



# WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT PIGLET, THE DEAF BLIND PINK PUPPY?

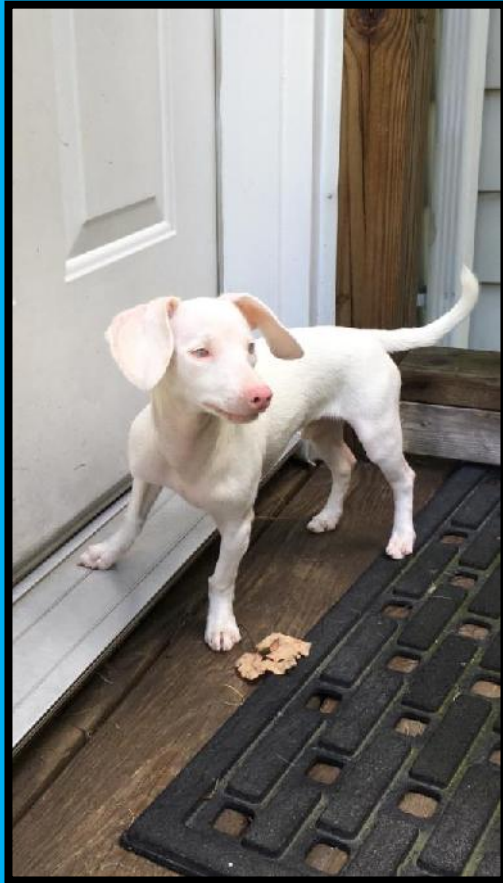
Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy  
Melissa Shapiro, DVM

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HI, I'M PIGLET.



# JUST AS A REMINDER

- I wasn't always such a happy guy. In fact, I was rescued from a hoarding situation in Georgia along with my dog mom, 3 littermates, and many of my relatives. I am a double dapple dachshund chihuahua mix which is why my haircoat is white and I was born with congenital ear and eye defects.
- I am deaf and blind. When I was a tiny baby I was extremely anxious and screamed constantly. I was lucky to find a safe, supportive home with a family that showers me with unconditional love.
- My situation was 100% preventable by spaying and neutering and NOT allowing two dapple (merle) colored dogs to breed. Placing disabled dogs like me is not easy. While some find great homes, many find themselves abandoned or in rescues and shelters.



# WHAT IS PIGLET?

**I, Piglet, am a dog.**

- Like any other dog, I have four legs, a tail, a piercing bark, and soft fur
- My tail wags and my body wiggles when I am happy. I love to be snuggled and I will do anything for a treat.
- I like to ride in the car, I love to take a walk at the beach when it's warm out.
- I enjoy visiting my friends at the bank, pet stores, and the animal hospital.



# SO WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT PIGLET?

- We all know that I am deaf and blind.
- But that's definitely not what makes me special.





# THERE ARE MANY ANIMALS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITIES

- I need modifications and support in order to stay safe and enjoy my life. So do people with disabilities.
- I have a seeing-eye human. I wear a harness so I can be guided along and not run into cars, curbs, and other obstacles when we are out for a walk.
- My family uses gates to keep me away from stairs, and they help me on and off the furniture so I don't fall. We have a fenced yard so I can run free without the risk of running into the road.
- In addition to being deaf and blind, I am also tiny. So, I have to be extra careful around big dogs, small children, and staircases.



# CONNECTING WITH PIGLET'S SENSE OF TOUCH

- I need to stay connected or I feel alone. I love to be touched. And I love to touch. When I'm sitting on my Favorite Dad's lap or when I'm sleeping snuggled next to my mom, I am using my sense of touch. It is comforting for me to feel love through my sense of touch.
- This was especially important for me when I was a tiny baby. This form of communication, touch, was the first way I connected with my family and friends. And this gave me the confidence to explore and learn about the world around me.



# PIGLET'S SENSE OF HIS ENVIRONMENT

Touching different textures on the ground with my feet and smelling where I am with my nose allow me to find the back steps, my water dish, the door to the vet hospital, and my way on my walks.





# MY TAP VOCABULARY IS GROWING

## Piglet's Tap Signals

Sit

Wait

Come

Down

Shake (Paw)

Up

Let's go

OK

No

Drop it

Go pee

Be a nice boy

Calm down

Go to your bed

Leave it

Roll Over

Spin



- My family uses tap and touch signals to communicate with me because I can't hear words and I can't see hands doing sign language.
- These are very important words for any dog to understand. My tap signals provide guidance for me when I'm not sure how to react to what's going on around me. They allow me to connect with my family and friends and do group activities and training with the other dogs in my family. They allow me to stay safe and feel confident.
- I enjoy doing tap signal demos for people I meet and I love to enter tricks competitions.

# MY DISABILITIES ARE NOT THE REASON I AM SPECIAL

FOLLOW ALONG TO FIND OUT WHY PIGLET IS SO SPECIAL

- My popularity on social media puts me and my 6 pack of rescued dogs in a position to set an example of Acceptance, Inclusion, Empathy, and Kindness.
- My positive attitude towards facing challenges give me the opportunity to inspire others to do the same.
- My rescue story gives me the opportunity to do fundraising to help dog rescue organizations and the dogs they save.
- My adorable funny personality gives me the opportunity to put smiles on faces all around the world.



# PIGLET'S FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY AT WOOFGANG & CO.

- Woofgang & Co. is a non profit organization that employs young adults with disabilities. They bake and sell dog treats, as well as hand made dog toys and dog blankets in their store.
- They combined my first birthday party with a program for a Brownie troop to learn about disabilities. We spoke to the Brownie troop about my disabilities, and how I learn and enjoy my life.
- Profits from one of our Piglet t-shirt fundraisers was donated to Woofgang!





# PIGLET PARTICIPATES IN TRICKS COMPETITIONS SPECIAL K9 GAMES / WESTPORT DOG FESTIVAL



I love to attend and compete in events like the Special K9 Games and the Westport Dog Festival tricks competition.



# PIGLET MINDSET

- A third grade class in Plainville, MA used my story to learn about facing challenges with a positive attitude. They adopted me as their Growth Mindset Mascot and coined the phrases "Piglet Mindset" and "A Piglet State of Mind".
- A **Piglet Mindset** is
  - Facing and overcoming 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.

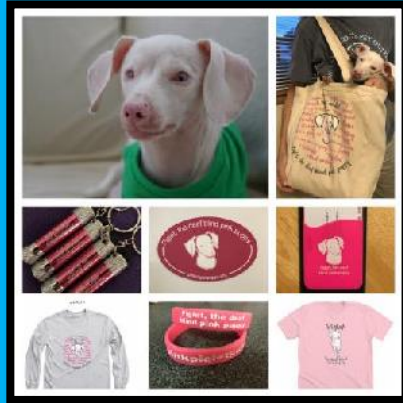


- My Piglet Mindset Educational Outreach lesson plans and materials are available on my website.
- We visit elementary and nursery school classes to demonstrate my Piglet Mindset and teach about being compassionate and kind to animals and people.





# FUNDRAISING WITH PIGLET MERCHANDISE SALES



## Some of the Rescue Groups and others We Support:

Pawsavers

Perfect Imperfections

Keller's Cause

Deaf Dogs Rock

Amazing Aussies

Sophia's Grace Foundation

Colbert Veterinary Rescue Services

Lovey Loaves

Marley's Mutts

Woofgang & Co

The Nora Project

Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal  
Sanctuary

Little Pink Shelter

Gunner's Wheelchairs

Hotdog Hill

Gunter's Legacy Animal Rescue

Panda Paws Rescue

Foster Dogs

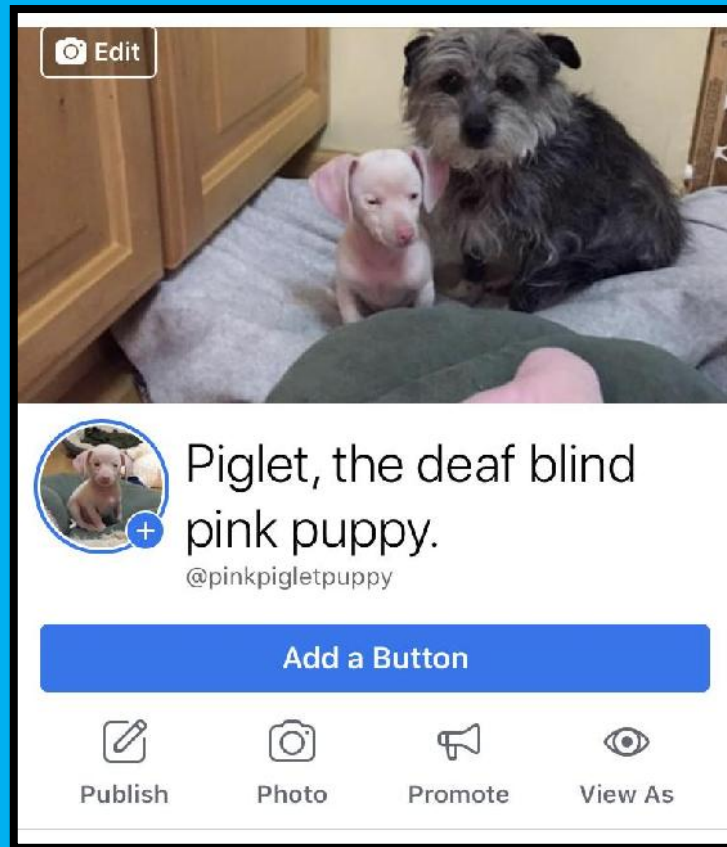
CT Dachshund Rescue

# PIGLET PUTS SMILES ON FACES ALL AROUND THE WORLD

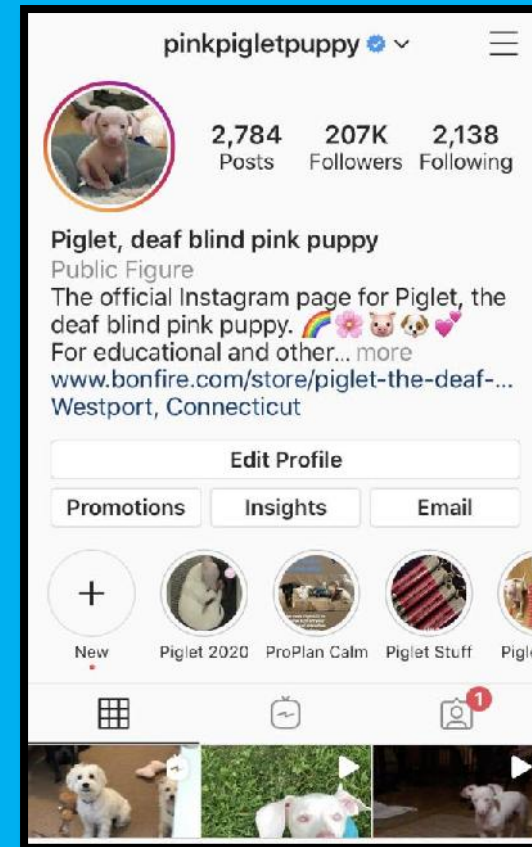


Check your own face right now-  
you're likely to find a nice bright smile!

# FACEBOOK

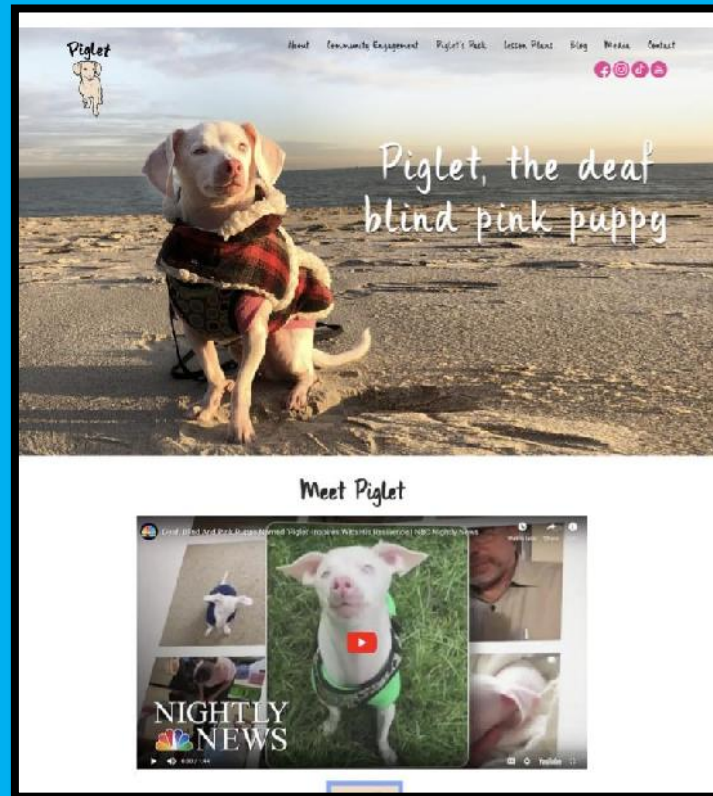


# INSTAGRAM

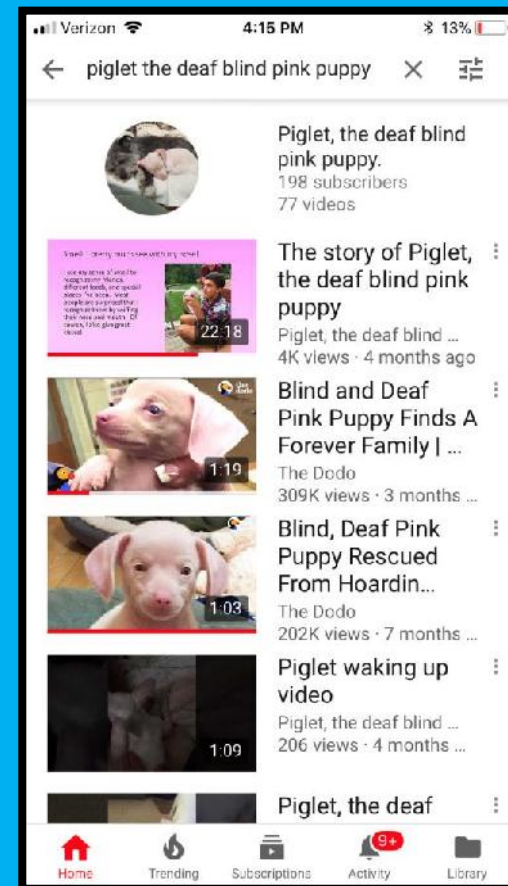




# WEBSITE



# YOU TUBE



# PIGLET HAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY AMAZING QUALITY OF LIFE

- I lead a very active, productive life. Anyone who meets me knows that I am happy. I prance around with my head up and tail wagging. I have a positive Piglet Mindset!
- My mom says "Piglet is a smart, feisty, handsome, adorable tiny pink dog. His ability to adapt and enjoy life is remarkable and exemplary. Piglet is a dog who teaches optimism, perseverance, resilience, flexibility, empathy, compassion, and kindness. He engages his environment, communicates with his people, and uses his positive mindset to face challenges every single day."





# 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.



# WHAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL? WHAT'S YOUR MISSION??



## Book Activities:

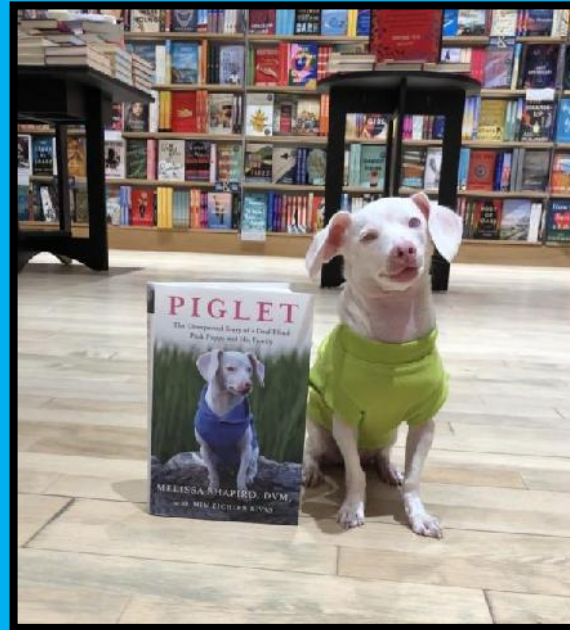
Reading Piglet's adult book to the class, chapter by chapter, allows teachers to tell the story of Piglet and his family, with editing as needed.

**PIGLET COMES HOME** is an adorable picture book for elementary school aged children.

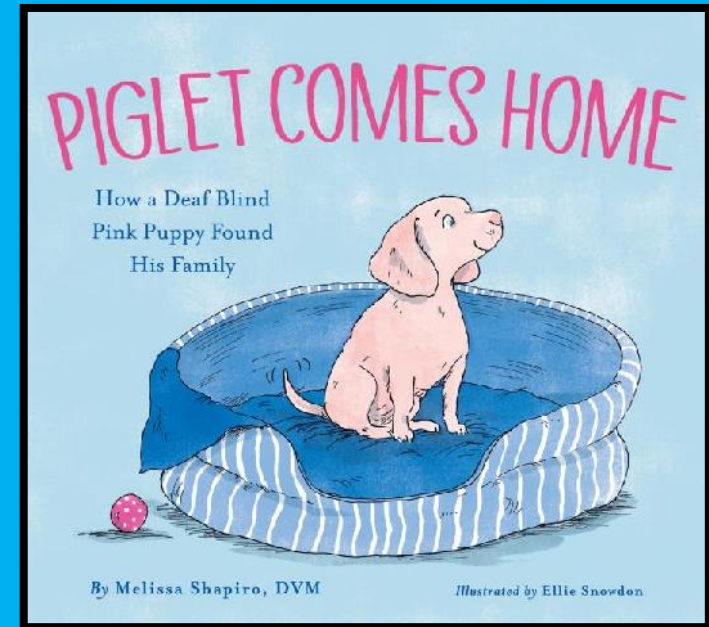
Students can read it on their own, it can be used as a read aloud with follow-up discussion, and it makes a great take-home at the end of the school year or as a holiday gift.

## THE PIGLET BOOK

HARDCOVER, E-BOOK, AUDIOBOOK,  
LARGE PRINT  
PAPERBACK- JULY 2022



A Picture Book for Children  
June 2022, Preorder Now!



Signed copies, and signed bookplates available.  
Visit [PigletMindset.org](http://PigletMindset.org) for details.



# RESOURCES AND LINKS

E-mail: [pinkpigletpuppy@gmail.com](mailto:pinkpigletpuppy@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Piglet, the deaf blind pink puppy](#)

Instagram: [@pinkpigletpuppy](#)

TikTok: [@pinkpigletpuppy](#)

Website: <https://www.pinkpigletpuppy.org/>

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

People Magazine: [Online Article](#)

The Dodo: [Piglet's video](#)

[Little But Fierce Video](#) [Dodo Impact Video](#)

[Piglet Mindset Classroom Visit Video](#)



# THE END

**Susie**



**Gina**



**Dean**



**Annie**



**Evie**



**Zoey**