

Hello, my little piggies,

The ZSA E-board presents our first ever email storytime featuring some accurate animal facts and some references to our meeting:

Dale and Laurie (our speakers this week) once had three little pigs and one Tawny Frogmouth (our animal of the week). The three little pigs and the Tawny Frogmouth went out into the world to build their houses so they could stop themselves from being made into Dale's homemade sausage. The Tawny Frogmouth settled in a tree where it has highly skilled camouflage. However, the ZSA E-board still found it, and due to its trash flying ability, the ZSA E-board fought the Tawny Frogmouth and won (we give it a -5/10 on our fight scale). The next two pigs were very lazy and didn't want to waste time building houses (a trait I would assume is quite normal in animals that don't have opposable thumbs). The first pig built his house out of straw and the second pig built his house out of sticks. The third pig worked very hard and spent the entire day building his house out of bricks. The next day a coyote (let's be real much more likely than a wolf in EL) walked by and smelled the pigs. The coyote went to the first house and before the pig could say "not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin" the coyote had eaten the pig. We all know coyotes don't ask to be let in before eating their prey. And since Coyotes only eat about 2-3 pounds of food a day and adult pigs are between 300-700 pounds the coyote stopped after the first pig and went on home. The pig in the stick house and the pig in the brick house both lived another day. The moral of this story is 1.) C's get degrees (the brick house was overkill) and 2.) if you aren't the first you are less likely to die. 3.) we like to be somewhat biologically accurate during our ZSA storytime.

This week we had Dr. Laurie Thorp (thorpl@msu.edu) and Dr. Dale Rozeboom (rozeboom@msu.edu) came to speak to us about their ongoing MSU pig research project (hence the story) and the class they will be teaching about it this fall. If you have questions about the class or just want to chat reach out to them at the emails above.

Summer is fast approaching and if you are still looking for some summer experience check out the IBIO hands-on Database for all sorts of opportunities.

We will be having a fundraising opportunity coming up on March 21st at Pizza house (for eating in or take out). Proceeds will be going to a wildlife charity (TBA) and we will be providing more details soon.

Have a great week piggies and avoid being eaten by a coyote!

Love,

ZSA E-Board