

WINTER 2006

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

SPECIAL EDITION

Newsletter



Looking ahead, sharing our vision, anticipating a year of continued growth and prosperity...

...that's what this issue is going to be all about.

Happy Trails is going to share with you in this newsletter our current venture of re-structuring and re-organization as we strive to better ourselves in 2006. This is going to be a year full of hope, of change, of enlighten-

ment and of education for our board of directors, volunteers, and for you, our dedicated supporters and members.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization now for the past six years. We have proven time and time again that there is a sad and critical need for our rescue programs that we provide here in Ohio concerning the abused and neglected farm animals. We have grown beyond our wildest dreams with the limited amount of volunteers, finances, facilities and resources with which we operate on a day to day basis. Happy Trails has become widely recognized, won national awards, became accredited as a national sanctuary, and played a major role in rescuing and rehabilitating literally hundreds upon hundreds of farm animals.

Many people think that because of our success, our organization is much larger than what we really are. Here we are going to take a look at some new and exciting changes that are going to be taking place so that Happy Trails can continue to grow and prosper, and actually become as big as our current reputation!

Janice Wanted To Give Her Fans A Piggy Update

There are always inquiries about Janice the pig, co-founder of Happy Trails, and her piggy companion, George. Janice (left) and George (right) are caught in this photo enjoying one of



their most favorite pass-times in the entire world — eating....

Janice is doing well, and she and George keep warm with their heat lamps and with cozy blankets, comforters and sleeping bags. A countless number of very sweet and caring folks heard our plea to help the porcine residents of Happy Trails be more comfortable in the frigid Winter temperatures, and have sent or dropped off literally truckloads of blankies. Janice wanted us to say a special thank you to everyone who generously donated the most beautiful (some brand new!) blankets, embroidered quilts, thick comforters and cozy sleeping bags — she (and us!) were overwhelmed with the kindness of strangers we now call friends! It was amazing the response we receive from the piggies adoring public, and we are

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(330) 296-5914

letter from the director

I'll bet that most of you farm-folks are saying the exact thing that I'm saying daily — I can't believe the amount of mud we have already this year! It's the suck-your-boots-off kind of mud.

I'm trying to look past the mud though, and set my sights on a beautiful Spring, with blossoming flowers, blue skies, fragrant trees, and that oh-so-comforting smell of fresh horse manure!

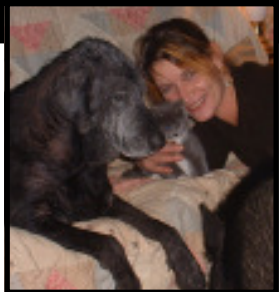
I've learned this past year (and am still learning) that sometimes it's tough to look past the mud, and to see the good things that lie beyond. That's actually a great deal of what this issue is all about.

2005 had been a year of growth, change, learning experiences, and putting a lot of hands-on education under our belts here at the sanctuary. I know you can all relate to how easy it is to see the difficulties in our day to day work — the stresses, anxieties, uncertainties, and disappointments that come our way. It's often a challenge to see past the mud.

That's exactly what we are going to do here though. And, we are going to do it in a very public way, by sharing with you, our loyal supporters, members, readers and animal-lovers, our challenges, dreams, and immediate goals.

It's not a question of will we reach them, but how soon can they be achieved?

Our board of directors at Happy Trails is dedicated to the continued success and growth of our organization, and in order to continue, we need to take a breath this year and re-structure our home base. We will re-organize so that we can serve the community and the rescued animals more efficiently and more effectively than ever before. We are recognizing certain needs of the organization, and want to admit to the fact that we are indeed experiencing growing pains.



The farm animal rescue services that we provide here in Ohio are

sadly needed in a big way. We took in more animals last year than we could have imagined possible, and though we had kept up with demand, we now need to take a realistic look at our human resources, our financial resources, and make sure that we do not do a disservice to the animals currently residing at the sanctuary by overcrowding.

In my dream world, Happy Trails would be able to take in every animal from every call that comes our way. This is not realistic, nor is it an honest assessment of our abilities.

We plan to address these issues and how we plan to face our challenges this year, in this issue of our special edition newsletter.

Our outline will address specific needs, such as the need for a paid staff (yes, after six years we currently still operate with an all volunteer staff), updated facilities and shelter repairs, fund-raisers, focus on animal adoptions, and re-affirming our intake criteria. These are all difficult and challenging topics for any organization, and they could easily muddy the waters. But you know what? Today we are going to look past the mud, look forward to Spring, and look forward to a new and prosperous year, full of positive energy. We are going to welcome change with excitement and enthusiasm, and a resolve to become the large and structured sanctuary that Ohio needs us to be!

With many thanks for your understanding and support....

Sincerely,

Annette Fisher

Annette Fisher
Executive Director

Janice The Pig's Update (continued from page 1)

extremely grateful for outpouring of love that came in with the blankets.

One anonymous animal-lover who read about Janice and Happy Trails in a recent article by Regina Brett in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, even sent us a note and a nice monetary donation specifically to keep Janice in chewy candy — one of her favorite mid-day snacks! Janice certainly appreciated that!

Since, as everyone knows, Janice cannot walk, George makes his rounds of the farm yard and takes back tales of adventure and greetings to Janice from other Happy Trails residents. Often Janice hosts visitors herself in her log cabin — more often than not you will find a chicken or duck sitting inside and visiting with her, and she has nests of birds which sing to her regularly from the rafters of her log cabin. A small mouse whom she named Herman comes out to eat with her at meal times, and then quickly scampers back up the wall when we stop back in to make sure she and George ate all their food. She thinks we don't know about him, but we do....

Anyway, Janice sends her very best piggy wishes to everyone who asks about her and sends her goodies and prayers and kind thoughts, and she says that you are all very "boof" (that's her word for cool or good — you ask her how she's doing and she will grunt..."boof"). Smiles, from Janice!



Here Rosie Pig suns herself amid a cluster of soft colorful blankets. The blankets, warmed by the sun, made the perfect bed for her afternoon nap! ALL the piggies appreciate the warm and comfy blankets and sleeping bags donated by their "fans!"

Get To Know The People Who Provide Direction and Guidance for Happy Trails

We would like all of you to get to know all of us — the Happy Trails Board of Directors! Beginning with this issue, we are going to feature a board member and introduce their role in the success of our organization.

As we begin a new year, we'd like to introduce you to our new board president, Sharon Barnard. This is Sharon's first year as our president, and we'd like to welcome her to her new position with the sanctuary!

Let's find out a little bit about Sharon...

1. How did you first hear about Happy Trails, and what made you want to get involved?

I talked to Nancy Conring (Treasurer) at a booth Happy Trails had set up at the Portage County Fair. I held on to a flyer she gave me about the Fall Open House for three months, and I couldn't wait to go out and see the farm. I spent my summers at my uncle's farm in Pennsylvania from the time I was 3 to 16, and I loved working with the animals. I guess it's like the old saying, "You can take the girl out of the country, but can't take the country out of the girl." Living in Cuyahoga Falls I really could not have farm animals, so I thought volunteering at Happy Trails would fill that void. Guess what.... it did!

2. What was your very first impression of the sanctuary when you visited

My first impression of the sanctuary was terrific. Hearing some of the horrible stories of what some of the animals have been through and seeing how they learn to trust people again is just amazing to me.

3. As you began volunteering, were there certain animals that tugged on your heart-strings the most?

All the animals have touched my heart, but some of them have left some deep hoof prints. Rocky (a yearling Percheron draft), Clyde (25+ Quarter horse that had been starved twice in his life), Janice (the sweetest pot-belly pig) and Floyd (the coolest little rooster). Unfortunately Clyde and Floyd have crossed the Rainbow Bridge, but I will hold their memories in my heart forever.

4. What animal's story stuck out the most or really affected you?

Clyde's story really affected me because he was taken once from his owner because he was starved, and later returned to the owner who in turn starved poor Clyde for the second time. How does someone let that happen? Luckily for Clyde he then came into the Happy Trails



program where he no longer had to worry when his next meal would be. I always tried to give him an extra treat for all the ones he was denied by his previous owner. He never seemed to complain.

5. How long have you been with Happy Trails?

2 1/2 years

6. List your own personal pets.

Jasper an 11 year old black & white mix canine; Lenny Cat 2 years old & Orian, a

1 year old cat, both also black & white

8. What do you want people to know the most about Happy Trails?

I want people to know that Happy Trails is a non-profit group that rescues, rehabilitates and adopts out abused and neglected farm animals. We are completely run by volunteers. If you would adopt or sponsor an animal from Happy Trails, I will guarantee it will touch your heart and fill it with happiness.

9. If you could teach people who own farm animals just one thing, what would it be?

I would like to make people aware that when you have a farm animal or any pet that it is a **commitment** that you take on **for the life of the animal** and should not be taken lightly. Be responsible by giving the animal the correct shelter, food and

medical attention that they need.

10. Describe your job(s) and what work you do other than helping out Happy Trails.

I work full time as an inside sales rep for Forms Associates in Tallmadge and also work in Customer Service part-time at the Kmart in Stow.

11. If you could find an adoptive home by promoting just one of the rescued animals, who would it be and why?

Montel (a huge farm pig) because I do not believe that people take the time to see what a unique and smart pet a farm pig could be. I have spent quite a bit of time with all of our pigs (especially with Montel) feeding, cleaning wounds and just talking to them and found out how wonderful they are. Montel will come when called, loves for you to talk to him (he does "talk" back) and will follow you around the lot (which comes in handy if you happen to get stuck in the mud and need him to help pull you out). Think about how good it would make you feel when a 1000 lb. pig comes running to greet you everyday!

12. What do you feel has been one of Happy Trails best accomplishments since you've been with us?

I feel that Happy Trails best accomplishment is the number of animals that we have rescued and rehabilitated on solely donations from our supporters and an all-volunteer staff.

13. Why should people donate to help the sanctuary, and are there certain items that you suggest they donate?

I feel people should donate to Happy Trails because we are a unique rescue group that helps animals a lot people forget about. Any donations are greatly appreciated. My suggestion for donations are monetary, your time by volunteering, or donating something from our Wish List.

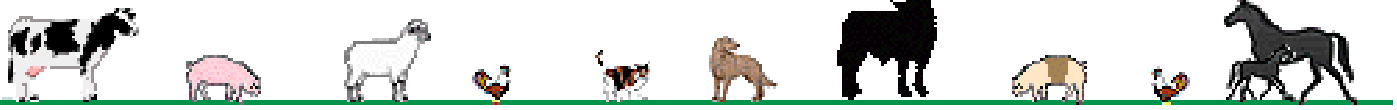
14. What has been one of your most memorable experiences with Happy Trails?

I can't pick out just one experience — all the time I spend with the animals and fellow volunteers has just been incredible.

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Sharon Barnard (President) .. (330) 928-3623
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- James Masi, Attorney
- Char Scroggins
- Dr. Gary Riggs, DVM
(Barberton Veterinary Clinic)
- Rachel Whitehawk of Whitehawk Ranch



2006 — A Year of Re-Structuring and Re-Organization for Happy Trails: Here's The Details

We are taking a very important step this year in the growth of Happy Trails. In order to continue to move ahead, proceed and prosper, Happy Trails and our board of directors are taking the huge step of re-structuring and re-organizing the very foundation of the sanctuary.

In this special edition newsletter, we are sharing with you our plans, goals and changes that will be taking place. We are striving for excellence in our mission, our care, our adoptions, our structure, our outreach, our rescue programs, our facilities, and our connection with our members and supporters.

Happy Trails has already proven time and time again the great need for the rescue services we provide here in Ohio.

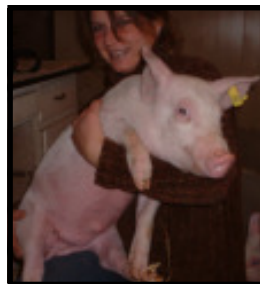
Aside from the well-known animal rescue work handled at the sanctuary, Happy Trails has the potential to educate, employ, welcome, network with, and touch the lives of the people in our community, county and state. We take our responsibilities and commitments very seriously.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to read through our 2006 Happy Trails Outline with an open mind, a welcoming heart, a spirit of cooperation, an understanding, a caring concern, and a healthy, positive outlook. If we can successfully achieve our goals for this year, we will be well on our way to being one of the larger, more well-run, most respected sanctuaries in our region. We want to make you proud. We want to make ourselves proud. We want to be here for the long haul, and we want you to be a part of this exciting time with us. So with this said...read on!

HAPPY TRAILS FARM ANIMAL SANCTUARY 2006 OUTLINE

1. MORATORIUM ON ANIMAL INTAKE

Our first step was to place a moratorium on animal intake for 2006. This does *not* mean that we will not help humane societies and animal protective leagues when calls come in. It *does* mean that we will not be accepting new animals into our rescue programs here at Happy Trails just for this coming year. Instead, we will help by



networking and assist with animal placement without taking on the physical or financial responsibility of more animals.

We will set up an emergency list of people who are willing to adopt animals and who are also willing to work directly with other humane societies and animal protective leagues. We are putting together a list of people willing to pass along emails and updates concerning farm animals and horses needing refuge. We will still send out fliers and post situations on our website. To participate in our Networking Program, call us at (330) 296-5914.

2. ADDRESS THE NEED FOR A PAID STAFF

Happy Trails has outgrown our current structure of operating with

strictly volunteer resources. We need to find a way to become more like the larger sanctuaries and greater humane societies. We now

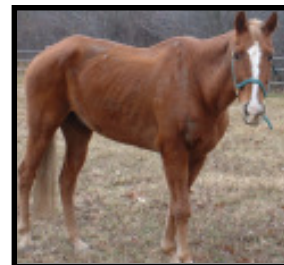


realize that in order to continue at our current level and in order to continue to grow, we desperately need to operate with paid positions.

Paid positions that we need to address are: *Director, Animal and Facility Care and Maintenance, Volunteer Coordinator, and Animal Adoption Counselor.*

3. PROMOTE ADOPTIONS OF ANIMAL CURRENTLY IN OUR RESCUE PROGRAM

Happy Trails needs to make an extra effort to promote and find permanent homes for the rescued animal currently in our programs. We acknowledge the need for a committee designed to constantly and consistently promote animal adoptions. This year we will be dedicated to efficiently finding



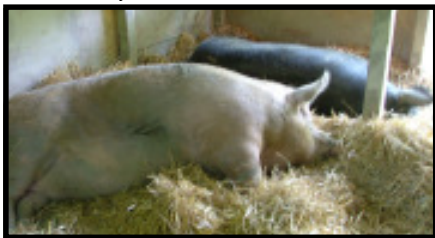
permanent homes for as many of the rescued animals as humanly possible.

Realistically, not many people are interested in adopting farm animals in the middle of Winter.

Beginning April 1st, with the approach of Spring and nicer weather, we will put into place a hard-hitting campaign of newspaper ads, fliers, radio interviews, newsletters and emails spreading the word about all of the animals that we are desperately trying to place into a permanent situation.

***4. REPAIRS & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS THAT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR (also see page 6)**

One of the most important ways to improve our efficiency, time-management and quality of care of the rescue animals is to make necessary improvements to the facility itself. This will be a



very detailed list, and will be reviewed on page 6.

Though some of the items listed may at first seem like simply a want and not a need, we are making sure that we strive to set higher goals and to begin to compare our facility to a state-of-the-art sanctuary. We need to make every effort possible to make feeding, watering and clean-up easy and volunteer-friendly, which will in turn make better use of everyone's time. We want to pay attention to our overall appearance, to make sure that we are visually appealing and welcoming to visitors. It does not necessarily need to be expensive and costly to keep the facilities looking clean, neat, orderly and painted.

5. FUND-RAISERS, INCOME, GRANTS, DONATIONS, SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE SANCTUARY

We will be concentrating on three major fund-raisers this year, which are:

- **The Happy Trails Summer Festival (the all-new annual Summer Picnic)** to be held at the sanctuary on June 25th, the last Sunday of the month. This year's picnic will be greatly expanded and have more activities, and will be heavily pro-



moted. We plan on a campaign to solicit picnic sponsors. A picnic committee will construct an itinerary of activities, demonstrations, guest speakers, and fun things to see and do.

- **The Mane Event**, the location and exact date is yet to be determined, but this time it will be planned for October. It is a day full of equine clinics, demonstrations, and everything you see, hear, or breathe is horse-related. This event will have a separate planning committee also. We will improve on the event from last year, invite more vendor's to participate, request a major sponsor(s), and schedule demonstrations and clinics only one at a time.

- **Bakeless Bake Sale**, which will be held in March. Last year an amazing amount of supporters participated in this special promotion, and this fun and whimsical project turned itself into a major fund-raiser for Happy Trails.

GRANTS:

- We will continue to write grants for the sanctuary. So far we have received five grants out of the five we had submitted. New possibilities are being researched, and as our time and opportunity permits, we will continue to write more grants throughout the year.

DONATIONS:

- Private donations are still normally sent in along with the donation coupon from our quarterly newsletters and from special requests. As we expand our donor base, our private donations will hopefully increase as public awareness increases. Your private donations have been the staple of keeping the sanctuary operating, and the bread and butter for keeping the animals cared for properly. This is a very important source of income for the sanctuary.

6. RE-AFFIRM OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We want to clarify for both ourselves and for the community what our criteria is for acceptance of a farm animal into our rescue programs.

We currently require that the animal has been abused, neglected or abandoned, or is on it's way to slaughter.

Happy Trails was originally set up to take in animals from humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio, but we had been talked into accepting owner surrenders in various circumstances. We are going to confirm our criteria for animal intake, and discuss what situations would warrant us accepting owner surrenders.

We also have the Amish Horse Retirement Program, which is an extremely important program. There is no such rescue program in place anywhere else that we know of. I would like to see this program grow and flourish, and to get even more people interested in adoptions of the older buggy horses and draft horses. We will present a new and complete mission statement, and make sure that our updates are always posted on our website and in our newsletters.

* 4. Repairs and Facility Improvements That Must Be Accomplished This Year *(Expanded upon from #4 on page 4)*

This list is organized by area of the sanctuary. It roughly details our facility improvements that we need to make happen this year. With your help, support and prayers, it will all take place! You may feel drawn to help out with a specific project. If you feel that either you or your business can donate specific supplies or provide a monetary donation toward a certain project, you will earn you a tax deduction and a place in heaven....(we can guarantee that first one, not too sure about the second one, but it sounded good...)

JANICE & GEORGE'S LOG CABIN AREA

The log cabin itself needs the insulation in the



roof to be completed. Only part of the roof has the pink insulation. The existing insulation needs secured better and tacked in place. The acrylic window in the door needs replaced — it's cracked and broken.

HORSE BARN & SURROUNDING AREA

- 1) Concrete the aisleway
- 2) Have bank run dumped in each stall and even out the stall floors. Fill them to the appropriate level with dirt. Place a board across the bottom front of each stall where the gates are to keep the dirt in the stall. Top off the bank run with a layer of small gravel. Top off the gravel with stall mats.

- 3) Make the existing feed room an enclosed, heated room. We would be then able to keep our medications in the barn all Winter, as well as have an area for volunteers and workers to thaw out during cold weather.

- 4) Make the tack room an enclosed room with more lighting and organize, organize, organize.

- 5) Install heated automatic waterers in each stall and in each paddock.

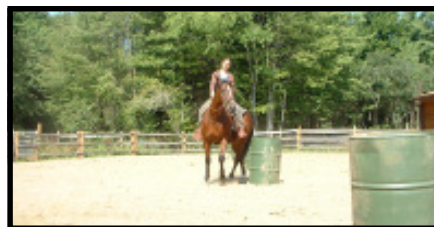
- 6) Cement an area in front of



the barn to help with mud control.

- 7) Have locking limestone spread on top of the existing large rocks in the truck/trailer turn around in front of the barn. Top this off with pea gravel

- 8) Have additional sand brought in to finish off the outdoor riding arena, and somehow



remove the large rocks that keep coming up out of the sand

- 9) Install a 10' gate at the back of the outdoor arena to allow horses to be brought in and taken out of the back area

- 10) Address the issue of flooding in the back of the barn where rain floods both end stalls as well as floods the immediate area at the rear of the barn

- 11) Install a split rail fence on the right side of the barn for a turn-out area. Have the area graded and smoothed out and a drainage ditch installed.

- 12) Install rolled field fencing up against the split rail the runs across the back of the barn to keep out stray dogs (lesson learned).

- 13) The small paddock directly in front of the barn can use a concrete pad on both sides of the gate to eliminate the knee-deep mud that is now there in the middle of Winter. Same thing with the gate that opens from the driveway and leads back to the barn itself.

ROUND PEN

Needs solid and safe footing stalled and the round pen needs to be placed in an area where it will be kept permanently. This means bringing in a bunch more sand.

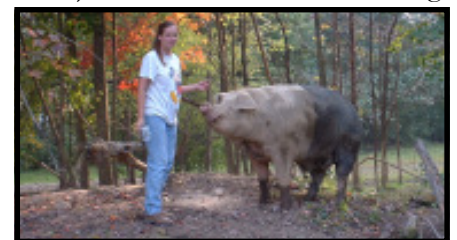
OLD & NEW FARM HOG AREA

- 1) Tear down the old tall green hog shelter.

- 2) Convert the old brown shelter into a storage area, complete with a gravel walkway in front of it going to the barn

- 3) Finish installing the new hog fencing, gates and shelter for the new farm hog area. Move Mrs. Beasley, Maria and Oliver to the new section.

- 5) Tear down the old farm hog



fence that is closest to the horse barn. Replace it with wooden-post fencing and move the fence back further toward the woods to allow the area nearest to the horse barn to dry up from all the mud.

6) Install an automatic heated waterers for both sections of hogs.

OLD BARN UP FRONT

The office area needs finished. Concrete floors need poured. Walls need installed, and wiring needs run for heat and lights and a refrigerator for the volunteers lunches and beverages.

OLD POT BELLY PIG BARN

Needs insulation installed in the roof and re-painted. The yards needs cleaned-up and each stall area stripped out for Spring and re-bedded with fresh straw. Yard sizes need expanded — more fencing



can be added to the West side to make the yards longer and bigger for better exercise and more room for the pigs.

NEW DUCK/CHICKEN AREA (in the old pony stall of the old barn up front)

Needs basic clean-up and a new, sturdy fence installed around it, preferably spit-rail with rolled fencing covering it.



PET CEMETERY

Existing white fence will be removed, and replaced with our two-rail split rail which we already have. The cemetery area will be kept peaceful and geared toward

nature and more natural decorations, such as flowers or shrubs and walkways. It will promote a



sense of peace and tranquility — no loud holiday decorations will be permitted in this area. The existing equine memorial will be repainted in Happy Trails colors and the plaques updated.

HORSE SHELTER OUT BACK

Right now has only the roof,



and it needs sides constructed for wind-breaks.

OUTER PERIMETER OF THE PROPERTY

Needs fenced, even it's only the electric rope fence, which will help to keep pigs and horses on sanctuary property should they break out of their specified areas.

1-TON TRUCK

We need to secure a truck capable of hauling larger animals and supplies for Happy Trails both for emergencies and for daily use. Must be a 1-ton and in good condition. Happy Trails also needs to be able to pay for the insurance that will accompany it.

DRIVEWAY/ROAD NEEDS COMPLETED GOING OUT BACK

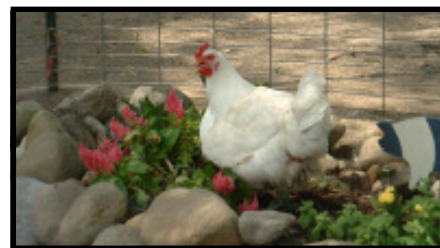
The path that goes from the existing driveway back to the pet cemetery and other pastures needs have either gravel or wood chips dumped to eliminate the extremely muddy paths we now have.

SIGNS

We need a nicer, professional sign (or rock?) out front greeting visitors approaching the sanctuary. We also need to have professional signs made at each of the shelter areas, naming the areas and the animals residing there.

GARDENS AND SPRING/SUMMER DECORATIONS

Existing gardens need cleaned-up, new Summer flowers planted, mulch spread, and some new and



pretty areas designed to make the facilities look well-manicured. This can include the in-ground black-plastic duck pond that is currently not in use. This area can simply be a decorative area if we can keep George the pig out of it and keep him from destroying the vegetation.

CHICKEN ISOLATION CAGE

Needs moved and repaired.

SUPPLY PILE OUT BACK

Yuck....this conglomeration of construction, building and fencing materials needs organized and cleaned up.

* 4. Repairs and Facility Improvements That Must Be Accomplished This Year

(continued)

PAVILION

Have a permanent, medium-sized pavilion constructed for events that are held at the farm, for volunteers to take a break, for meetings, etc. Where the pavilion would be located would be yet to be determined.

PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS AS OF THIS PRINTING

NEW POT BELLY PIG BARN

This shelter is currently being constructed, complete with insulation in the roof and plastic-strip doors for Winter. The remainder of the pot belly pigs that now live in the old tack room and the area between the garages will all be placed here. The fencing will need a wire run tightly along the bottom of the fencing to secure the area.

OLD TACK ROOM IN THE OLD BARN UP FRONT

Now that the piggies are moving out, we can use this area now for storage. The floor needs repaired and the room itself needs to be cleaned up. It also needs a new and better looking door.

AREA BETWEEN THE TWO GARAGES UP FRONT

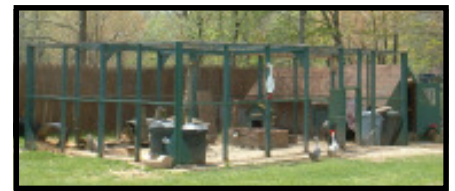
The pot belly pigs are now moving out of here also and into their new shelter. This area needs a concrete floor installed, and then will be used for storage also.

WHITE VAN

The Happy Trails white van is currently being accessed and hopefully will be able to be repaired.

EXISTING DUCK/CHICKEN COUP

This area is in need of complete repair. A new chicken-coup is in the process of being designed, and hopefully building will begin as soon as Hogan and Bojangles, the pot belly pigs currently living coup would be built, get moved



into the new pig shelter area.

HORSE BARN & SURROUNDING AREA

We just got beautiful, bright new outdoor lights installed on both the front and the back entrances of the horse barn. Yay!

Special Thank You's Go Out To:

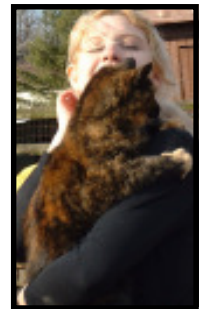
- Trent Ardrey and Purina Mills, and Western Reserve of Ravenna for supplying and honoring a boatload of Purina Equine Senior buy-one-get-one-free coupons
- Everyone who donated Christmas goodies such supplies, treats for the animals, grain, hay, work gloves, bottled water for volunteers, and wonderful items too numerous to mention here
- All the kind-hearted folks who have donated piggy blankets, comforters and sleeping bags. The wee pigs have been wonderfully toasty under their warm heat lamps and snuggly sleeping bags this Winter, and we have SO many wonderful people to thank for going through their hall closets to donate some absolutely wonderful warm blankets and comforters.
- Regina Brett, columnist for the Plain Dealer, who recently wrote a beautiful article about Happy Trails and brought the sanctuary to the attention of our Northeastern Ohio



Lauren Carroll somehow knows that Zeus the Goose is thinking, "Please quit hugging me lady!!! Somebody help me!"

community — the response from her readers was overwhelming and heart-warming!

- Western Reserve of Ravenna and Western Reserve of Courtland for inviting Happy Trails to participate in and be the recipient of the proceeds of Photos With Santa in December
- Seasoned volunteers, Andrea Lynett, Lauren Carroll and Diane Sotnak who are always, faithfully, and reliably at the sanctuary on a regular basis
- All around good guys, Alex Hale and Rob Willard, always there when you need things hauled or picked up (literally picked up — it's nice to have some strong guys helping out!)
- Die-hard horse feeder, horse hauler, poop shoveler, and equine adoptive mom, Eileen Roloff, for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the rescued animals



Trying to start a new fashion trend, Diane Sotnak wears Gypsy the barn cat on her shoulder as an accessory. We think though, that she needs a smaller sized cat - we can hardly see Diane!

BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER! IT'S THE UPCOMING HAPPY TRAILS SUMMER FESTIVAL!

Talk about changes and improvements!!! The Summer Picnic has turned into a Summer Festival, and our Special Events Committee is going all-out this year for a fun, festive,

and fantastic family event!

Quick, mark Sunday, June 25th on your

calendar as a day that you'll be busy at Happy Trail Farm Animal Sanctuary. Visitors are welcome from 11am to 5 pm — be sure to bring friends and family!

We will still run shuttle buses from nearby business parking lots to accommodate parking for anyone and everyone who would like to visit Happy Trails and meet the animals on that day.

This year RSVP's will not be necessary, as the set-up of the day has changed.

This year we will have demonstrations, entertainment, and guest speakers scheduled throughout the day, as well as

additional family activities. Details of all of the special happening and attractions will be revealed in the Spring Newsletter as well as updated on our website at happytrailsfarm.org, as more activities and special guests are confirmed!

Rumor has it there will even be a dunking machine! The dunking machine victim(s) have yet to be announced!

We would like to invite you to be a part of our Special Event Committee, and help us with our Summer Festival plans. If you would like to attend our next planning meeting, give us a call at (330) 296-5914. We can use help soliciting sponsors for the big day; will need volunteers to drop off fliers to various stores and business locations in the area; you can sign up to help prepare and clean-up at the sanctuary the week before the event; and we will be scheduling workers to help with activities the day of the picnic.

Of course we expect to have gorgeous blue skies, just the right amount of sunshine, and a warm Summer breeze to make the day simply perfect! The rescued farm animals are looking forward to seeing all of you, and so are we!



Madonna the Pot Belly Pig is all smiles thinking about meeting you at the Happy Trails Summer Festival!

KEEP SAVIN' YER ACME RECEIPTS!!!

Thanks to everyone who has so generously sent in envelopes filled with Acme receipts! Keep up the good work, guys! We can still collect the receipts through March 25, 2006. Acme's program for non-profit organizations donates 1% of the total register receipts collected. Make sure to save your receipts and send them in today!

ON-GOING ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTIONS

Recycling pop cans and beer cans continue to be a wonderful fund-raiser for Happy Trails. Bags of cans can be dropped off at the sanctuary on any Sunday between 1pm and 4pm. Please consider placing a trash can labeled "cans" at your place of employment or local tavern to collect cans for the rescued animals. Please make sure what you collect are aluminum cans only — we **cannot** turn in tin cans such as dog or cat food containers or tin coffee cans. For more information, call Sharon at (330) 928-3623.

BAKELESS BAKE SALE COMING UP IN MARCH

Last Spring Happy Trails held a "Bakeless Bake Sale" to raise money for the rescued animals, and you, our readers and supporters, overwhelmed us with your response! Everyone thought it was a fantastic idea! Look for your Bakeless Bake Sale Poem to arrive in your mailbox in March!

A website worth checking out: www.pcrm.org.

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) is a nonprofit organization that promotes preventative medicine, conducts clinical research, and encourages higher standards for ethics and effectiveness in research.



TRIBUTES TO HAPPY TRAILS HORSES

DEACON

Deacon was a sweet, lovable, 30 year old, black Morgan gelding. He may have been small in stature, but he had a heart as big as all outdoors.

He originally came to Happy Trails when an equine rescue group was closing and needed helped placing several horses. Deacon was easy to work with, patient and kind, but was never going to be rideable. An old leg injury had resulted in an enlarged front knee, making him unable to carry the weight of a person on his back. He got along simply fantastic with all other horses.

Last year, Mary Alice Cowan found herself needing a buddy horse for her Standardbred mare. Deacon was a candidate, but not at the top of her list at first. Deacon was a senior citizen, though he was in excellent health. He had the right personality, was a nice smaller size to work with, and very eager to please. On the other hand, he had few teeth and needed his Purina Equine Senior grain made into a mush for meals, and he could not eat regular hay. Hay cubes were much easier to munch on for him. These were some special needs, and he was what he was — a thirty year old horse!

After giving it much thought, Mary Alice was game to try out Deacon as her mare's new friend. He very quickly settled in quite nicely. Everything was going great — he was eating well and looking just awesome — even other visitors at Mary Alice's commented about the great muscle tone Deacon had for being a senior citizen.

Over the course of a week Deacon had developed an occa-

sional cough, but on Sunday morning that cough brought up blood. He went down in his stall. The vet was called. It appeared that Deacon had a blockage in his esophagus, though he had been still eating and drinking normally. It was finally determined that Deacon's esophagus had ruptured,

and the gentle gelding needed to be euthanized then and there.

Mary Alice and I had talked earlier that morning before the vet arrived. Though we both knew in our hearts that it

didn't appear to be a good situation, how do you ever prepare yourself to unexpectedly and suddenly lose your horse friend that had been doing so well? So even though this is a tribute to Deacon, I feel drawn to tell the story about both Deacon and Mary Alice, his owner.

What type of person does it take to adopt a horse that is older, not knowing how long he may still have with us here on this earth? What kind of person takes in a horse with special needs, one who may require some extra love and care and soaked feed and hay cubes? The answer is: one with a heart as big as Deacon's.

Mary Alice and her little equine buddy were exactly alike — both small in stature, both had a heart as big as all outdoors. These kind-hearted people need to be put up on a pedestal and given the credit they deserve. How many friends do you know that would agree to accept the emotional as well as the financial responsibility for an equine companion in their twilight years? In today's horse community with the widespread mentality of if-I-can't-use-it-I-don't-want-it-find-me-something-I-can-ride, there are rays of light for some of the rescued horses

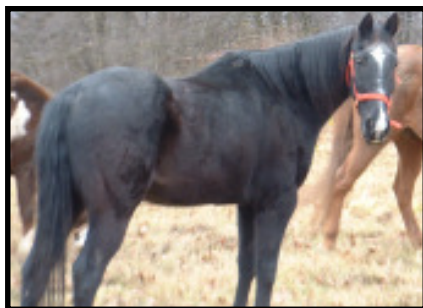
that shine through every so often — rays of sunshine like Mary Alice.

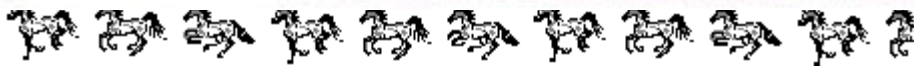
My thoughts and prayers and condolences go out to Mary Alice, but though I am sad for her loss, I am thrilled for Deacon that he had the best home an older horse could possibly have asked for. He was very well cared for, and he did not die cold, lonely, malnourished, sad or unwanted. He was fat and happy, surrounded by a loving human family and two horse friends, in a warm cozy stall, in a place where he was treated with compassion and respect. And when irreparable damage was discovered in his esophagus and there was nothing further that could be done to save him or give him a good quality of life, Mary Alice made the correct though heart-wrenching decision to help Deacon cross the Rainbow Bridge peacefully and quietly and with dignity.

My hat is off to both the horse as well his adoptive owner. May Deacon now run free with his beautiful black mane flowing in the wind along with the other Happy Trails rescued horses that have passed on before him, and may Mary Alice find healing and peace, knowing that the priceless gift of love that she so unselfishly gave to Deacon was appreciated and treasured in his heart....

SHANA FROST

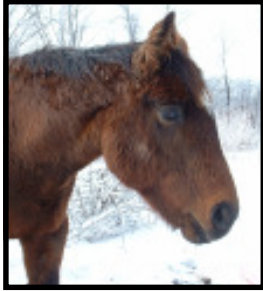
Shana Frost, a sweet, loving, Thoroughbred mare, found the perfect home with the Manion Family. Cassie Manion, Shana's 11 year old owner, had adopted Shana along with Dusty Bob, a Standardbred gelding, through Happy Trails earlier last Summer. Cassie and her mom, Debbie, spent many hours at the sanctuary getting to know their two new family members before taking them home. The mother/daughter team worked tirelessly on Shana's tangled coat, and through diligence and caring, helped her gain back a much-





TRIBUTES TO HORSES *(continued)*

needed 250 lbs. Cassie was able to ride the love-of-her-life throughout the Summer, and for a being a new horse owner, she was quite the cowgirl! Cassie and Shana were inseparable.



This past Fall, Shana was diagnosed with Cushings Disease, and unexpectedly her health deteriorated very rapidly. After a brief illness, Shana had decided on her own to cross the Rainbow Bridge, and left behind a very brave young lady and a family who loved her very much. The lessons that they learned from Shana, they have held very near and dear to their hearts, and the family has gone on to help even more horses in need of care. Shana had taught them all they needed to know about caring

for horses — the rest they already had in their hearts — a compassion, a love, a wanting to comfort and care for mistreated and neglected animals.

It's amazing how attached we can get to a new animal who has just come into our lives in such a short time. But then, I always believe that everything happens for a reason. Even though it was an extremely difficult and sad time at the end as Shana prepared to leave this earth, I'm not sure who really reaped more of the benefits of Shana becoming a part of the Manion family — if it was Shana finally finding her forever home and unconditional love, or if it was Debbie and Cassie, having had the opportunity to have spent priceless quality and precious time with such a wonderful horse who had many lessons and much love to give back to her owners. Two additional horses are now Dusty Bob's friends, thanks to the big hearts of a wonderful family.

Thanks To Everyone Who Helped Happy Trails Acquire The Newest Sanctuary Member — A Much Needed Bob Cat!

Happy Trails recently addressed an important need that would help us become more efficient in our care for the animals and more productive concerning everyone's time. A skid steer was going to be the answer to our prayers and a relief to everyone's aching back (12 horse stalls and umpteen pig, hog, duck and chicken shelters can take quite a toll — both physically and time-wise).

We sent out a request asking sanctuary supporters to help us attain our goal of raising enough money for the downpayment for the skid steer, and kind-hearted people came through and enabled us to make this major purchase for the sanctuary!

Please know how much we appreciate you making this purchase possible!

Special thanks goes out to Bob

Cat downpayment donors:

• Bill & Carol Poloski • Faith Pescatore • Andrea Lynett • Judith & Christina Heasley • Tracy McIvor • Lisa Paxson • Laurie Jackson • Mary Verhoff • Gretchen Harwood • Ken & Jan Aberegg • Lynn Baxter • Rob Willard • Jerry & Angie Hoover • Rick & Nancy Winrod • Dr. Lori Beiber and South Russell Veterinary Clinic • Leslie Hoppes • Joanne Leatherberry • Jean Gadd • Georgena Austin • Lori Babcock-Wargo • Kathleen Winders • Annette & Russ Fisher

Many thanks also to Mr. Harry Eaton, Vice President/Business Banking Manager of Morgan Bank in Hudson for helping Happy Trails to secure the business loan! For your business loans and company banking needs, call Mr. Eaton at (330) 655-2565.

It's Here And It's Beautiful!!!

I never thought I'd find myself describing a piece of farm equipment as beautiful, especially a used one with some scrapes and dings and signs of rust. But beautiful it is! Maybe not so much beautiful as in breathtaking to behold or anything like that, but beautiful in the fact that it's here to make everyone's life easier, to



make care of the rescued animals more efficient, and to help to manage our volunteer's time in a more productive way.

And actually, it *is* beautiful to see it sitting here at the sanctuary because of what it represents. It represents an entire group of people who came together to raise enough money for the downpayment, who love animals, who want to see the sanctuary succeed, and who want to nurture our growth as an organization — people who realize the need for the farm animal rescue services provided by Happy Trails.

So, it being what it is, a strange looking little contraption that can quickly move 3,000 lbs. of horse poop at one time and raise it straight up over its roof to dump in the manure dumpster and not even bat an eye, we have declared it beautiful!!!

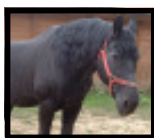
Many thanks to Bucky White at White's Farm Supply for working with Happy Trails and offering us a generous discount, and for his time and support of Happy Trails!

Make sure to check out White's Farm Supply located at 5828 Waterloo Road in Atwater for all of your farm equipment needs — (330) 947-2162.

A Current List of Happy Trails Rescued Animals Available For Adoptions (updated as of this printing)

HORSES

Norma Jean — 22 year old black Percheron mare, excellent on trails for a medium-sized person (150 lb. weight limit), advanced beginner



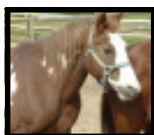
Dallas — handsome 19 year old bay Arabian gelding, experienced rider

Madison — 18 year old black Standardbred mare, excellent on trails for an advanced beginner, smaller horse, 150 lb. rider weight limit



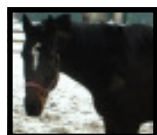
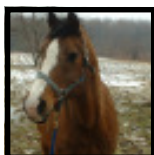
Callie — 14 year old chestnut Arabian mare, not rideable, previous leg injury to front left knee

Dancer — 18 year old brown and white Paint mare, not rideable, lower articular ringbone in front right ankle



Grandpa Walton — 29+ year old Appendix gelding, may give small children lead-line rides, enlarged front knee, cannot bear adult weight

Houston — 19 year old Arabian gelding, not rideable at this time, has Cushings disease, needs to be on medication permanently



Royal — 12 year old dark bay Standardbred gelding, not rideable, recovered from two episodes of EPM

COWS

Joy — 3 year old black and white Holstein heifer



FARM HOGS

Montel, Chloe & Rusty — two neutered males, one female, grew up together



POT BELLY PIGS

Willis & Magnolia — neutered gray male and one pink female

Wilbur — neutered male, bites occasionally

Milton & Mario — two neutered males, Milton is somewhat friendly

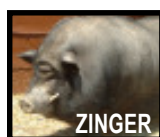


Kinko, Sergai & Morris — three neutered males, scared of people

Mr. Bojangles and Hogan — two neutered males, overly friendly, would make excellent pets

Peaches — annoying female, tries to eat all other pigs food, can be friendly toward people

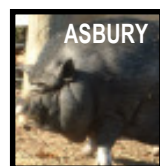
Zinger — stupidly happy neutered male, extremely lovey



Madonna & Rosie — Madonna is a sweetheart, Rosie is grumpy

Ellie Mae — female, friendly, gets along with almost all of the pigs, like to snuggle with Madonna & Zinger

Dennis & Java — two older neutered males, Dennis likes people, Java is working on it



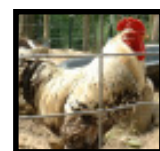
Asbury — a true doll, female, loves belly rubs, sometimes bites people she doesn't know very well

Seraphina — a sweet female, a little cautious but friendly, gets along with everyone everywhere

ROOSTERS

Leo — big light-colored rooster, friendly toward people

Bronson — black, white and red rooster, friendly toward people



DUCKS

3 White Pekins — 1 drake, 2 hens, all mellow and not aggressive

5 White Muscovies — 2 drakes, 3 hens, hens are sweet

4 Black & White Muscovies — all drakes, terribly aggressive to other ducks, except Mr. Peabody who is very friendly to people and enjoys being pet and hugged

Adoption fees are listed with each animal on our website at happytrailsfarm.org.

Also posted on our website is adoption information, criteria, details about each animal available for adoption, and more photos.

To have a chat with an adoption counselor about adopting a rescued animal, you can contact:

- For pot belly pig, farm hog, chicken or duck adoption information, Nancy Conring (330) 733-1478

- For horse or cow adoption information, Sharon Barnard (330) 928-3623 or Becky Albright (330) 877-0091.

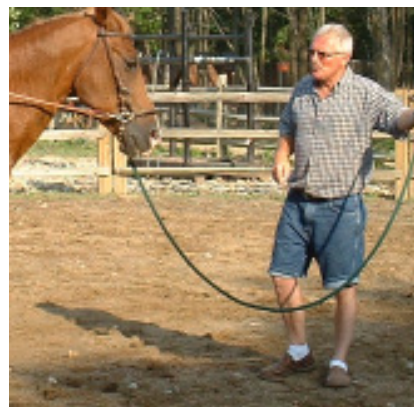
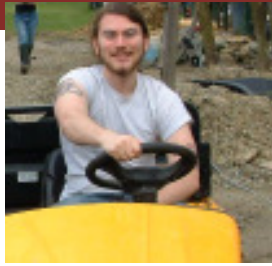
Adoption counselors can help with proper care information and what types of fencing and facilities make for a safe environment for the different types of farm animals.

And no, you can't eat them or breed them. Just to remind everyone, we're a sanctuary. We're accredited nationally with the American Sanctuary Association. Adopting an animal from a sanctuary is very similar to adopting a dog or cat from a rescue group — you're not allowed to eat or breed them either....

Sad but true, people do call us requesting approval to adopt hogs for hog roasts and cows for butchering and mares and other animals for breeding. I can see everyone reading this shaking their heads right now, but yes, there are some people out there who "just don't get" the idea of a sanctuary or what an animal rescue group is all about. We're working to change that, however, one newsletter at a time!



The Servant Guys of Happy Trails...



Happy Trails Horses Receive Top Notch Training With Ken Aberegg



Got a loading problem? Call Ken! Can't cross a creek? Call Ken! Horse won't stand still to mount? Yep, you guessed it! Call Ken!

And just who is this Ken guy anyway?

Well, Ken Aberegg is probably the most patient, humane, easy-going, wise-cracking, funny, smarter-than-the-horse trainer, riding instructor and former show judge that you will ever meet. He will politely refer to your freak-of-nature and highly spooky trail mount as "somewhat of a challenge". His calm reply to your complaint that your horse takes off bucking and spinning is, "That's no problem...we can fix that."

So miracle worker is now added to his list of credentials, or at least many people who have sent their horses to Ken think that should be so.

Happy Trails was fortunate enough to have received a very special grant, detailed in our last newsletter, from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust through Key Bank. This grant was to help provide basic training as well as re-train some of the rescued horses so that they would become safer to handle for the average person, and calmer to ride for the average rider, resulting in more horse adoptions. We have seen wonderful progress in the rescued horses that have been sent to Ken for

work and training, and yes, probably even a few miracles.



As a professional equine trainer and former show judge, Ken Aberegg is able to access each horse and rider situation. We have learned that there are indeed times where it's not always the horse that needs trained!

As many horse owners already know, finding a trainer who is everything that you personally are looking for is difficult, to say the least. Every equine trainer has their own style, technique, and method of training. In our search for a skilled and competent trainer, we have seen the extremes, and are

now absolutely thrilled with the results and training process we have witnessed with Ken Aberegg.

Here at Happy Trails, the rescued horses come to us with a myriad of problems, issues and quirks. Sometimes they don't load, sometimes they don't tie, sometimes they don't walk politely on a lead line. The rideable ones may not appreciate being saddled or bridled, some may enjoy a round or two of energetic bucking, some may not be thrilled in the least to be around squealing pigs at the sanctuary... what do we do when we come across these problems? Well, we of course call Ken!

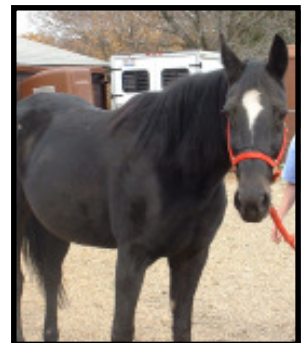
And you can too — for more details and how to get your horse scheduled into his training program, you can reach Ken at (330) 821-2056. His facility is located in Alliance, Ohio, about 20 minutes Southeast of Happy Trails location

in Ravenna Township.

We are extremely grateful to both the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust through Key Bank and to Ken Aberegg for providing this awesome opportunity for the rescued horses in the Happy Trails Adoption Programs.

FEATURED ADOPTABLE HORSE

Meet Madison, a lovely little Standard-bred mare, solid black with a cutesy little white



beauty mark between her eyes. Pretty and petite, this 18 years-young lady wants nothing more than to please her rider! At only 14.1 hands and small of stature, she would be best suited for a medium-sized adult or teenager (about 150 lb. rider weight limit).

On trails the word for Madison is "fun"! She likes to go, and thoroughly enjoys her trail rides. She has not bucked or reared, and is not spooky. She would be great for an *advanced* beginner. \$850 Adoption Fee.

To set up a visit to see Madison or to inquire about adoption, give us a call at (330) 296-5914. Madison received training here at the sanctuary weekly during nicer weather, and also spent 30 days in training with Ken Aberegg. She is a true gem!

Something Funny For This Issue....

(Any horse owners see yourself in this???)

Living with O.C.E.A.N. Syndrome

By Scooter Grubb

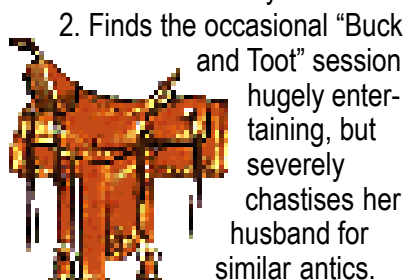
Just recently, after years of research, I have finally been able to give a name to what my wife and I have been living with for years. It's an affliction, for sure, which when undiagnosed and misunderstood can devastate and literally tear a family apart. Very little is known about O.C.E.A.N. Syndrome. But it is my hope this article will generate interest from researchers involved in the equine and psychological sciences. You will, no doubt, begin to identify similar symptoms in your own family and hopefully now be able to cope.

Obsessive Compulsive Equine Attachment Neurosis Syndrome (O.C.E.A.N.S) is usually found in the female and can manifest itself anytime from birth to the golden years. Symptoms may appear any time and may even go dormant in the late teens, but the syndrome frequently re-emerges in later years.

Symptoms vary widely in both number and degree of severity. Allow me to share some examples which are most prominent in our home.

The afflicted individual:

1. Can smell moldy hay at ten paces, but can't tell whether milk has gone bad until it turns chunky.



2. Finds the occasional "Buck and Toot" session hugely entertaining, but severely chastises her husband for similar antics.

3. Will spend hours cleaning and conditioning her tack, but wants to eat on paper plates so there are no dishes.

4. Considers equine gaseous excretions a fragrance.

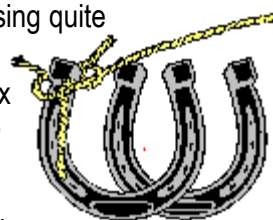
5. Enjoys mucking out four stalls twice a day, but insists on having a housekeeper mop the kitchen floor once a week.

6. Will spend an hour combing and trimming an equine mane, but wears a baseball cap so she doesn't waste time brushing her own hair.

7. Will dig through manure piles daily looking for worms, but does not fish.

8. Will not hesitate to administer a rectal exam up to her shoulder, but finds cleaning out the Thanksgiving turkey cavity for dressing quite repulsive.

9. By memory can mix eight different supplements in the correct proportions, but can't make macaroni and cheese that isn't soupy.



10. Twice a week will spend an hour scrubbing algae from the water tanks, but has a problem cleaning lasagna out of the casserole dish.

11. Will pick a horse's nose, and call it cleaning, but becomes verbally violent when her husband picks his.

12. Can sit through a four-hour session of a ground work clinic, but unable to make it through a half-hour episode of Cops.

The spouse of an afflicted victim:

1. Must come to terms with the fact there is no cure, and only slightly effective treatments. The syndrome may be genetic or caused by the inhaling of manure particles which, I propose, have an adverse effect on female hormones.



2. Must adjust the family budget to include equine items - hay, veterinarian



services, farrier services, riding boots and clothes, supplements, tack, equine masseuse and acupuncturist - as well as the (mandatory) equine spiritual guide, etc.

Once you have identified a monthly figure, never look at it again. Doing so will cause tightness in your chest, nausea and occasional diarrhea.

3. Must realize that your spouse has no control over this affliction. More often than not, she will deny a problem even exists as denial is common.

4. Must form a support group. You need to know you're not alone - and there's no shame in admitting your wife has a problem. My support group, for instance, involves men who truly enjoy Harley Davidsons, four-day weekends and lots of scotch. Most times, she is unaware that I am even gone, until the precise moment she needs help getting a 50-pound bag of grain out of the truck.

Now you can better see how O.C.E.A.N.S. affects countless households in this country and abroad. It knows no racial, ethnic or religious boundaries. It is a syndrome that will be difficult to treat because those most affected are in denial and therefore, not interested in a cure.

So, I am taking it upon myself to be constantly diligent in my research in order to pass along information to make it easier for caretakers to cope on a day to day basis.



Equine Massage Therapy and Reiki (Energy Healing) Helps The Recovery Of The Rescued Horses And Other Farm Animals Of Happy Trails

The majority of the horses in the equine rescue programs here at Happy Trails have not been treated very well in their life. As they continue their journey of recovery here at the sanctuary, we strive to go that extra step to ensure their overall health and well-being, and to bring them the highest level of peace and comfort that we can offer to them.

Enter Lisa Deckert, one of Happy Trails most valued volunteers! You may remember reading about her in one of Connie Bloom's columns in the Akron Beacon Journal. If you are a horse owner, Lisa is a must-have to help ease any tension, stiffness or soreness your horse may be experiencing.

Lisa graduated in 1998 from Equissage of Round Hill, Virginia, and was educated on the anatomy of the horse and the process of massage and technique.

The Happy Trails horses love Tuesdays, when Lisa generously and faithfully donates her time every week to work on those who are in need of the most help. A horse that had been uncomfortable with tight muscles due to the variety of health issues that we see here at Happy Trails, will visibly relax, rest, and hang its head and lick with relief as its massage therapy session goes along.

But that's not all! With Lisa, we

get a two-in-one package deal! Lisa is also experienced and trained in Reiki, a healing technique for stress reduction and relaxation that allows everyone to tap into an unlimited supply of "life force energy" to improve health and enhance the



Here Houston, an 18 year old Arabian gelding, gets a much-needed massage to help his sore muscles. Houston suffers from Cushings Disease, and due to founder, often shifts his weight to compensate for pain and lameness. His massages help bring him much comfort!

quality of life.

Reiki, as defined by the International Center for Reiki Training, "...treats the whole person (or animal) including body, emotions, mind and spirit and creates many

beneficial effects including relaxation and feelings of peace, security and well-being."

When asked to recall a memorable animal experience, Lisa shared this story. "My most profound experience...was when I was able to lay hands on a newborn foal that had been attacked by another horse. The foal had very little chance of a recovery and the owners were sure it would have to be put down. I asked the owner if I could see the foal up close, and with a warning that the mare would not be receptive to my being near, was given permission. As I approached, the mare shifted her body so to block the group of people that were watching. She not only let me near her baby, but she let me touch her also. I laid hands on the foal

from her head down her neck and to her tail. The next day, I was surprised to hear that the foal had a straighter neck, could walk and could bend her head to both sides. All this was impossible the day before. I gave the foal another treatment and the vet came to administer antibiotics for infections, and the foal recovered fully."

Lisa now works full-time in the animal massage field, and complements her work with Reiki.

Due to our limited space here, more information about Reiki can be found at www.reiki.org.

To give your hard-working equine friend a professional, relaxing massage, or to request help with a pet that is ailing and could benefit from the healing energy of Reiki, give Lisa a call at (330) 606-4468. The rescued horses of Happy Trails highly recommend a therapeutic equine massage regularly!

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank our all-volunteer healing group, who helps us remotely work on any of the rescued animals in need. Everyone works in their own way, using their own style and techniques, and we have seen peace and comfort brought to many of the animals at the sanctuary. Many thanks to the following dedicated and compassionate folks who share with us and the animals their time, talents and special gifts on a regular weekly basis:

- Donna Larabee
- Bernie McCullough
- Kathy Shreve
- Carla Hartzell
- Jody Kraner
- Sharon Kendall
- Lisa Deckert

Interesting Animal Care Clinic...

The other day, I was talking to a local farmer who was telling me about a seminar (clinic) that was held locally, and it taught people how to take care of their farm animals. I think their seminar would have a great impact on all of us...

At the beginning of the clinic, all in attendance were given tempting snacks of salty pretzels to munch on and encouraged to eat up!

People eventually began getting thirsty. They were told that water would be brought to them after about an hour. An hour passed, and they were told the same thing again. Three hours had passed before a break was finally announced and water was to be handed out.

Everyone was looking forward to getting some water to drink after eating the dry and salty pretzels.

When it was time for those in attendance to finally get their water to drink, dirty, muddy water was brought and offered to them in dirty cups. Their mouths were dry by now. They were very thirsty. They were also very offended and didn't want to drink out of the dirty cups or drink the dirty water. They were hoping for fresh water, but it was never brought to them at all during the demonstration. The dirty water sat in front of them, teasing their thirst.

It was a unique lesson learned and had a great impact on everyone. The instructor

explained that many people feed their farm animals when it's convenient for them, not when the animal is actually hungry. We feed them when we feel like it, and as much we feel like we want to feed them. We may hurriedly throw food at them when we're rushed, and the food may or may not make it into a bowl. They politely do not complain but will eat it off the mud, rain puddles, poop, rocks, or whatever it happened to land on...they have no choice....it's the only food they will receive.

Many people simply dump additional water into already muddy or dirty water bowls, too lazy to dump and rinse them in order to offer the animal clean water to drink. In the hot Summer sun, the animals may have spilled their water and have to wait for many hours until you decide to get them some fresh water to drink. In the Winter, their water may be frozen, and you think it's too cold to go out and deal with having to break the ice and haul buckets of fresh water out to them until later in the day. They are thirsty, and may look sadly at their frozen water wishing for a drink.

This demonstration hit home when the farmer was explaining this to me, and it definitely should make us think about life from the animal's point of view.

This same lesson applies to offering the animals additional straw or bedding or sleeping bags and blankets for the pot belly pigs.

Maybe just learning about this experi-

ment at the seminar and sharing it with everyone, will cause us all to take a moment and remember this when we go to feed our own outdoor animals.

I'm hoping that it will certainly make all of our volunteers stop and think when they are feeding, watering and freshening up bedding for the rescued animals here at Happy Trails.

I always feel bad for animals who get the raw end of the deal. As a sanctuary, we are supposed to be all about the care and well-being of the animals. We try to instill in our volunteers a sense of responsibility, of providing higher



quality care, of doing things right and of keeping the animal's best interest as their first priority.

I thought that this story that was shared with me was pretty powerful and effective. I know it definitely made *me* stop to think, and I recall the story each time I reach for an animal's food or water bowl at feeding time. Maybe you could pass this story along to someone else who may benefit from some food for thought, or leave this article at a place where the animals may not be getting the highest quality of care!

Hey, aren't you facing the wrong direction?



You May Wish To Choose A Monthly Expense To Help Out The Sanctuary

Happy Trails pays for all of our operational expenses from the donations we receive. "Operational Expenses" is such a broad and vague term, that many people don't understand what it takes to keep a facility functional on a day-to-day basis.

Here's an idea of expenses that the sanctuary has to pay for on a monthly basis. Perhaps you would consider choosing from one of the items listed below as a monthly expense that you would be willing to help out with for the sanctuary.

- **The Cub Cadet:** a six-wheel, 4-wheel drive, dump vehicle that helps us to haul tools, supplies, fencing, and hay to various parts of the sanctuary as projects are being worked on. Monthly loan payment: \$79.

- **Manure Dumpster:** This 40-yard dumpster allows us the luxury of hauling the manure from the stalls and from the shelters a very short distance to the dumpster as opposed to having to haul it to the cornfield across the street. Monthly service fee: \$45. Every six week dump fee: \$179.

- **Grain & Feed Order:** This includes grain and pelleted feeds for all the farm animals currently residing at the sanctuary. Grain includes senior feed for the older horses, beet pulp for better digestion for the older horses, pelleted feed for the draft horses, sweet feed for the young and healthy horses, hog pellets for the big pigs, chicken crumbles, laying mash, duck and goose pellets. We now mix our own pot belly pig chow. Monthly grain costs: \$680.

- **Vegetable Oil:** We buy this in bulk, and it is added to the grain

of some of the horses. It helps in several ways: to add calories and put weight on an underweight horse, to add shine and a healthy appearance to a horse's coat, as a preventative for EPSM, a lack-of-muscle disease that often affects drafts and larger horse breeds, and to aid in digestion and lube the stomach lining to help food pass. Monthly oil ration: \$42

- **Electric Bill:** Happy Trails runs heat lamps throughout the cold months for the comfort of the smaller rescued animals. Electricity is used to run the water pumps, the overhead lights in the barns and shelters, the power tools used for daily repairs, the heated water buckets used in the horse stalls, and the heat to keep the water hose and vegetable oil from freezing. Average monthly electric bill: \$200.

- **The New Bob Cat:** Our new-to-us skid steer, which is like an angel on wheels to us, was purchased by obtaining a business loan. Monthly payment: \$136

- **Internet Service:** This service keeps us on-line and functioning in the computer world, enabling us to respond to email inquiries, emergency requests, send out announcements via the internet, and hosts our website. Monthly payment: \$45.90

- **Trash Dumpster:** Yes, different from the manure dumpster. This dumpster helps us remove empty feed bags, boxes, trash, old and soiled piggy blankets, broken buckets, and just an assortment of daily junk. Monthly cost: \$71

If you'd like to help out with a monthly donation, fill in the donation coupon on the following page. All donations are tax deductible.

Volunteering

Happy Trails welcomes volunteers to help out with our special projects listed in the Repairs and Facilities Improvements articles on pages 6, 7 and 8. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, with the exception being special community service groups.

Work days will be posted on our website. If you are interested in helping with construction, wiring, roofing, digging post holes, sawing and nailing, or are a certified electrician or professional construction workers, please give us a call at (330) 296-5914. Though every Sunday is a major volunteer day here at the sanctuary, there will be special work days posted throughout the year and we will concentrate on specific projects on different days.

The following list provides an overall idea of what supplies and items are needed to accomplish the construction and improvement projects discussed in this issue. Maybe you could help us ask your friends and neighbors if they would have any of these items that they would be willing to donate to our projects.

- Tarp paper & rolled roofing
- 4'x4' posts
- Rolls of chicken wire & field fencing
- Pink rolled insulation
- Loads of dirt and sand
- Loads of gravel, both small and medium sized, & limestone
- Wood: 2'x4'x8' planks
2'x6'x8' planks
- 4'x8' sheets of plywood
- Poured concrete & bags of concrete
- Automatic waterers
- Summer flowers and landscaping
- Chicken wire
- (4) 12' panel gates

*Don't forget to always
check your cosmetic, soap
and shampoo labels for
the important disclaimer:
NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS*

Visiting Happy Trails

At this time, Happy Trails is still an all-volunteer operated sanctuary. Since we do not have certain hours where we are open to guests, and there is not enough volunteers for us to meet with visitors individually, Happy Trails opens it's doors to the public throughout the year for special events. The next major event will be our bigger and better-than-ever Summer Festival and Fund-raiser to be held on Sunday, June 25th from 11am to 5pm. Details about this event can be found on page nine.

We politely and respectfully have to ask that visitors do not just "drop by" to visit at other times. With limited time and limited human resources available to us, we try our best to keep the animal's care at the top of our priority list. We dedicate what little time we have available at the sanctuary to care for the animals with regards to feeding, watering, cleaning stalls and shelters, tending to sick or injured animals, and taking animals to and from the vet offices.

We appreciate everyone's understanding, and hope that at some point we will be able to have a paid staff that could be at the sanctuary at certain times and also be available to give tours. We are working toward that goal, and with everyone's continued support, we are hoping to reach that goal in the near future.

Make sure to log onto the Happy Trails website for updates and the latest information about the sanctuary.

Check us out at happytrailsfarm.org.



Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is a 501c3 non-profit group that relies on the generosity of kind folks who believe in our animal rescue efforts.

Please consider making a difference by making a donation to help the save the life of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today.

GENERAL DONATION INFORMATION

I'd like to send a general donation at this time of

☐\$15 ☐\$25 ☐\$35 ☐\$55 ☐\$75 ☐\$____other

Please use this donation where it is needed the most.

☐ I'd like my donation to be in memory of my beloved pet _____ (name), a _____ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge

MONTHLY DONATION INFORMATION

☐ I'd like my monthly donation to pay for _____. Please send me a set of monthly donation envelopes and a tax deductible receipt.

☐ I'd like my monthly donation to be in memory of my beloved pet _____ (name), a _____ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge

☐ Please keep me on your mailing list. ☐ Please take my name off your mailing list.

☐ Please send me a tax-deductible receipt for my donation.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

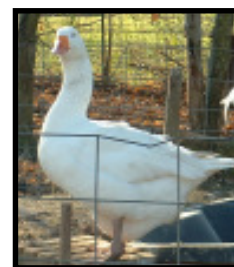
(Please add me to your email updates list) EMAIL _____

Return to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc., 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Oh 44266

Yes, I would like to sponsor a rescued animal!

Receive a photo and a personal rescue story! Please circle the animal and sponsorship payment you wish to contribute.

Animal	Monthly	Yearly
Chicken	\$10	\$120
Duck	\$10	\$120
Goose	\$10	\$120
Turkey	\$10	\$120
Goat	\$20	\$240
Sheep	\$20	\$240
Pot Belly Pig	\$25	\$300
Farm Hog	\$25	\$300
Cow	\$50	\$600
Horse/Pony	\$50	\$600



Zeus the goose asks, "Wouldn't you like to be a sponsor?"



5623 New Milford Road • Ravenna, Ohio 44266
(330) 296-5914
happytrailsfarm.org

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AKRON OH
PERMIT NO.12

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Highly Recommended Reading

“The Pig Who Sang To The Moon — The Emotional World of Farm Animals “
by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

This is a must-read for even those (probably *especially* those) who are not big fans of farm animals. It is a very realistic, honest approach to the way we see, and should see, the world in which farm animals live.

Straight from the book jacket, the following copy captures the book perfectly.

“Weaving history, literature, anecdotes, scientific studies, and

Masson’s own vivid experiences observing pigs, cows, sheep, goats and chickens over the course of five years, this important book at last gives voice, meaning, and dignity to these gentle beasts that are bred to be milked, shorn, butchered, and eaten. Can we ever

know what makes an animal happy? Many animal behaviorists say no. But Jefferey Masson has a different view: Animals are happy if they can live according to their own nature. Farm animals suffer greatly in this regard.

Chickens, for instance, like to perch in trees at night,

to avoid predators and to nestle with friends. The obvious conclusion: They cannot be happy when confined six to a cage.



From field to barn to pen and coop, Masson bears witness to the emotions and intelligence of these remarkable farm animals, each one with distinct qualities...

For far too long farm animals have been denigrated and treated merely as creatures of instinct rather than as sentient beings. Shattering the abhorrent myth of the “dumb animal without feelings,” Jeffrey Masson has written a revolutionary book that is sure to stir human emotions far and wide.”

If you at all like to read, please pick up a copy of this book and share it with everyone. Thanks to my good friend, Debbie Bragg, who gave it to me with the inscription, “For Annette, With her kind soul and her true beliefs, that *all* animals can sing!”

