

# The Boar Again

Once again, we begin with a fable.

A stranger drove his old, dilapidated pickup truck to the general store of an impoverished hill town. He asked several of the men gathered around a potbellied stove whether there were any wild boar in the nearby hills. He had heard that they were the hunter's ultimate challenge and wanted to try his luck! The storeowner told the stranger that boar were the most vicious and deadly animal alive and that he had better forget any grandiose ideas of trapping or hunting.

The stranger thanked them and then purchased a supply of barbed wire, fence posts, and several bushels of corn.

Driving into a clearing, he carefully opened the truck window and scattered a few handfuls of corn on the ground. Within minutes a dozen boar appeared, devoured the corn - and nearly each other - in a feeding frenzy. The clearing was a bloody mess.

Each day, the stranger put more and more corn near the truck, and the boar, now fat and flabby, would amble to the clearing and leisurely nibble on the corn. They then enjoyed a long nap before their next meal.

While the animals rested, the stranger erected a circle of fence posts around them and the back of the truck. He then attached the barbed wire, making an enclosure where he placed the corn. Later, he built a ramp on the truck where all the corn was placed, and the happy boar climbed aboard for the ride to the slaughterhouse.

What has this got to do with Dermatology or, for that matter, American Medicine?

Our Government (federal and local) has taken over every facet of American Medicine. Some of the results have been good and some terrible. I am afraid many, many physicians are just numb with the almost infinite number of changes and are resigned to going along with the tide.

Is it true, as has been charged, that one of our major political parties is beholden to the trial attorneys and the other to the insurance industry?

Where do we, as individual physicians, fit in the present picture? Let us know of your experiences, or better yet, your ideas. You are the true experts in clinical medicine, and more and more it seems that you are the only ones who really give a damn about the patient, presuming you have a little time and energy left after your essential bureaucratic duties.

Some office-seeker might even listen in an election year!

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