



Our Hen House

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Interview with Derek Walter and Steve Jenkins

By OUR HEN HOUSE

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*Following is a transcript of an interview with **DEREK WALTER** and **STEVE JENKINS** conducted by **JASMIN SINGER** and **MARIANN SULLIVAN** of [Our Hen House](#), for the [Our Hen House podcast](#). The interview aired on Episode 220.*

JASMIN: Derek Walter and Steve Jenkins met 14 years ago when Steve was a waiter at a Montana restaurant and Derek was a close-up table magician. They currently live in suburban Georgetown, Ontario, which is about 45 minutes northwest of Toronto, with their two dogs, two cats, and of course, Esther the Wonder Pig, who came into their lives almost two years ago and changed it forever. Steve currently works as a realtor and Derek is still a professional magician. Learn more at estherthewonderpig.com.

Welcome to Our Hen House, Steve and Derek.

DEREK: Hey, thank you so much for having us on today.

JASMIN: It's so exciting to talk to you. You're like royalty in our heads, and I kinda want you to put the microphone up to Esther at some point. I don't know if maybe she'll get stage fright or something. But why don't we back up, and can you just give us the story of how you first came to have Esther in your home?

STEVE: Absolutely. It was a totally unplanned and un-thought of event. We got a message from an acquaintance online, somebody on Facebook that said they had this tiny mini pig that wasn't getting along with the family and they needed to find it a new home. So I always have been an animal lover, and immediately it caught my interest, so I said I'd get back to her. But they pulled the bait and switch, and about an hour or two later, all of a sudden I was told somebody else was interested, and I either had to decide or she was going to this other person. So I panicked and I jumped on it, went from never even considering a pig to having her at home within about 12 hours. And Derek had no idea that any of this was happening, so it was a pretty interesting few days. That's for sure.

MARIANN: So you mentioned the bait and switch. Actually the whole micro-pig industry is, if you would call it that, it's just more like a scam, isn't it?

STEVE: Yeah, absolutely.

DEREK: It can be, yeah.

STEVE: Yeah.

DEREK: I'm pretty sure there's a lot of people that are in our shoes, that thought they were getting a micro-pig, to find out a couple months down the road that their pig that they thought was only gonna be maybe 30 pounds has ended up being 75, 80 pounds and keep growing. So, it's not an uncommon occurrence at all, we found out, after the fact of course. Yeah.

MARIANN: And what is Esther's weight at this point?

DEREK: She's over 400 pounds.

MARIANN: Yeah, she did grow a bit.

DEREK: Yeah, we haven't done her measurements yet this month.

MARIANN: Okay.

DEREK: We take her measurements, a few measurements, and then you work it all out on the calculator and it gives you a number and that's a roundabout number.

MARIANN: And I want to get to all the details on Esther in a moment 'cause I know that's why everybody's listening. But just tell us, while we're on it, what happens to most of these pigs when they start growing? What do people do?

STEVE: Well, they typically end up abandoned, or worse, unfortunately. There are some sanctuaries that'll take them on. We really don't have a whole lot of options when you're in our position. If we needed to rehome Esther, we've got very few options. Either we're finding a family farm or a hobby farm that's willing to take her and put her in a barn, or like I said, maybe a sanctuary, or God forbid, they go to market unfortunately. I mean, it's pretty sad.

JASMIN: So why did you decide to keep her?

DEREK: Oh, it was just our commitment to -- we took on an animal and it was our undying commitment to keep her and uphold that commitment to her. She didn't choose to be that big. It wasn't her fault, and it's just undying love with her, so...

JASMIN: Mm. Well, that comes through so much in your outreach. But can you tell us what some of the challenges are of having a large pig?

STEVE: Absolutely. I mean, there's the obvious, right? Clearly size is an issue, size and weight. She traipses around here sometimes and can bump things. She's getting a lot better, I guess, in getting used to her size herself. You know, she grew really fast and she just doesn't know where her corners are, if that makes any sense, so--

MARIANN: Yeah, that's so interesting when you think of how fast they grow. It must be shocking for them, in a way.

STEVE: Oh, I'm sure it is. She now -- she's funny. Turning around in the hallway, she knows there's a couple of spots she can go where the doors line up across from each other. And that's the spot she uses to do her little three-point turn in the hallway. So she's learning to get around of course, and she spends a ton of time outside in the summer. This page only started in December, so you've seen a lot of inside pictures of Esther, just because we

weren't planning any of this, so we didn't stockpile all kinds of outdoor summer pictures yet. So she does spend a lot of time outside in the summer, but in the winter, yeah, she's pretty homebound. She doesn't like the cold. We give her all the opportunity she wants to go out, but she prefers the indoors in colder weather. It's pretty funny.

MARIANN: Yeah, and for our readers who don't know, of course, you're up in Canada, near Toronto, is that right?

STEVE: That's right. Yeah, that's right.

MARIANN: So you do get a little cold weather up there.

STEVE: That's an understatement.

MARIANN: So, how about house training? Was that difficult?

DEREK: That was the hardest because when we first got Esther, we were under the impression she was a mini-pig, so we had a mini litter box, you know, about the size of a cat litter box. And then a week later we were buying the biggest cat litter box, and then about a month later we were at a small children's pool, and then the biggest dog crate that you could find, we started filling that full of like horse shavings, and that was her litter box. And when she could no longer turn around in that enormous crate, we felt that we shouldn't be litter-training a pig that size for the house, so we completely changed routes and started to get her to follow the dogs' schedule with going in and out on their schedule. And it was extremely difficult because we were giving her mixed messages. In the beginning we were litter-training her, and we said, "This is where you go," and in the end of it all we took the litter bin on her. I think that caused some confusion, which also made things more difficult around here. But then one day she just clicked and she goes in and out with the dogs religiously now, so it's a wonderful thing.

MARIANN: Well, clearly one of the problems was just caused by the situation that you didn't know how big she was gonna grow so you trained her. You really had to train her twice, and that's really really hard for any animal.

DEREK: Exactly.

STEVE: Yeah, it was our own fault. And had we known, of course, knowing what we know now, we would have started outdoors immediately. She did take to the litter box. That wasn't the problem. It was that she got so big that she'd stand in the litter box, but she'd pee out the side. So she was in the right spot; it wasn't her fault. Yeah, it was a nightmare. And like I said, it wasn't her problem, but still it was causing us a nightmare around the house. And it was the only thing that made us actually question, are we doing the right thing? Can we do this? How are we gonna make this work? It was crazy.

DEREK: I'm in a sweat right now thinking about those times. That was some difficult time.

JASMIN: Yeah. We actually have a friend who adopted this dog and found out after adopting this dog that the dog was going to grow to be like 80 pounds, which I'm sure you're completely laughing at the idea of 80 pounds. But anyway, I remember getting this call from this particular friend. He was crying, he was completely freaked out. He lives in a small New York City apartment. And he said, "I can't do this. There's no way I can have a dog that's

going to grow to become this size.” And of course, that was like 10 years ago. Now he and the dog are like besties. But it makes me wonder, was there ever a time when you had second thoughts, when you thought, we just can’t do this?

STEVE: Absolutely. I can’t tell you how many times.

DEREK: We each had our own moments.

STEVE: Yeah. There was times I’d lie on the floor and I’d be in tears with her, just not knowing what we were gonna do and having read some stories about how bonded pigs get. I think that was my biggest struggle is that we read so many things. They get so bonded with either their human family or their other pig companions, that taking them away and moving them or separating them can be really, really hard on them. And of course she was so used to living with us in a house, so think of her in a barn or to be just on her own in a field. That was heartbreaking to us. So yeah, it was really, really hard.

DEREK: Yeah, we definitely held each other up. When Steve would have his hard days, I would tell him that everything was gonna be all right. And when I’d be having my hard days, it would be the direct opposite. So we sort of kept each other on track.

JASMIN: There used to be this singer that I used to go see religiously every week at Central Park. His name was David Ippolito, and he had this song called “Thank Goodness We’re Not Crazy on the Same Day,” and that’s what it makes me think of. Yeah.

DEREK: That’s a total good comparison.

STEVE: Yeah, absolutely. I haven’t heard the song, but that sounds -- I think I need to hear that song.

MARIANN: We’ll all play it every morning. So when did you decide to start telling her story online?

STEVE: It was again totally by accident. We started the page December 4 of just this past year, 2013.

JASMIN: Unbelievable! Oh, my God!

STEVE: Yeah. It was just done for family and friends. We could talk to--

JASMIN: I feel like we’ve always had Esther in our lives. How is this possible?

STEVE: I know, right? But it was literally just for family and friends. We were talking with some people, you know, as you do around Christmastime, we hadn’t talked to for a while that were asking, how’s she doing and what’s happening? And so we just figured we’d get something for, like I said, our friends and stuff, to go and see pictures of her. And somehow, somebody outside of our own circle got ahold of it, and we can’t even explain--

DEREK: They blogged about it.

STEVE: Yeah, we really have no idea. Honestly it went from nothing to, I think, by the end of the year, within the month, we were almost at 30,000, 25,000? And it just exploded from there. It’s been nuts.

JASMIN: I think it's time Our Hen House gets a pig.

MARIANN: Rose is so annoyed right now.

JASMIN: Although, let's admit it, I mean, come on, Rose is pretty pig-like.

MARIANN: Yeah, we've always thought that she might be part pig. So how long was it before you realized that you were onto something totally amazing?

DEREK: At 8000 likes, there was a real -- it was an exciting night. We went to bed. We got up, and our email boxes were just flooded. Everything was maxed out, and somebody in Hong Kong had read the blog that somebody in the US had wrote. And that was the explosion point. We got a message from somebody in Hong Kong. She sent us a couple pictures of their biggest daily newspaper. And there was five or six photos of Steven and I with Esther, a couple of our friends with Esther, and it was a huge write-up. And it was at that moment that we went, oh my gosh, what did we do, like, what is going on? And it was after that night that everything just went absolutely crazy. It just went up, up, up, up, up. Every second of every day, there was something going on.

JASMIN: Why? Why do you think that is? What do you think it is about Esther that makes this story so impossible to look away from? Why do you think you're getting this worldwide attention?

STEVE: I think it's because we're seeing Esther, we're able to show Esther in such a different light than most people are used to seeing them. I mean, we've all seen potbelly pigs and these little Julian pigs that are 70, 80 pounds. But how often have you seen a 450-pound pig sleeping on somebody's couch in the living room? It's just so unexpected. We've always thought that they're just farm animals, they're just mindless and thoughtless. And we're showing Esther on a totally different level and letting her actual personality come through, and she's her own character. All these little captions and stuff you write, we try to put, obviously, words in her mouth. But it honestly seems, living with her, like it's what she would say. And we're just trying to give her a voice that makes sense to us and portrays how we see Esther. And it's a way that we never thought -- I think that was the key to us too. I mean, we were never -- we weren't vegan before we got Esther. We were just carrying on, doing our thing, burgers and bacon, top of the menu. We'd always had pigs on a different level and thought of them differently. And her coming into our life and finding out that she's not even this Julian pig or potbelly pig, but she's a full-on commercial pig, totally lost that separation for us. And all of a sudden, we couldn't ignore it and we started thinking of all these other aspects of what her life could have been like. And it was crazy to see this amazing little person, really. It seems so strange to say she's a person, but her personality and intelligence are just so crazy. It was unbelievable.

JASMIN: Well, it sounds like there was this huge gestalt shift for you guys, and I'd love to hear a little bit more about that. So many of us, me and Mariann included, and also people listening to this, when we think back to our own awakening when it came to animal issues, when we think back to our own vegan evolution, that alone is such a big deal. It's such a big part of all of our identities. But you had this going on at the same time as you were falling in love with this new family member, with this individual in your house. And I'd love to know a little bit more about what was going through your mind then and about your transition to veganism.

DEREK: Oh, that's a big question. So I guess when we had Esther about three weeks, we were -- it's not a great story -- cooking bacon on the stove and a bulb just went off. It was a bulb moment. Steven and I both looked at each other in horror and disgust. It was our moment, and we both knew at that point that something profound had happened. It was just like a switch had shut off. Maybe a week before that, I started doing some research online trying to find fellow pig owners and pig enthusiasts, just to try to get a little bit more informed, and came across Toronto Pig Save. And they're a group in Toronto that holds these vigils for the slaughter trucks that are showing up at the local slaughterhouse. And I had never even thought of such a thing. And they posted images that were so shocking to me and to Steven, and it was just our awakening, to see how our food industry really operates at the core is what got us.

JASMIN: I have seen so much footage from Toronto Pig Save. And I feel like a lot of what I see sticks with me more than some of the horrific footage I see. All I'm talking about right now is that footage of them standing at the street corner when the transport truck shows up and the activists then feed the pigs water while the truck is at a red light through the slats of the truck. And there's some photos, a lot of which Jo-Anne McArthur has gotten, of these pigs in that situation. And like, even as I'm talking about it, I'm getting all verklempt because it's so powerful. I think that it's so important to realize not only what we give to these animals when we give them a second chance, but what we take away from them. It's like the kind of yang to the yin, I guess you could say. When you look at Esther, there's gotta be a part of you that's completely heartbroken at everything that was going to be possibly taken away from her and everything that is taken away from other farmed animals.

STEVE: That's it. People look at her, and we've had people ask us, what have you done and what's your secret and how did you train her? And we honestly didn't do anything. Like, Derek and I had no experience with pigs. We weren't raised on farms, none of that. We live in the city. We have no idea what we're doing, to be totally honest. All we did was love her and gave her a chance and let her be herself, and this is what she became. You just take them out of those barns and out of those situations and we quickly felt this wool over our eyes. And even farmers we talk to are like, "Oh you're nuts, they're mean and they're vicious and they're angry and you guys are crazy, what are you thinking? That pig's gonna destroy your house." And it's so untrue. I mean, the whole industry is nothing but lies, it seems, as far as happy pigs, or happy cows on yogurt commercials smiling in the fields, and mindless mean pigs. It seems like nothing but lies, and to actually see Esther and find out what she was all about was the key for us. It's what made us really think, oh my God, things need to change. These animals are not anything like what we've grown up thinking they were. We felt terrible. I think there's a big part of guilt that came along with this whole realization, for me, anyway. I felt terrible of what I'd done until we realized what Esther was all about. It's pretty crazy. To us now those trucks going by might as well be a truck full of dogs. We can't look at it any differently. They always used to drive by and we'd look the other way. You can't tell me anybody on the highway doesn't look the other way when that truck goes by. Out of sight, out of mind, right? We lost that ability with Esther. We had no detachment anymore.

And that's what made this so important for us. Once we saw it taking off and to see her having this same sort of -- now it's got this name; we called it the Esther Effect. To see Esther having this sort of effect on people that, other than photos and videos, she's never even met, just because they're seeing her in this different light is the most incredible and

unbelievable experience of our lives. She's doing the same thing she did to us to other people just by way of photos. It's pretty amazing.

MARIANN: One of the things that really strikes me, I know you say you're just speaking for Esther or what you think she would be saying, but you're really, really good at social networking. And one of the reasons you are is Esther's hilarious and wonderful comments, which I'm sure everybody who has an animal, I think, does that, but you do it really well. But you're also so attentive to the questions and comments you and Esther get. And I know not all of your fans are animal rights folks, at least when they first arrive, and many must be surprised by Esther. What kind of questions do you get and how do you respond to them? Are there any that are difficult?

STEVE: The ones that we struggle with the most is, I think -- Derek and I come from a little bit of a different place. Like I said, we're not lifelong activists or lifelong vegans from a family of vegetarians or vegans. This is all very, very new to us, so I think we're a little bit more understanding than some people. And where we've had the biggest problem doing this is being what we thought was just supportive of somebody that had come on and said, "You know, I just wanted to let you know that Esther caused me to give up bacon," or to give up pork or whatever it may be. And we would chime in and say, "You know what? Congratulations. Good for you and baby steps, one step at a time," and then you'd have somebody else come in on the page and completely attack us: "How can you say that pork or not eating pigs is more important than the cows or the chickens?" And so learning to balance how we respond to questions has been incredibly hard for us. We only thought we were being supportive of this person. Great, one step at a time, do what you need to do. That's how we did it, to be honest. It took us a few months. It wasn't just a flick of the switch, and hey, all of a sudden, we're vegan. It took time. There's more to it than just, that's it, I'm giving it up, I'm all of a sudden vegan. It's a learning curve. And that's a big part of what we want this page to be is to help people make that connection and help show them how easy it can be. It's not all or nothing. It doesn't need to be hard.

And that's been our biggest struggle. You say we're good at social networking, and I think it's just because we're so honest and we're so open with people. We've made mistakes. There may have been a question we'll post that's gone up or there may have been a wrong answer to a question. We make mistakes. We're human. We're just like anybody else. We're not a giant organization that's running this whole big campaign. We're just two guys trying to share our story. That's all that we're about.

DEREK: So accidental. It's just, it's so accidental. There's no other way to put it. We've become accidental activists.

MARIANN: I love that.

JASMIN: It's so true. You kind of fell into this, for sure. Now I heard from a little birdie in a tree or perhaps a little piggy in a living room or maybe a not so little piggy, that you might have some plans for a sanctuary. Can you talk about that a little bit?

DEREK: Absolutely. Our lives have just been turned right around. The direction that we're heading in now, we could have never even imagined. I mean, like, you can't make this stuff up. We know that we need a bigger house and a bigger property. We want to provide that for Esther. And it's made us want to open up our own farm sanctuary because there's such

a need to help abused and abandoned farm animals in our area. All the shelters are full and we just want to help, and we know we can help and we're gonna help. So we're gonna open up our own farm sanctuary. We started looking at properties in the area. We just have to make sure everything's just right so we can start helping other animals.

STEVE: Our most important thing though is to make sure that people are able to make the same sort of connection that we did. Again, that's the most important part to this. And sanctuaries are amazing, they're fantastic things. But if it's just a barnyard, they're providing great homes for these animals but they're not doing all that much to show what these animals are all about. And that's, I think, our biggest goal. We want to provide a home, but we also want to make sure that people are coming to see their home and that they're coming to see these animals in a different light. We'd love to have a very special pig barn that's set up a lot differently than a standard barn, with maybe standard hard floors, blankets for bedding instead of hay, you know, show them in more of a doglike sort of a setup, because pigs have that ability. They can be toilet trained. They love to play with their toys, they're incredibly clean. People don't think that. The word "pigsty" or "eat like a pig" or "sweat like a pig," any of these connotations with pig are incredibly negative. And we want to try to change that and show people a different side of them. So that's the most important part to us. We don't just want a farm.

DEREK: Yeah, it's gonna be hugely education-directed.

STEVE: Yeah, absolutely. We want things that make people want to come there, a big community garden, free community garden. Come and use it for free, and we'll have vegan and vegetarian cooking classes to show you how to use that sort of stuff. Anything a little different and again to make it a destination, not just a barnyard.

MARIANN: I really love all of these ideas. And I think that's exactly what your website and your Facebook page do. They allow people to see Esther the way they see dogs, and that's what's so powerful. Or other companion animals, but especially dogs. I mean, the similarities are so great. And having a sanctuary that also allowed people to make that connection, I think it's so powerful. But speaking of that, how does Esther get along with your dogs?

DEREK: Everybody's drawn their lines in the sand. Esther's almost two years old now so a lot has happened in those two years between the dogs and the cats. Everybody gets along really well now. In the beginning there were some feeding issues and everybody making sure they get their food share. No, everybody gets along really well now. They sleep together, sometimes there's a bit of boisterous house play that goes on. We try to limit that because Esther is so big and I don't think she really understands that she's 10 times the size of Reuben and 7 or 8 times the size of Shelby, so she doesn't really get that she could really hurt them if she was playing too hard. But everybody gets along great and there's no problems whatsoever.

MARIANN: She's not full-grown yet, right?

DEREK: That's part of the wonder. The Wonder Pig, that came on at about 120 pounds. Friends and neighbors were like, "How big's she gonna get? We saw her last time and she's definitely bigger." And we would always deny and go, "No, she hasn't grown, you just haven't seen her." And we weren't seeing the smaller changes 'cause we were seeing her

every day, but if somebody hadn't seen her in two weeks and came in, they were like, "Oh my gosh, she's huge! What's going on? What are you gonna do? What are the neighbors saying? What are they gonna do?" And a lot of questions, and that just -- it was Esther the Wonder Pig. We don't know.

STEVE: We're wondering the same thing.

MARIANN: What about -- I know that pigs are bred to grow too fast and to be too big. Does she have health problems because of it or do you expect that?

DEREK: No, I mean, they're overfed in the situations in the barns and they just don't have anywhere to go. They can't turn around, they've got a gruel bucket in front of them and that's all they have to do is just eat. And what they're eating is chock full of growth hormones and all sorts of other things that keep them healthy in those situations because they're in just such gross situations that they need to be highly medicated. But Esther eats an extremely healthy diet. She eats healthier than most people.

JASMIN: Is it expensive to feed her?

DEREK: I would be lying if I said it was cheap. We want her to lead a healthy life, and we want her to live a long life, so we've been feeding her the way that we would feed ourselves almost.

STEVE: It's probably not as bad as you would think, though, because she gets a ton of fruit and vegetables but she gets all of the extra stuff that we have, the extra leaves of lettuce or even banana peels or apple cores. She loves all that sort of stuff, so we supplement her diet in a big way with fresh fruits and vegetables, and that limits our costs quite a bit.

DEREK: And neighbors and friends too, they'll bring over, when they're cleaning out their refrigerator, like, stuff that maybe might be a bit soft or a banana that's too brown or carrots that they're just not gonna use or a cabbage that's been in the fridge for a month that they're never using. So friends and family, they're helping us out as well with bringing treats for Esther.

JASMIN: I guess my final question for you guys before we close is can you just tell us a little bit about what she's like and maybe tell us a story about Esther?

DEREK: Yeah, for sure. She sleeps now out in the living room. She's not penned at all. She gets up in the morning around anywhere between six and seven-thirty. She gets up, she immediately wants breakfast, and 9 times out of 10 she'll go back to bed for a few hours after eating breakfast. And then she'll get up, she'll go outside for usually a couple of hours. She'll come in at lunchtime followed by an after-lunch nap, and then she'll go outside usually for another couple of hours.

STEVE: She's very doglike. She leads a life of leisure, that's for sure.

DEREK: If we need to go to the store or head out for a couple of hours just to run some errands, we don't have to pen her up. She's got full reign of the house. We have to lock certain doors now because she's able to open doors. She's figured that out. Yeah, that was a real game changer.

STEVE: Yeah.

DEREK: There's hooks on all of our doors now so we can control where she's able to go and where she can't go. We don't want her in the basement 'cause that's where our pantry is. We've had to move all of our food basically out of the kitchen cupboards to a pantry in the basement just to -- it causes less problems. She's certainly an opportunist. If we had cupboards full of food, we wouldn't be able to leave. She would certainly take full advantage of that.

STEVE: We've learned as much as she has, I think, in this first couple of years. Like, we learned how to deal with her, but she taught us so much as far as, we basically had to childproof our house, right? Like Derek said, locking doors. She can open our cupboards, she can open the fridge and the freezer.

DEREK: The stove, she can open the stove.

STEVE: Yeah. And one thing that would surprise people actually is just the other day I came into the kitchen and I caught Esther with her front hooves on the counter trying to get something off the counter. So when people think pigs can't jump or they're not agile, but she's just like the dog, standing on her back legs, front hooves on the counter, trying to get a bowl of, I think it was mixed grains or something that were in a bowl on the counter. She could smell them and she wanted them. It was unbelievable. I nearly died when I came in and saw her.

DEREK: Yeah, she's pretty light on her feet for being 500 pounds. And she gets on the couch for cuddles, she gets on the bed for cuddles. These are all just things -- she's living the dream. She's absolutely living the dream.

STEVE: One of her favorite things is being hugged. If she's ready to go down, you can tell when she wants to go for a nap 'cause she kinda wanders a little bit, paces a little bit in the living room, back and forth in front of her bed. So if you get on the floor with her and you kinda kneel beside her and put your arm around her shoulders, she'll almost immediately lay down and just wants you to lay with her. She loves to be laid with. And many times if you go and sit beside her or lay beside her, she'll lean into you to be closer and to cuddle with you. It's pretty incredible.

DEREK: Yeah, she actively seeks attention from us.

STEVE: Yeah, when she wants to sleep, she wants somebody with her. She loves nothing more than to sleep with somebody. It's the coolest thing.

JASMIN: Will you guys adopt *me*? I mean, this is just the life this Esther pig has anyway.

STEVE: It's pretty cool. I gotta tell you, there's nothing more amazing than laying down with her and looking at her face. It sounds so weird and maybe it sounds creepy, but laying on the ground and just looking at her eyes and listening to her breathe and -- it's the most unbelievable experience. It's really hard to explain. We've always had dogs. We've always loved dogs. Esther is a totally different kettle of fish. She changed everything. We've never experienced more intelligence or sensitivity or just awareness of what's going on in an animal before. It's really hard to explain. It sounds really weird but there's something very different and very special.

DEREK: It's like the X factor. You just can't define what it is until you actually experience it.

STEVE: Yeah.

JASMIN: And how can people find you online and follow Esther?

STEVE: They can find us through our website, which is www.estherthewonderpig.com. And it's got links to all of our social media sites, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We've also got a link on there to the Esther store, which is our effort to help raise some money to get us onto this farm sanctuary. So we've got some great t-shirts and little knickknacks and a little donate button. Even a dollar is helpful in helping make this happen, so that's a great spot for them to search, or of course like I said, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram. We're all over the place.

JASMIN: Well, I can't thank you enough for joining us today on Our Hen House and for sharing your story and Esther's story, both of which are very inspiring, and we will continue to stay on top of everything you do. Please keep us posted too about the sanctuary and all of your other efforts because we are among your biggest fans and of course Esther's biggest fans, so I just am so grateful to all that you do in this world, and I think you're opening eyes. You have a truly unique vantage point to change the world, and even if you're an accidental activist, you're certainly rising to the occasion. So thank you so much, boys, for joining us today on Our Hen House.

STEVE: Aw, thank you.

DEREK: Aw, thank you so much for having us.

STEVE: Yes, it was a privilege. We really appreciate it.

JASMIN: Learn more about Esther the Wonder Pig at estherthewonderpig.com.