



小豬放生記 Liberating A Piglet

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今年萬佛聖城慶祝觀音菩薩聖誕法會中，總共放生50隻雉雞與鸚鵡。但最受矚目的卻是一隻小豬，因為這是萬佛聖城成立近40年來，第一次放生小豬。

這隻幸運的小豬是於2015年2月底在瑜伽市附近的路邊發現的，當時這隻無人照顧的小豬正在遊蕩，因身世不明，故被送往聖塔羅莎動物庇護中心「光明之家」。中心行政人員習姆絲指出，小豬被送來時，正發高燒，體重僅兩磅左右，估計出生大約五天，光明之家的工作人員為小豬取名葛蕾喜。

習姆絲於4月5日將葛蕾喜帶到萬佛聖城，參加放生儀式，讓小豬跟其餘放生動物一起受三皈依。當時葛蕾喜已長到15磅左右，並且恢復了健康。儀式結束後，關在推車籠裏的葛蕾喜，被帶到佛殿前，放出來自由活動。

許多參加放生儀式的信眾看到葛蕾喜舒暢轉動身體，開心發出叫聲，都為這隻皈依佛門的小豬感到高興。由於萬佛聖城沒有豬舍，也缺乏人手照顧小豬，因此葛蕾喜還是回到光明之家安享天年，法界佛教總會成為葛蕾喜的資助者之一，其餘經費由私人募款補足。

光明之家的工作人員都是素食者，因此不用擔心葛蕾喜遭到宰殺，按合約也不會將葛蕾喜作任何營利用途。葛蕾喜將定期回到萬佛聖城，跟男女校學生見面。這次的小豬放生成為佛教放生新型態，也就是被放生的動物獲得妥善照顧，而非成為生態環境的破壞者或犧牲者。



At the celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's birthday at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas this year, a total of 50 pheasants and quails were set free during the liberating life ceremony. However, the object of everyone's attention was a piglet. This was the first time in nearly forty years

of CTTB's history that a pig had been liberated.

This lucky piglet was found alone by a road near Ukiah at the end of February. Since no one knew where it came from, it was sent to Bright Haven animal sanctuary in Santa Rosa. Vicki Sims, the administrative staff, said that when it first arrived, the piglet was running a fever and weighed only two pounds. They estimated that it was only five days old. The people at Bright Haven named the piglet Gracie.

Sims brought Gracie to CTTB on April 5th for the liberation of life ceremony, and she took the three refugees with the other animals that would also be liberated. By this time, Gracie had regained her health and grown considerably, weighing about 15 pounds. After the ceremony was over, she was let out of her carrier to run around in front of the Buddha Hall.

Seeing Gracie oink happily and run around freely, many people who had attended the ceremony were very happy for this piglet who had taken refuge. Since there isn't a place for her to live in CTTB, nor are there enough people to take care of her, Gracie will continue to live at Bright Haven until the end of her days. Her living costs will be covered by DRBA, one of her sponsors, and also by private donations.

The people who work at Bright Haven are all vegetarian, so there is no danger of Gracie getting killed. According to the contract, Gracie cannot be used for any business purposes. She will be taken to CTTB regularly to visit the students at the schools. Instead of being harmful to the environment they are liberated in or being adversely affected by their new home, this is the first time animals are being properly taken care of after being set free. This is a new form of liberating life.