



June 8, 2016

Dear Friends of Happy Trails,

It is with a mixture of sadness and tremendous gratitude that we announce the resignation of our Founder and Executive Director, Annette Bragg, from Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary. Although she will be sorely missed, we are extremely proud of her accomplishments which have put Happy Trails in the position today to continue fulfilling its mission of rescuing abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals. This is a legacy we are pledged to continue.

Annette Bragg founded Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary in 1999 with the rescue of a small pot-bellied pig named Janice. Since then, Annette has led Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary in its mission to rescue abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals in which criminal charges have been filed. Animals are taken in and provided with veterinary care and rehabilitation in a safe and comfortable setting until they can be adopted out to caring owners. As of today, Happy Trails has rescued over 5,000 farm animals and is the only farm rescue of its kind in Ohio.

Happy Trail's successes under Annette Bragg's leadership are too many to recount. However, it is clear that under Annette's direction, Happy Trails has transformed from a fledgling organization in 1999 to what it is today: a thriving 14-acre sanctuary housing over 300 animals, which includes an on-site veterinary clinic, a covered horse arena, a sheep and goat barn, a poultry barn, a horse barn, a pig barn, a multi-purpose building, a gift shop and an education center. Under Annette's guidance, Happy Trails developed the Amish Horse Retirement Program, the Farm Animal Visitation Program, the Coleman Group Program – Healing Hearts, education classes, community outreach, and an extensive volunteer program.

Under Annette's leadership, Happy Trails has won many awards for its role in rescuing animals, including the Rio Vista Award, the Red Cross Hero's Award, the Human Values Award in association with the Akron Peace Project, the Jon D. Rhodes Award from Portage Animal Protective League, and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Geauga County Rescue Village.

While we will miss Annette, we are confident that Happy Trails will continue to flourish under new leadership. We are excited to announce Laurie Jackson, former board member, as the Interim Director of Operations. The Board seeks to fill a new position of Director of Development.

Please join us in honoring Annette and her accomplishments, Saturday, June 25th from 3pm to 5pm at the sanctuary • 5623 New Milford Rd, Ravenna, OH 44266. You may RSVP to 330-296-5914.

Sincerely,

Kerry Jackson
President, Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc.



June 8, 2016

Dear Friends of Happy Trails,

As the Founder and Executive Director of this amazing farm animal sanctuary, it is with great emotion and love for not only the animals but for our friends and supporters as well that I share the latest news with you - I have resigned as the Director of Happy Trails.

Staff members, volunteers, board members and I are working together to assure the smoothest transition possible. It is with great pride that I now am stepping away from an organization I founded, nurtured, and watched grow and develop into a ground-breaking non-profit. We have provided extensive farm animal abuse rescue, rehab and recovery services to humane societies and law enforcement agencies across the United States. The experience of having created this unique and well-respected organization and taking it to its current level is indeed an honor and I am grateful.

The amazing generosity of people has often brought tears to my eyes. Thanks to our donors we were able to construct a new indoor arena, a heated restroom facility, a mini vet clinic, new barns, and bigger horse pastures. Gifts of a logo truck, a new rescue trailer, and countless supplies from our wish lists overwhelmed us with your support.

The past 17 years has truly been life-changing since I founded Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary in 1999 (we received our non-profit status in 2000). During these 17 years I have learned a great deal about animal rescue, other animal welfare organizations, operating a non-profit, Ohio laws, how to work with prosecutors and navigating the legal system. To date, I have personally overseen the rescue of well over 5,000 farm animals. I have witnessed a great deal of animal suffering but, more importantly, have witnessed the overcoming of it.

I was given unique opportunities to testify in court on behalf of the animals, to give proponent testimony before Congress to get laws passed, and to be a guest speaker and educator at numerous events. Industry leaders now consider me an expert on farm animal cruelty and abuse cases.

This has been an incredible journey! Through the creation of Happy Trails I hope I have influenced many people in a positive way, changed minds, spread kindness and compassion for farm animals, provided education, opened eyes and brought an awareness that may never have existed otherwise. This path has been humbling, rewarding, frustrating, amazing, overwhelming, unpredictable, fulfilling, educational, empowering and challenging. I wouldn't have traded it for the world.



I now plan to work in a broader capacity in animal welfare to reach even more people and to continue to advocate for animals through my writing, public speaking, and consulting. I will soon be finishing my book, the first of a series, and will also be writing articles, news updates and educational material for national organizations and special interest groups. My speaking engagements will cover a variety of topics including teaching farm animal rescue and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases; acknowledging the crucial link between animal abuse and other crimes against humans; the connection between animals and people in our daily lives; and leadership, motivational and inspirational talks. Consulting work will include marketing, special promotions, newsletter development, and handling farm animal emergency rescues.

If you'd like to continue to follow my work and this next part of my journey, you may keep in contact with me via email me at annettebragg2016@yahoo.com, and I will let you know as soon as my new website is available to the public. The new website will keep you updated with news of the book release, a complete list of speaking engagements (including the ones listed below), and more. I'd like to invite everyone to attend my presentation at Site Nite (www.sitenite.com) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, July 26th. The topic will be Our Spiritual Connection with Animals. I believe the amazing connection between people and animals is something that deserves to be acknowledged, celebrated and shared. We will discuss the environmental connection of the treatment of animals on factory farms and the pollution and toxicity of our planet due to mass animal warehousing; and consider the daily choices we make as consumers. I will also be speaking at the OVMA (Ohio Veterinary Medical Association) Conference in February 2017 in Columbus.

My goal has always been for Happy Trails to achieve greatness and to become sustainable, effective, influential and to become a voice for the animals who need someone to speak for them in a monumental way. I see that dream has come to pass and will continue to develop and unfold. I sincerely hope you will continue to support the good work of the sanctuary.

The opportunity to have worked with the people connected to Happy Trails is nothing short of extraordinary.

With kindness and compassion for all animals,

Annette Bragg
Founder, Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc.