 247,000 followers as of 3-23-2021

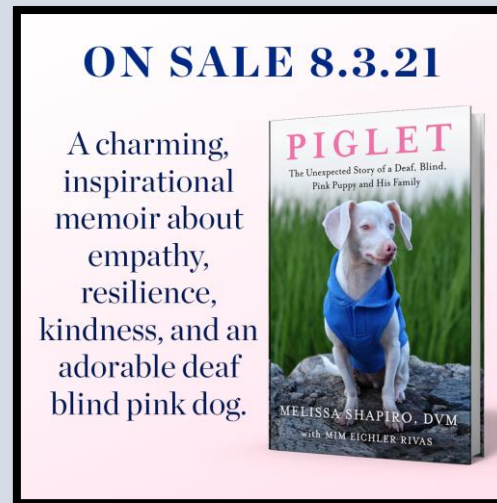
Facebook- [Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy](#), over 167,000 followers as of 3-23-2021

YouTube- [Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy](#)

Piglet Books

Piglet, The Unexpected Story of a Deaf, Blind, Pink Puppy and His Family

Click on the book to learn more!



Piglet Comes Home

A children's picture book is also scheduled for release in Spring 2022!

Details will be available soon!

Articles and Videos

Videos:

- [NBC Nightly News Feature](#)
- [The Dodo](#)
- [CBS News](#)
- [WGN9 Chicago](#)
- [First Pink Party in Plainville, MA](#)
- [Fox 61 CT News](#)
- [Power of Positivity](#)

Articles:

- [People.com Book Cover Reveal,](#)
- [People.com,](#)
- [AL.com,](#)
- [Daily Mail,](#)
- [Patch,](#)
- [The Animal Rescue Site,](#)
- [Woman's World](#)



Presentations

Dr. Melissa Shapiro is available for motivational and educational speaking engagements at schools, corporate events, veterinary conferences, and fundraisers.

Topics:

- Piglet Mindset-Growth Mindset, Acceptance, Inclusion, Empathy, Kindness for kids and adults
- Pets with Disabilities and Special Needs- for veterinarians and for the general public
- Caring for and Teaching Deaf Blind Dogs
- Animal Welfare and Rescue
- Disabled Pets in Educational Outreach
- Disabled Pets as Animal Welfare Advocates
- Building A Dog Pack
- Pet Safety
- Veterinary Medicine Workshops for Kids
- Emergency Pet Planning
- Veterinary Medicine- Reflections of a House Call Veterinarian
- Veterinary Medicine- Managing the In Home Euthanasia Experience

Presentations and Collaborations:

- Fetch DVM360
- Woofgang & Co.
- JP Library
- New York Pet Fashion Show
- Foster Dogs NYC
- HSVMA
- Senior Center, Westport, CT
- Girl Scouts, Tolland, CT
- Special K9 Games
- Numerous schools around the USA
- Purina Pro Plan Calming Care
- Live Love Nail Polish
- Zappos
- ASPCA
- Body Shop Against Animal Testing Campaign
- My Ollie

