



Wash and Frieda – Older, Wiser, and Just as Much Fun April 20, 2013

“Everyone deserves another chance,” comments Leiana S., foster mom to two older guinea pigs, Wash and Frieda, as well as two others and mom to four pigs of her own. Even though Wash and Frieda are older pigs (both over 5 years) they are healthy, happy, and highly adoptable.

Frieda was initially brought into the OCCH rescue with babies, and then she spent three years in Leiana’s foster care paired with another pig, Sugar. At one point they were adopted out, but they were subsequently returned and ended up back in foster care. Then medical issues arose that complicated matters and Sugar had to be spayed. Six months later, Leiana found out that Sugar had a heart condition, and had developed a large kidney stone, so she became unadoptable and spent the rest of her life as a sanctuary pig.

When Sugar finally died, Frieda was perfectly healthy, but lonely. Wash had been paired up with a sanctuary pig, too, and, like Frieda, he had just lost his best furry friend. Leiana had the opportunity to pig-sit him overnight, and she found him very sweet; in fact, he and Frieda seemed to get along together and to be a good match. The funny part was that they both had been the dominant of their original pairs, and Leiana says, “when they got together, they each tried to become boss. It was like having Mr. and Mrs. Bossy Pants in the same cage. But then something changed, and they fell head over heels in love with each other. It’s the ultimate `senior romance.’”



How far does the romance extend? “Well, they like to kiss each other on the cheeks when they’re eating,” Leiana explains, “and they’re like Lady and Tramp (who chewed on a single strand of spaghetti in the movies) when they eat lettuce together. They live in a handmade wooden hacienda house that has little windows, and Wash has been known to poke his head into them and steal kisses from Frieda.” They sleep inside together, and they do just about everything else as a pair, too. They love to be petted, and they’ve definitely mellowed in temperament over the years. “That makes them ideal for a “starter family,” (first-time owners)” Leiana says, “or for those who adore the mellowness of seniors rather than the rambunctiousness of youngsters. I would tell any potential adoptees their wonderful story of how they found each other to help them fall for them, just like they fell in love with each other.”

So what are Wash and Frieda like, other than inseparable? Well, like most guinea pigs, they love their treats. Their particular favorites are all kinds of lettuce, and especially red and green leaf, bell peppers, carrots, English cucumbers, and bananas. Frieda also likes kiwis and persimmons. And, of course, they like their Timothy pellets and hay, which they get in unlimited quantities. Leiana controls the amount of fruit that they get, though, since it’s so high in sugar, and she doesn’t feed them calcium-rich foods like kale, since they’re an older pair and therefore more prone to stones. Vet bills can be higher for older pigs, but a little proper care and nutrition can forestall the need for extensive medical care.



Wash and Frieda also love to beg for their Vitamin C tablet each night. Wash gets up on the edge of the cage and starts to chatter his teeth, with Frieda wheeking right next to him. When they get what they want, they crunch on the tablets happily, like kids that have been given candy. Wash is known to chatter any time he wants something; it's his way of communicating with his human, instead of wheeking. Surprisingly, too, even though he's not fixed, he does not make any boar scent, since he's so committed to Frieda.

And Frieda? Well, when she was taken to an event and another male made advances toward her, "she wouldn't even give him the time of day, since she was already so in love with Wash," Leiana remarks. "He makes her happy, and now they're both getting another chance, together, after having lost their previous cagemates. They're a perfectly bonded pair, and even though they're older, they deserve another chance."

Would you like to give this pair a loving forever home? If so, please send an e-mail to cavyhaven.adoptions@gmail.com.

Written by Miriam Ruff