



## THE PHEASANT FROM PIGS

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It was a long distance phone call from PIGS, a sanctuary in West Virginia, that began it all. The sanctuary was short-staffed and one of our volunteers had gone up to spend a day helping out at this heaven-on-earth for pigs. While she was there, she was introduced to an injured pheasant in a cage. The bird had been rescued a year ago when she was found hit by a car. The veterinarian that treated her had attempted to repair the broken leg and wing but, unfortunately, she would never fly again due to her injuries. This pheasant's only option was to live out the rest of her life in a cage at the pig sanctuary with no hope for release.

Our volunteer, who has worked with us for years, felt that surely we could find a better way for this pheasant to live out her life. The cage was small and the bird was alone with none of her own kind around for company. In the hopes that we could find a better permanent home, if our assessment of the injuries concurred with the first vet, we agreed to accept the bird.

Upon her arrival at Second Chance, we made an appointment to have her x-rayed the next day. Unfortunately, the x-ray showed that her humerus (a large bone in the upper wing) had healed with a gap between parts of the bone. Combined with her serious limp, she was definitely going to have to find a permanent home. I began making the dreaded phone calls to various nature centers and wildlife sanctuaries to seek out a spot. Luckily, I tried the National Zoo first, even though they rarely need help finding animals for their exhibits. I was more than surprised to find out that they might indeed be interested in our female pheasant. They had just lost their female pheasant, and happened to have a lonely male with no friends in their aviary.

When a representative from the zoo came to visit, she saw that our pheasant was in good condition despite her limp, and recommended her for the exhibit. The aviary in which she would be housed sounded great to us; she would have foliage to hide in and room to roam around with birds of many species, as well as her new boyfriend. We had to wait for the zoo to finish the necessary paperwork and the pheasant will be in quarantine for 30 days, but soon she will be out in the aviary enjoying her new, larger accommodations and, hopefully, her new boyfriend. Maybe if you're quiet enough and look behind the bushes in the zoo's walk-through aviary, you might find her!

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