



## Media Release

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# A Story of Hope

Australians love nothing more than cheering on an underdog and Hope's story is certainly one of that. In our fine country most pigs never get to see sunshine, smell fresh air or roll about in a wallow. Mother pigs can be legally kept in small metal cages barely bigger than the pigs themselves. With no bedding material and only able to take a small step forward or back, it is little wonder they can develop stereotypical behaviours. For most pigs today theirs is indeed a life without hope, or is it?

Just before Christmas of 2008 a tiny female pig made good her escape from a piggery. In true Aussie form this intrepid battler beat the odds, elements and the dinner table, ending up at Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary. Her bloodied and painful tail stump a legacy to the legal cruelty afforded her kind. Legal in Australia is the cutting off of piglets tails, removal of their eye teeth and castration of males all without any pain relief or anaesthetic - and all illegal acts if the animal were your domestic pet.

"Today Hope is so bright, playful and a joy to behold" said her now guardian Pam Ahern. "It didn't take her too long to work out we were the good guys. She now comes when called, sits on command and happily goes for walks on her lead. A true testament to the intelligence of pigs" beamed Pam.

Hope has now taken on the role of ambassador pig, becoming a true beacon of hope for her not so fortunate brethren. Travelling the countryside, changing hearts and minds on the trot through by getting people to see what truly remarkable animals pigs really are rather than only thinking of what remains of them when their lives have ended. To meet Hope or any of the other amazing animal residents of Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary contact Pam Ahern 0408 397 301.

Useful website: [www.edgarsmission.org.au](http://www.edgarsmission.org.au)

Photos attached for media use, large file photos available upon request.

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**"If we could live happy and healthy lives without harming others... why wouldn't we?"**