



Spot, Nola and Don Schley pose for a family portrait.

## 430 LB. PORKER HAS COMPLETE RUN OF THE HOUSE

# “Spot” The Pig Is A Household Pet

“My wife, Nola, wanted a pet. I don’t like dogs and I hate cats, so I jokingly told her we could get a pig. She took me up on it and now we have Spot,” said Don Schley, Elk Mound, Wis.

“Spot”, a 430-lb. barrow, has complete run of the Schley’s 5-bedroom country home. They got him last August when he was an innocent looking, 4-week old, 12-lb., mixed-breed porker. His name’s derived from the single black spot he has on his otherwise red and white body.

“It took just three days to house-train Spot. He’s only forgotten to go outside once since then but he didn’t forget again after I paraded him in front of our barbecue pit,” Don jokes.

Spot has his own bedroom, complete with a king-size mattress lying on the floor. Box springs rest against the bedroom walls so he doesn’t scrape the walls with his feet when he sleeps.

Now tall enough to rub his back on the kitchen table, Spot loves sweets, roast pork, barbecued chicken, Rice Krispie treats and fruit. His basic diet, however, is hog grower pellets.

Don says Spot spends most of his day sleeping, usually not getting up until noon. He goes outside in nice weather and stays out till 8 p.m. Then, it’s back inside the house and into bed. Besides having run of the house, he has a free rein outside and does quite a job of roto-tilling, notes Don. “Like all pigs, he likes to play in the mud. When he was small, he used to jump in the bathtub. Now that he’s so big, we have to wash him with a garden hose outside. In winter, he gets a shower about once a week.”

Among Spot’s loves are Classic



Spot loves to sleep and has his own bedroom. He rarely gets up before noon.

Photos courtesy La Crosse Tribune

Coke and anything red. He loves to carry the Schley’s red phone around. Last Christmas, he tore open all the presents wrapped in red paper but did leave the tree alone. His curiosity also means that Don’s rifles and Nola’s glasswear had to be put up out of reach.

Perhaps the best Spot story Don tells is about the inquisitive pig dug out 10 cans of beer cooling in a snow bank. By the time Don found Spot, he was on his 10th can. “He’d poked a hole in each can with his teeth, then tipped them up one at a time to guzzle down the beer. He had quite a hang-over. Slept most of the next two days and wouldn’t eat. We even had to give him some Tylenol,” Don recalls. “The experience didn’t stop Spot’s taste for beer, though. He still enjoys an Old Style now and then.”



Spot takes cough drops from Nola’s mouth.

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**Editor’s Note:** Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

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