

Odessa, A Very Sweet Goat

On Thursday, May 21st, an assortment of animals were brought in from a severe neglect situation at a livestock farm.

Among them was this very sweet, timid female goat. Found sitting quietly and cowering in a corner of the overcrowded animal barn, she was obviously in distress. Her nose was snotty and dripping with infection, and her left eye was doing the same. She was extremely underweight, and rather weak.

She was removed that morning from her situation and brought to Happy Trails along with several other young goats, chickens and a pregnant pot belly pig. She given a thick bed of dry straw and



her very own isolation area in our poultry barn. Dr. Randy Alger, a field service vet who regularly works with Happy Trails, soon arrived to examine the new rescued animals.

Of course this sweet girl needed a name — we try to name every rescued animal who comes through our gates. So far her only identification in this world was #83 — the number of the auction tag in her ear. She needed to know that she was special and loved, and that there are very kind people in this world who have compassion for the animals who rely on us to care for their needs. She was given the name Odessa.

(Photo below) Here Rob Willard, Happy Trails Board Member, leans against the poultry barn and hold Odessa's horns as Doc Alger listens to her heart and lungs.

A complete examination always teaches us about the health of the animals and often about their past. Odessa's vet exam revealed that she was only between 8 months and 1½ years old, and she was suffering from an assortment of debilitating health issues. She was extremely thin, with a body score of only a 2 (the ideal goat body score for a healthy goat is around a 4 to a 5, on a scale with 1 being emaciated and a 9 being obese). You could clearly feel every rib, hip bone and back bone underneath her soft fur.

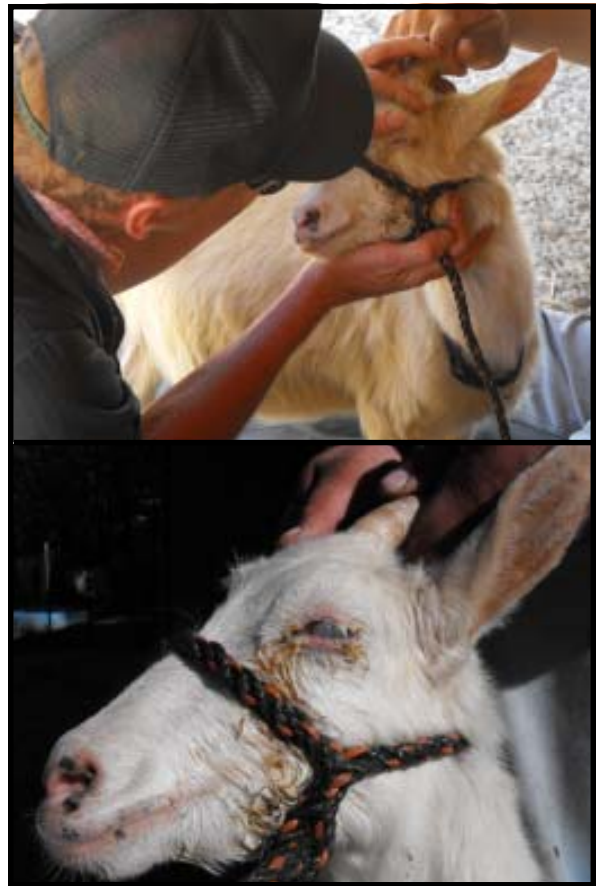


She was panting and breathing heavily, with the distinct sounds of upper respiratory problems. She was diagnosed with pneumonia. The white nasal discharge indicated infection, and shed was heavily infested with lice. Her temperature was 105½ degrees.

Her left eye appeared to be starting to protrude from its socket, and appeared whitish in color. She was completely blind in that eye, and it seemed to continuously drain. She was diagnosed with conjunctivitis and keratitis — basically she had pink eye, an eye disease that is extremely contagious to people. It had apparently been left untreated, and developed into more serious eye issues.

Odessa was treated with anti-biotics, was treated for lice, has both of her ear tags removed for her comfort, received eye medication, had blood and fecal samples taken for testing. Her tests revealed that she had a high worm infestation, and she was also dewormed.

Odessa's examination also revealed horribly long hooves which made walking even more difficult. Rob Willard, Happy Trails Board Member, held Odessa carefully as Doc Alger trimmed back the excess hoof material. Her hooves were so long that they had completely folded over and began to grow up the other side of her hooves. The fronts of her hooves had grown into long, sharp points.



As we kept careful watch over this precious little goat during the next week, she seemed to be responding to the antibiotics and was feeling better. She was eating well and drinking well, and she received yard privileges and access to tasty, green grass. Her poor eye, however, continued to get worse.

On Wednesday, May 27th, we contacted OSU (Ohio State Veterinary Teaching University), a wonderful facility located in Columbus where we often take many farm animal surgery cases or those who have extreme health issues. An examination by Dr. Pentecost determined that the eye was beyond repair and it would be in Odessa's best interest to have her eye

removed. The anesthesia department helped determine that Odessa was stable enough for the surgery, and the eye removal went very well with no complications.

Odessa is now recovering over the weekend at OSU, and we hope to bring her back to Happy Trails on Monday, June 1st. We were told that she is recovering nicely and that she is showing an interest in eating and drinking — both very good signs. She is now on the road to recovery, and as she begins to heal, we are seeking two very important things for Odessa — one, an adoptive home who love her for the beautiful little goat that she is, even if she no longer has both eyes, and two, sponsors to help us offset the cost of her veterinary and surgical expenses.



After having health issues that had been unattended and untreated for some time, and after experiencing a great deal of pain and suffering, we now have the unique opportunity to provide Odessa with proper health care and to surround her with love and kindness. We need to ask for your help to make this happen.

SPONSORING ODESSA

Happy Trails operates with an all-volunteer staff and relies strictly on private donations to fund our animal rescue efforts. Odessa's initial veterinary expenses are at \$176. We estimate that the surgery expense and follow-up vet check-ups will add \$450 to her expenses, for a total of \$626.

If you would like to help sponsor Odessa, we will be happy to send you a happy photo of her as she recovers and an update as to her rehabilitation progress. Donations marked "Odessa" can be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or can be made through PayPal on our website (though PayPal does take out a fee for this service) at www.happytrailsfarm.org.

ADOPTING ODESSA

We are seeking a home where Odessa will have other goats or other farm animals for friends, where she will have a large yard to play and enjoy life, and will have a safe and cozy shelter which will protect her in all types of weather. If you are interested in adopting Odessa, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.



(Photo left) Dr. Randy Alger always has an assortment of medications on hand to treat the sick and injured farm animals at Happy Trails. When treatments beyond what we can do in the field are required, the animals are often taken to OSU (Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital).