**Critter Corner: Volunteer Highlight – Dawn La Bounty**

**By: Rachael Komulainen, Park Animal Keeper**

**On August 7, 2018, Hart Park Barnyard acquired two new potbelly piglets. The piglets were rescued by a dog rescue group in Puerto Rico, treated medically, then flown over to Los Angeles and given to us within a week of their arrival. We named them “Puerto Rico” (nicknamed ‘Rico’) and “Pig Newton” (nicknamed ‘Newt’). Shortly after acquiring the piglets, we were fortunate enough to have a local pig rescuer and trainer – Dawn La Bounty – agree to help train the piglets. Over the months, she has trained both piglets to do multiple tasks. They follow commands to wait, sit, push their ball, do figure eights and, most importantly, to be harnessed and walked around the park. Pigs are really smart and the training serves multiple purposes: it stimulates their mental faculties, and it allows staff to be able to move the pigs easily for educational events or emergencies. Dawn has been such an asset to the park and we are so grateful for all of her help! Thank you, Dawn La Bounty, from the staff and critters of Hart Park!**