



# Things You Don't Expect About Pigs

**GRACIE MILLER**

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | AGE 12

I have two guinea hog Juliana pigs. Their names are Olive and Oliver.  
Olive is gray and Oliver is black. They are siblings, and a year-and-a-half old.

Ever since I was little, I enjoyed going to the Stanwood Camano fair  
To see the pigs in the Pig Barn. I would sit and talk to them, touch them.  
They felt bristly with a sandpaper snout, a cold wetness.

They always made me laugh with their different sounds.  
Pigs have certain sounds with certain emotions.  
They can learn up to seventeen words that they pick up by listening.  
They have the intelligence of between a three and a five-year-old.  
Oliver says, "Mama." He loves to be vocal. Olive is a lot quieter.

Olive and Oliver love holiday treats. On Halloween, they eat  
Raw pumpkin and squash. The seeds are a natural de-wormer.  
They love Frangos and Kettle Corn.  
On a daily basis, they eat watermelon with the rind, and coconut strips.  
They are super clean animals.  
They sleep outside in a little house we built for them.  
But they come inside, too.  
They have a huge stuffy and a heated blanket when it's cold.

Olive and Oliver are my emotional support animals.  
They will come and lay down with me  
And stay with me until I can finally breathe.



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