NEW EQUINE RETIREMENT PROGRAM FOR AMISH HORSES

Happy Trails now provides an option for Amish horses otherwise bound for slaughter

Though Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary has always accepted horses into our rescue programs from Ohio’s Amish community, we have formalized the program into the Amish Horse Retirement Program, accepting both buggy horses (mostly Standardbreds) and drafts (mostly Percherons and Belgians).

The reason we have put an extra effort forth into helping this particular equine group is that the alternatives for both the horses and their owners are not great. Perhaps a buggy horse or a special plow horse has served their owners well for a good number of years, and simply due to old age cannot continue in the capacity needed to earn their keep on the farm.

Placing ads in newspapers for the families are often difficult at best, as many Amish families may not have access to their own phone. If they put an address in the ad, realistically, how many prospective buyers who don’t live near the Amish communities are willing to drive an hour or more to see a horse that may or may not still be there? The common thing

Continued on page 11

(left) Joe and Charlene Smith of Ravenna, have been the host family for Russian exchange student, Yelena Skupinska. Yelena spent 90% of her free time this past year volunteering at Happy Trails and helping out with rescued animals. Yelena made so many friends at the sanctuary, that we put together a surprise going away party for her so she would know how much we would all miss her as she prepared to go back to her home in Russia. For the complete story, check out page 6.
Hey, Can you make it to our annual picnic & fund-raiser on Sunday, June 26th?

Last year we welcomed over 500 guests at the Happy Trails Annual Picnic & Fund-raiser. This year we hope to even top that number!

Please understand that this is one of the most important fund-raisers of the year for Happy Trails! As our reputation grows, the requests for our rescue services by humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio is rapidly growing as well. As we try to help the largest amount of abused and neglected animals as possible, our fund-raising efforts need to keep up to meet the challenges presented to us.

My biggest request today is simple: please help us to spread the word about the picnic!

Encourage friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives to make time to simply visit the sanctuary, see what we’re all about, talk to our board members and volunteers, and make a donation toward our rescue efforts if they like the organization and facilities. As a complete 501c3 non-profit farm animal sanctuary, Happy Trails is very unique to Ohio, and we are requesting the support of our Northeast Ohio community. We’re asking them to be there for us as we continue to make headway in bringing to light the amount of farm animal and equine abuse, neglect and abandonment that happens daily, and request their support as we attempt to educate the public on proper and basic care of these animals.

Feel free to copy or pass along the picnic flier on the next page.

Hope to see ya there!

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Annette Fisher, Exec. Director (330) 296-5914
Russ Fisher, President.......... (330) 296-5914
Becky Albright, Vice President (330) 877-0091
Nancy Conring, Treasurer...... (330) 733-1478
Debbie Friend, Secretary ...... (330) 628-0192
Maggie Godfrey.................... (330) 296-5914
Sharon Barnard..................... (330) 928-3623
Chris Cook ........................... (330) 929-5653
Chuck Conring ....................... (330) 733-1478
Maggie Godfrey

• James Masi, Attorney
• Char Scroggins
• Dr. Gary Riggs, DVM
  (Barberton Veterinary Clinic)
• Rachel Whitehawk of Whitehawk Ranch

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letter from the director

There’s been so much activity concerning Happy Trails since the last newsletter that I honestly don’t know where to begin.

As an organization, we have been definitely in a growth phase. While trying to control the rate of that growth has been a challenge, it has proven to us time and time again the extreme need for the rescue services we provide concerning farm animals in Ohio.

Humane societies and animal protective leagues from counties across the state call upon our services daily, and with a good deal of help from up above, Happy Trails makes miracles happen on a regular basis. Though there may be no room at the inn (the sanctuary itself often operates at full capacity), we come up with an approved foster situation through a series of frantic phone calls; or though we may not have any extra funds to help the animal that needs a major operation, we put out a plea in a series of emails and the funding materializes to cover an emergency surgery.

The uniqueness of the sanctuary and our now-nationally recognized work concerning farm animal rescue is turning our dreams into realities. Though I am proud to know that we are making an incredible difference in the lives of animals who have endured suffering and mistreatment, it makes me incredibly sad that there is such an overwhelming need for our services.

I want you to know that thank you’s are very important to me. I simply can’t thank everyone enough who has already done something to help ó everyone who has donated, trailered, hauled, shoveled, said nice things, adopted, and offered words of encouragement.

I humbly thank you, our supporters, for hanging in there with us and for supporting such a true grass-roots organization. I hope you will continue to watch us grow and keep an eye on our rescue efforts.

For everyone who has written us a note of encouragement and appreciation ó I read each and every one of them. You have no idea how much your kind words mean and how often they are what keeps us going through difficult situations.

I’ll do my best to keep you updated through our newsletters, emails and website, and want you to know that Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is educating, rescuing, rehabilitating, adopting, growing, expanding and caring ó all because of you! Many thanks!

Sincerely,

Annette Fisher
Executive Director
MONTEL WANTS TO SEE YOU
AT THE HAPPY TRAILS PICNIC!

EXPERIENCE THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, June 26, 2005
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
*RSVP: Reservations are required.

ADMISSION: Complimentary admission — bring a friend and a smile!

PARKING: Shuttle parking provided by PARTA. Parking facilities are within three minutes of Happy Trails. Parking will be available at: Havre Woods Park New Milford Road North of the Rt. 5 intersection • Accordino & Butch Chiropractic Center (across from Havre Woods Park) 5940 New Milford Rd. • Young Friends Childcare Center 5968 New Milford Rd.

*Please RSVP either on-line at happytrailsfarm.org or call Nancy or Chuck Conring at (330) 733-1478 to sign up to attend from:
  11 a.m.—1 p.m.;  1 p.m.—3 p.m.;  3 p.m.— 5 p.m.

To get to know Happy Trails and the rescued farm animals, you have to experience them!

Meet the rescued animals and hear their stories!

Special Raffles • Vegetarian lunch • Happy Trails Amish Belgian Hitch Team Demonstration • Face Painting • Animal-theme items and Western hats • Information about volunteering and adopting • Happy Trails t-shirts, baseball caps & tank tops • Special guests • Interesting things to see and do scheduled throughout the day!

PRISCILLA SAYS..."HELP SUPPORT THE RESCUED ANIMALS AT HAPPY TRAILS!"

See the day’s itinerary at happytrailsfarm.org
Happy Trails IS...
...a recognized 501c3 non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and adopts out abused, abandoned and neglected farm animals. Our non-profit status was officially acknowledged in 2001.

Happy Trails IS...
...an all-volunteer organization, including an all-volunteer staff and board of directors. At this time we still have no paid employees.

Happy Trails IS...
...a farm animal sanctuary, and lists the farm animals accepted into our rescue program as cows, horses (and any related equine such as mini horses, ponies, etc.), pot belly pigs, farm hogs, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, goats and sheep.

Happy Trails IS...
...funded strictly by private donations, community fund-raisers, and has received several grants.

Happy Trails IS...
...a support organization for humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio, and also has a special program set up to take in retiring Amish horses who have no other alternative than to be sent to a local slaughterhouse auction. The criteria for us to accept an animal into our rescue program is that they are currently in a situation of being abused, abandoned or neglected, or bound for slaughter.

Happy Trails IS...
...located on private property and does not have open visiting hours at this time due to the limited human resources of operating through our volunteers. Anyone wishing to adopt an animal is asked to make an appointment, and a counselor or board member will meet with you at the sanctuary.

Happy Trails IS...
...a no-kill facility. The rescued animals are not euthanized simply because a home is not found for them in a certain amount of time. We do not euthanize to simply make room for a younger, healthier, or more adoptable farm animal. We will euthanize, however, if the animal’s quality of life has diminished and extreme chronic pain and suffering cannot be treated to a tolerable degree. This decision is only made after consulting with professional, licensed veterinarians and receiving second opinions.

Happy Trails IS...
...a community oriented facility. We have worked with student community service groups from Hiram College, Ravenna High School, Green High School, Northcoast Medical Training Academy, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and home school groups. We have hosted outings for various assisted living facilities and homes for mentally handicapped residents. We participate in the Portage County Fair, and have set up displays for the Church in the Valley, the Summit County Historical Society, the Randolph Heritage Festival, Donzellís Garden Center, Tractor Supply in Chardon, and Springfield Township Holiday Festival. We have given presentations to the Northeast Ohio Arabian Horse Association, 4-H groups, the Columbiana County Ohio Horseman’s Council, and senior citizen groups.

Happy Trails IS...
...in the publicís eye on a regular basis.

On television Happy Trails has been featured in three different segments of Animal Crackers, a cable television show based in the Wadsworth area and hosted by a wonderful spokesperson for animals, Jan Sponsler. And when we have important fund-raisers, Dick Goddard, weatherman for Fox 8 news, graciously announces Happy Trails events during the weather report.

On radio, Happy Trails has been featured on multiple occasions on the Forum Program of country music station, K105FM. Morning dj, Mary Ann Graff, hosts a half hour long interview segment featuring a non-profit organization every Sunday morning at 7am, and Happy Trails received many inquiries from our broadcasts.

Happy Trails IS...
...a working farm. The barns are not heated. The paths are not paved. As on any farm, the conditions at the facility change with the seasons and weather. The paths and paddocks and hog exercise areas may become extremely muddy after rains or during the Spring thaw; walking becomes treacherous after it snows and then freezes with a layer of ice on top during the Winter; even during the best of weather, the ground may be uneven from the hoof prints of the horses in the soft dirt. There are no heated outbuildings, and in the Winter there is an outhouse available to visitors, as the running water outhouse is shut down due to freezing during the Winter months.

[i Ohio Magazine
[i the Barberton Herald
[i the Western Reserve newsletter
[i (listed in) Animal People as a recognized rescue group
[i the book: After The Finish Line, author - Bill Heller

In print, Happy Trails has been featured in:
[i] the Akron Beacon Journal
[i] the Cleveland Plain Dealer
[i] the Farm & Dairy
...and What Happy Trails is NOT...

Happy Trails is NOT...
...a rescue for domestic animals such as dogs, cats or rabbits. Just because you call your barn a farm animal, does not mean we will accept it. We are not set up for any domestic animals, though we probably get twenty or more calls a week about cats and dogs. For a referral of domestic rescue organizations, please refer to our website at happytrailsfarm.org.

Happy Trails is NOT...
...a licensed wildlife refuge. We definitely do NOT accept wildlife, including Canada geese (we get many calls on them), deer, raccoons, owls, or any other wild animal. For a referral of licensed wildlife organizations, again, please refer to our website at happytrailsfarm.org.

Happy Trails is NOT...
...a petting zoo. The animals arrive at the sanctuary from situations of abuse, neglect or have been abandoned. They are often not too thrilled with people, may not care to be pet, or can be bitey or grumpy due to arthritis issues. Again, Happy Trails is NOT a childrenís zoo type of setting ó often the horses are starvation cases and may be difficult to look at, the pot belly pigs may arrive with overgrown and curled hooves, the chickens may have lost many of their feathers due to being picked on by other fowl at their previous location or have chicken lice, etc. Do not visit the sanctuary expecting to get to hold and pet all the animals. We are more of an Edwin Shawí facility if you will, for farm animals. They are here to recover from their unfortunate situations. We try to make their stay here as pleasant as possible, and try make it all about their comfort.

Happy Trails is NOT...
...just a local community organization. Happy Trails accepts farm animals from all counties in Ohio. Though we have also accepted farm animals from out of state, we do try to match out of state situations with a more localized rescue group. We do, however, adopt animals out of state with the help of county humane societies and animal protective leagues. We currently have horses in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia; pot belly pigs in Illinois; and farm hogs in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Happy Trails is NOT...
...a horse broker or animal placement agency. If you wish to simply sell your horse or other farm animal, though you want it to go to a good home, please do not call the sanctuary. We are not in the business of selling animals or helping you to make money off of yours. Happy Trails will, however, coach you on how to word ads in the paper, how to screen prospective buyers, how to conduct a home visit of the potential buyers, where to put up fliers in your community, what to include in a contract with the new owners, etc. If you are a decent and honest person, it is your responsibility to your horses to find them a good home on your own. We reserve our precious volunteer hours and limited time to dedicate to the animals who have been through horrible abuse and neglect.

Happy Trails is NOT...
...a riding facility. Do not volunteer with Happy Trails in the hopes that you will be riding horses. Many of the horses at the sanctuary are strictly Pasture Pals, horses that cannot ever be ridden due to illness, lameness or old age. The horses in the Ridable Program are ridden and worked by either our professional equine trainer or one of only several approved, experienced and well-seasoned Happy Trails staff members.
Yelenaís Going Away Party!

This past school year brought Russian foreign exchange student, Yelena Skupinska, into the lives of the volunteers and the rescued farm animals at Happy Trails. Joe and Charlene Smith of Ravenna Township welcome exchange students into their home and provide a safe, caring, family environment for them as they experience a typical school year here in the United State of America.

What was not so typical for Yelena, is that she embraced the opportunity to get dirty and stinky with the rest of us animal caretakers at Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary.

This 16 year old young lady worked her butt off this past year for the good of the animals, and loved almost every minute of it. I say almost, because I donít think she thought it was great fun the day the giant farm hogs escaped through an open door and we had to run around trying to corral them again, or the day Luke, a huge Belgian draft horse stepped on her foot, or the time she backed the Cub Cadet into the side of the barn.... But overall, I donít know who it was more of a learning experience for ó her or us!

With a soft voice and a gentle hand, the animals responded well to her easy manner and kind words with a slight Russian accent. They seemed as comfortable with her as she was with them.

As the school year came to an end, we decided that we needed to send her off with good wishes and happy thoughts and the knowledge that she made many friends during her all-too-short stay in Ravenna. Happy Trails volunteers threw her a surprise party, and surprise her we did! A huge cake with a picture of a globe and both the Russian and American flag graced the icing, and the two countries seemed closer together somehow by the little blue airplane that Russ drew in frosting connecting our worlds.

Thanks to Joe and Charlene for sharing Yelena with us this past year, and for the important opportunities that they provide as a sponsor family for the exchange students from other countries.

Though weíll miss Yelena, we wouldnít have changed one thing about her being here this past year! Incase her parents in Russia get to read this ó you have a very talented, extremely intelligent, friendly, funny, sensitive, sweet and caring daughter! We canít say enough nice things about her, and would like to wish her all the very best from both her human and animal friends here at Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary!

Russ Fisher, Happy Trails co-founder, did an excellent job of coming up with the idea for the cake decorations.

Many animals, including Floyd, the rooster, attended Yelenaís going away party!

Nancy Conring, Happy Trails treasurer, brought a singing stuffed horse puppet to add to the festivities.

Never, never be afraid to do whatís right, especially if the well being of a person or animal is at stake. Societyís punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.

(quote borrowed from the email tag line of Ohio SPCA)

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc is now listed with iGive.com!

Everyday on-line shopping provides support for Happy Trails.

With every purchase made through the Mall at iGive.com, you can support the sanctuary.

Please donít litter!
Fix your critter!!!
There are an awful lot of "extreme" shows on television any more: Extreme Makeovers for individuals wanting to change their appearance; Extreme Makeover Home Edition for people wanting to update the look of their house; Extreme Sports for those seeking to live on the edge, and many more extreme examples...well, we have come up with a page of "Extreme Beauty", for we believe that beauty comes from within, and the photos on this page represent some of the most beautiful creatures (in our humble opinion) that we have ever had the pleasure of meeting in this lifetime...enjoy...

(above) These two sheep, Sharon and Chris, are extremely lucky. They had not been sheared for a good number of years, and spent last Winter under an old car hood for their shelter. Not only are they extremely beautiful, they are now extremely grateful to have been sheared for Summer.

Though she won't win any hair styling awards, Priscilla is an extremely beautiful creature who is slowly developing a trusting nature with people after having not been treated very kindly in her life. Her extreme mohawk is her unique signature!

(left) Joy the cow is extremely humorous. Holding her carrot as though it were a cigar, she takes the time to pose for the camera. Joy believes, as we all do, that she is extremely beautiful.

Oswald (left) is extremely happy. You are witnessing here his first steps ever onto dirt and grass. Oswald and two other piggies survived a surgery class at OSU, came through the Happy Trails program, and was relocated to his new home at Minipigs, a sanctuary in Virginia.

Willis (left) is extremely bald. After wishing we could get him to grow hair for quite a long time, we discovered he is a hairless breed of pot belly pig. He is quite a character, and in the looks department, he believes (as we do) that he is extremely handsome!

Little mini, Baily, with his crippled hooves and endearing facial deformities, was extremely festive, as he sported his holiday attire as he prepared to leave for his new home back in December.

Dutchess the Standardbred mare was extremely brave, having underwent eye removal surgery due to Uveitis. She was trusting and loving and allowed us to care for her while being calm and gentle with us the entire time.

Grandpa Walton (below) was extremely lucky. He went from the extremely thin and malnourished shadow of a horse in the bottom photo to the well-filled out gentleman in the top photo sticking his tongue at you. We felt he was extremely beautiful from day one, because he was a survivor.
questions and answers...

Q. We would like to donate some hay for the horses - what do you look for in hay?
A. We look for good quality, soft hay cut within the last year of a grass or timothy mix, not over a year old. We unfortunately cannot accept two, three or four year old hay to feed the rescued horses, as the vitamins and minerals are often diminished, and the hay becomes moldy when older (even if it has been covered). We have been taught by several nutrition specialists that there is no such thing as dusty hay if it is dusty, it is moldy. We are extra careful about what is fed to the rescued horses, and that includes the quality of hay they receive. To ensure proper nutrition, we strive to provide them with the healthiest and most palatable hay available. We do not feed a straight alfalfa hay, as it would be too rich for the rescued horses. Many of the Happy Trails equine residents are lame or injured, and cannot work or exercise on a regular basis. Therefore, they do not require the rich protein found in an alfalfa hay.

Hay should not be dry or filled with thorns and branches. Extremely heavy bales of hay are often a sign of hay that has been baled wet and may have molded, and the flakes often come apart as bricks. If the hay you would like to donate to the rescued horses isn’t up to the standards of what you would feed your own horse, chances are we won’t be able to feed it to the rescued horses either.

Q. Can you use older hay for the pigs in any way?
A. We try to NOT use old hay for either the farm hogs or the pot belly pigs. Often the old hay that people may want to donate is dusty and smells moldy. This is not good for the respiratory systems of the pot belly pigs. Hay also does not make good bedding for the farm hogs. Have you ever had hay in your horses stall, and instead of eating it they urinated on it and you had to rake it out? Hay has a tendency to matt down and clump together, and then creates a mess to clean when wet. Hay does not have any absorption qualities, and tends to not stay fluffed to create warm bedding as straw would. We do prefer to use straw for pig bedding, and therefore do not accept donations of old hay.

Q. Are you still collecting sleeping bags for the pigs?
A. Year-round we will be collecting old sleeping bags, comforters and blankets for the pot belly pigs who have difficulty walking and appreciate a warm cover to snuggle up with under their heat lamps in the coldest months of the year. We go through quite a few blankets with the amount of pigs that we work with, after the blankets become soiled and covered with straw, they are often not even washable. Old sleeping bags actually work the very best, since one side of them is usually a smooth material, and does not collect straw or other debris like the blankets do. Though we accept these types of donations year round, it is always greatly appreciated if you are able to store any cold weather gear and donate the items around September, when the weather begins to turn colder.

Q. I would like to volunteer with my kids - how can we help?
A. Happy Trails now has an 18 year old age limit for anyone wishing to volunteer at the sanctuary itself. The farm animals come to us from situations of abuse and neglect, and we work with many types of behaviors. Often there will be horses that are prone to biting and kicking, and only trained, experienced adults are allowed to handle or work with the horses. There are often pot belly pigs who are not overly friendly and will nip when being fed or when someone enters their pen to clean up. Several of the geese tend to go after people, and a good pinch from a goose can produce a nice bruise. It goes back to the fact that Happy Trails is not a petting zoo - we are a rehab facility and accept farm animals into our program who may have medical or behavioral issues or even both.

Several suggestions for younger kids interested in helping the rescued animals are: organizing a fund-raiser through their school, and then scheduling a class visit to the sanctuary; choosing a Happy Trails need and hosting a bake sale to support the need (for example, raising $180 to feed the animals for a week or raising $20 for each horse that needs his hooves trimmed; collecting old sleeping bags, comforters and blankets for the older, cripple or arthritic pot belly pigs; taking up a collection of pop cans; selling raffle tickets for an item we (or they) can raffle off, with the proceeds benefiting the farm animals at Happy Trails; hosting a book sale at their school or church. Please let us know ahead of time if your kids’ school or organization would like to participate in one of these fund-raisers - we will be glad.

A rich man is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.
- Unknown
Murphyís Horse Laws

There is no such thing as a sterile barn cat.
No one ever notices how you ride until you fall off.
The least useful horse in your barn will eat the most, require shoes every four weeks and need the vet at least once a month.
A horseís misbehavior will be in direct proportion to the number of people who are watching.
Your favorite tack always gets chewed on, and your new blanket gets torn.
Tack you hate will never wear out and blankets you hate cannot be destroyed.
Clipper blades will become dull when your horse is half clipped.
If you approach within fifty feet of your barn in clean clothes, you will get dirty.
The number of horses you own will increase to the number of stalls in your barn.
Your barn will fall down without baling twine.
Hoof picks always run away from home.
If you fall off, you will land on the site of your most recent injury.

Q. Do you give presentations to equine groups?
A. We love to talk to horse people, 4-H clubs and other equine organizations, and will be happy to provide a nice presentation for your groupís monthly meeting. Before our calendar gets completely booked for the Summer months, give us a call to schedule a speaker and presentation focusing on the equine programs at Happy Trails.

Q. Who do I call to report any suspected abuse or neglect of a farm animal in my community?
A. All reports should be made to your local county humane society, animal protective league, or sheriffís department. Happy Trails does not at this time have an authorized humane officer on staff who has legal authority to remove an animal from a property. The sanctuary was originally set up as a support group for humane societies and animal protective leagues who often only have facilities to house domestic animals. We can only remove a farm animal if it is a Happy Trails previously adopted animal that has found itself in a situation of neglect or abuse.

Q. Iím not great at manual labor. How else can I participate as a volunteer?
A. How about helping to provide the energy needed for our volunteers who provide manual labor every Sunday? We welcome anyone with a talent for basic cooking or baking to provide a simple, vegetarian dish or two, or even a scrumptious dessert for our hard-working volunteers for Sunday lunch. We normally have anywhere from 10 to 15 people volunteering for the day on Sundays, and try to provide a simple lunch meal at noon as a thank-you for all their dedication and hard work on behalf of the rescued farm animals.

If cooking and baking isnít your dish, what about helping to staff our Happy Trails information booths at community festivals? We are always seeking individuals able to offer a friendly smile, a courteous word, and who can hand out Happy Trails literature at the many community events in which we are asked to participate.

Help with hauling and transporting animals to and from vet clinics is always needed. Individuals with their own truck and horse trailers are as good as gold when it comes to picking up and delivering horses to the sanctuary, and helping them to arrive safely at their new homes.

We would like to start a Happy Trails Sunday tour for visitors to the sanctuary, with reliable tour guides needed. Volunteers seeking to help as a tour guide would need to be dependable, arrive on time, be a people person, be willing to learn the stories behind many of the rescued farm animals so that they can be shared with others, and be able to speak loudly and clearly to a group.

For a volunteer application, check out our website at happytrailsfarm.org.

(from Joe Albanese, blacksmith)
“...when I was in New Jersey (attending Tom Brown’s Scout Protector class),... they said something to us at the end of class that really stuck with me. They said there are three types of people in this world: the prey, the predator’s, and the protector’s. Keep that in mind as you go through your days, and remember the quote:"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing” - Edmund Burke, quote at the end of the movie “Tears of the Sun”
**Why Animals Don't Live As Long As Humans**

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Marcus. The dog’s owners, Steve, his wife, Mary, and their little boy, David, were all very attached to Marcus and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Marcus and found he was dying of cancer.

I told the family there were no miracles left for Marcus, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Steve and Mary told me they thought it would be good for four-year-old David to observe the procedure. They felt David could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Marcus’s family surrounded him. Little David seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Marcus slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Marcus’s transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Marcus’s death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

David, who had been listening quietly, piped up, ‘I know why.’

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. ‘I’d never heard a more comforting explanation.’

He said, ‘Everybody is born so that they can learn to live a good life; that loving everybody and being nice, right?’

The four-year-old continued. ‘Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don’t have to stay as long.’

**Old Farmers Advice:**

*Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.*
*Life ain’t about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.*
*Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.*
*Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.*
*A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.*
*Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.*
*Meanness don’t just happen overnight.*
*Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.*
*Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.*
*It don’t take a very big person to carry a grudge.*
*You cannot unsay a cruel word.*
*Every path has a few puddles.*
*When you walk with pigs, expect to get dirty.*
*The best sermons are lived, not preached.*
*Most of the stuff people worry about ain’t never gonna happen anyway.*
*Don’t judge folks by their relatives.*
*Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.*
*Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you’ll enjoy it a second time.*
*Don’t interfere with somethin’ that ain’t botherin’ you none.*
*Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.*
*The easiest way to eat crow is while it’s still warm, ’cause the colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.*
*If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin’.*
*It don’t take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.*
*Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.*
*The biggest troublemaker you’ll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every mornin’.*
*Always drink upstream from the herd.*
*Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.*
*Lettin’ the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin’ it back in.*
*If you get to thinkin’ you’re a person of some influence, try orderin’ somebody else’s dog around.*
*Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.*

**Scheduling Groups to Visit Happy Trails**

We receive a lot of calls from groups and organizations wanting to visit Happy Trails.

For more information about our group tour policies and scheduling, give Nancy Conring a call at (330) 733-1478.

**Special Thanks**

As usual we don’t have room to thank individually everyone who has supported Happy Trails in some way, but we’d like to mention at least a few.

Special thanks to Dr. Mike Odian, D.V.M., who so graciously donated his new heavy-duty draft horse shoeing stocks to Happy Trails. Our blacksmith thanks you every six weeks for them!

Special thanks also to the following reliable, dependable, always there for us, dedicated, and hard-working volunteers:

- Dick Zampini
- Alex Hale
- Andrea Lynett
- Lauren Carroll
- Yelena Skupinska

Extra special thanks to Chuck Conring, our webmaster, who puts up with my lack of computer knowledge and has created an extremely well put together website for Happy Trails.
Awesome Adoptions

Though we are, as usual, limited on space to list adoptions, I’d like to highlight at least a few in this newsletter. We have had some wonderful adoptions take place recently. Thanks to the following approved, loving and caring individuals for providing permanent homes for the following farm animals:

- Joyce Godfrey adopted Earl the rooster (amazing!) and a multitude of chickens
- Susie Wiley adopted Luke, a giant Belgian gelding
- Donna Iacobini adopted an assortment of ducks and chickens
- Laurie Schrock adopted Lady Jane, an 18 hands tall beautiful black Percheron mare
- Carol & Steve Schwartz adopted yet another mini from Happy Trails named little Erma, an older butter-scotch-colored mare
- Debbie & Cassie Manion adopted Dusty Bob, a handsome Standardbred gelding, and Shana Frost, a beautiful Thoroughbred mare
- Rick & Diane Bair adopted Bullseye, an adorable Pygmy goat, Cowboy, a black and white Paint gelding, and Rosie, a Thoroughbred mare
- Cheryl Livensperger adopted Cactus, a good-lookin’ Tennessee Walker-mix gelding
- Lori Foy adopted Cheech and Chong, two white domestic geese
- Eileen and Bob Roloff adopted Rocky, a lovable, black two year old Percheron gelding
- Nancy Conring adopted Larry the duck
- Jim Capone and Sue Boston adopted Leo the white Pekin duck
- A special acknowledgment goes out to all the wonderful families who are currently fostering-to-adopt the goats awaiting the completion of the court case. Thanks for your patience, caring and understanding of their special needs.

Rescued Farm Animals Seeking Permanent Homes

Though there are many, many rescued farm animals seeking good quality, caring homes through our adoption program, we would like to highlight some of the harder to place ones to give them that extra chance to find a family that they can call their own.

NOTE: Please remember, all adoption fees help us to rescue and pay for the special needs of the next animals that come through our programs.

Memphis Bell and Norma Jean, 22 and 23 year old Percheron mares, sweet, lovable, gentle can’t say enough good things about these girls. Memphis Bell cannot work in any capacity due to a bad hip, and Norma Jean may be able to handle light riding at a walk only. They are seeking a retirement home where they can enjoy just hanging out and appreciated for all the hard work that they did on their Amish farm. Bell has special needs. Adoption Fee: $500 for the pair.

Sharon and Chris, two funny, comical sheep who have been sheared since this photo was taken. The girls recently came into our program from a neglect situation, and hadn’t been sheared for about five years. Their home this past Winter was the hood from a car. They are seeking a home together and as family pets, and both are now happy and healthy. $100 Adoption Fee for the ladies.

Bronson (left) and Van Gogh (right), are two beautiful roosters in need of a home. They represent about six roosters currently at the sanctuary who need placed in a permanent residence. The two featured here are not mean or aggressive, and Van Gogh doesn’t mind being hugged and held.

Madonna, a sassy, smiley, blanket-lovin’ pot belly pig, and her friend, Rosie, would like to find a home together where they can be waited on hand and foot and fed strawberries. However, they would settle for a large shelter with thick straw and a heat lamp for Winter. Madonna represents the nearly 30 pot belly pigs awaiting qualified homes.

Yes, Joy the cow is a still with us. Won’t anyone adopt her who doesn’t want to either eat her or breed her? C’mon guys, there has to be a home for her!
**Tributes To Gracie, Clyde & Dixie**

(Grab a tissue)

**Gracie**, a beautiful 22 year old Percheron mare who was retiring from an Amish farm, was in foster care at Becky Albright’s. On Thursday, February 17, Gracie began to show signs of colic in the morning. After a dose of Banamine and being outside for the day to exercise at her leisure, Gracie’s condition continued to decline.

Late that afternoon we decided to run her up to the Equine Specialty Hospital. Tests showed that she had toxins already entering her body. A fatty mass apparently had been growing in her small intestine for a long period of time. It was attached to a thin membrane, which stretched from the weight of the mass, and formed a stem from which the mass hung. Around this stem the small bowel got caught and looped many times, causing this area of bowel to die off. From this area of intestine that died, toxins were produced and entered into the rest of her body.

Surgery was discussed as a possibility, but the reality of the situation kept us from pursuing that avenue. Gracie was 22 years old, and drafts don’t handle anesthesia well. Complications were discussed, including the fact that we didn’t know how much of her bowel would need to be removed, and she may have to live with constant colic issues and stomach pain. Her chances for getting through even the surgery were 50/50, and her chance of making it through the next six months went down hill from there. We were told that we would be asking a lot of this horse who has already gone through so much in her life, and that having surgery done to her may not be the most humane thing to do or be in her best interest.

With tears in our eyes, Dick Zampini, who kindly trailered Gracie to the hospital, and I agreed that we could best serve Gracie by letting her go. I saved a lock of Gracie’s mane and tail, and as I hugged her a last good-bye, I whispered and asked her if her and I could be in each other’s heaven some day. I told her that soon she would be in no more pain, and as she relaxed with the tranquilizer, she laid down carefully and peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge as we stood there with her.

Though she had been in a lot of pain, Gracie was kind and gentle the entire time, and allowed us to try our best to help her. I personally learned a lot from Gracie. I tried to tell her in those last few moments how much we loved her, but just incase she needs reminded, here one last...“We love you Gracie!!!!”

**Clyde**, a big 30-something year old Quarter horse gelding, had been starved not once, but twice in his lifetime. He struggled daily with a version of Stringhalt, a disease that would affect his hind quarters with uncontrollable muscle spasms which would jerk his back legs upward and outward. He dealt with arthritis. He was very protective of his food and would pin his ears and threaten you with a kick. But one on one, he loved it when you would stand next to him and talk to him quietly. He enjoyed being brushed softly, and groomed, and told how handsome he was. Clyde never did get adopted by a family he could call his own, though he was very much loved and found a special place in everyone’s heart here at the sanctuary. After an unusual accident where he ended up in the fenced-in hog area, he suffered wounds that were irreparable. We had struggled with the idea of letting Clyde go for some time previous to his accident, and was having difficulty making the decision. I believe that things happen for a reason, and though Clyde’s accident was tragic, it did help us to make the kinder decision that it was indeed time to allow him to find the peaceful and pain-free existence that he deserved. To Clyde...may you now enjoy only kindness, love, and huge fields of green grass!

———

**In Memory of Dixie**

by Dixie’s loving adoptive family

SPECIAL NOTE: Dixie had been removed from a horrible neglect situation two years ago along with four other horses.

Bob and Lynn Matson kindly agreed to take on not one, but two of the rescued ponies who were in bad shape, and did their very best to help nurse them back to health.

Yesterday we had to say good-bye. It is never easy to lose a friend, and in the brief two years I was blessed to know your sweet and gentle nature, I feel we became friends. When you came to us from Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary as an abused and neglected pony — from a life far harder than we could ever imagine — you came with gentleness and love and a kindness to forgive those species who had caused your pain. You carried our small grandchildren so carefully and safely that we come to know that you could be trusted with precious burdens very quickly — and you never let us down.

Now we must try to explain to them why you had to go away! We had hoped for more years in your company, but it wasn’t meant to be for us, and we are the poorer for that. You have gone on to greener pastures, cool water and the eternal sunshine of the Rainbow Bridge that you have now crossed. For a life spent in hard service, you have more than earned the peace that has finally been granted to you. Thank you so much “little girl” for all that you gave to us. Our lives are richer for your passing our way!

Till we met again!

Bob and Lynn Matson
vegetarian recipes

Alexis Concoction Of Any Related Vegetables Thrown Together That Will Be Pleasing To The Palate
(aka: WINTER SOUP)

2 tbsp. olive oil
2 leeks, thinly sliced
2 zucchini, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 14oz. cans of chopped tomatoes (or 2 14oz. cans of whole tomatoes and cut them up)
1 tbsp. tomato paste
1 bay leaf
3 cups vegetable stock
1 14oz. can of garbanzo beans, drained
8 oz. spinach
Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper
Loaf of crusty bread

Combine all ingredients in a crock pot and cook on high for 4-5 hrs.

OR

1) Heat the oil in a heavy-bottomed sauce pan. Add the sliced leeks and zucchini and cook over a medium heat, stirring constantly for 5 min.

2) Add the garlic, chopped tomatoes, tomato paste, bay leaf, veggie stock and garbanzo beans. Bring to boil, lower heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 min.

3) If you get fresh spinach (I used an 8 oz. can), shred the spinach finely, add to the soup and boil for 2 min. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

4) Remove the bay leaf. Pour into bowl and sprinkle over the Parmesan. Serve with crusty bread.

ENJOY!

Compliments of Alex Hale

Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program
(continued from front page)

to do with an Amish horse that can no longer be useful is to send it to the local auction, where more than 90% of the time those horses are picked up by the meat buyers.

It is our thoughts at Happy Trails that the slaughterhouse is not an appropriate end for a horse who has been such an obedient, willing worker his entire life.

Happy Trails does NOT pay for the Amish horses, and will agree to help only if the horse is donated into our rescue program. We put a great deal of money into getting the horse as healthy and ready to be adopted as we possibly can. Once the horse arrives in the care of Happy Trails, they receive a complete medical evaluation. We assess their limitations and any special needs and determine what type of home they will require. They are graduated to regular worming schedules and are placed on a feed program suited to their individual dietary needs. Hooves are trimmed and extra large 12’x12’ stalls are provided for them.

Why do people want to adopt older Amish horses? It’s simple — if you are a horse that has lived your entire life on an Amish farm, chances are excellent that you are very well trained and very mannerly. Flighty, freaky or difficult horses aren’t going to make it to be an old Amish horse. I have found that the retiring Amish horses are gentle, kind, easy to work with, and respond extremely well to a soft voice, a gentle touch and a big box stall.

Dusty Bob (shown on the front page) was so used to having lived his life in a tie stall, that for the first week he was here at the sanctuary in a big 12’x12’ box stall, he would go stand up against the wall with his head hanging down as though he was tied. I stood and cried when I realized what he was doing. When he discovered after several weeks that he had freedom, he came to life.

Due to limited space in this issue of the newsletter, we will have on-going articles about our Amish Horse Retirement Program. There is currently a short waiting list for both horses coming into the program and people wanting to adopt them.
The Mane Event Equine Fund-raiser

On Saturday, May 28th, Happy Trails hosted a special equine-fund-raiser called The Mane Event, an everything-equine-related day at Portage County Fairgrounds.

Special guests, clinics and demonstrations rounded out a very busy schedule. For a $10 donation at the door, visitors learned about everything from basic horse training to medical issues to how to communicate with your horse more effectively.

Many many thanks to the following guest speakers:

ï Ken Aberegg, a well-respected local horse trainer, instructor and show judge, who gave clinics on basic horse behavior. He shared with visitors how to handle your horse safely, loading and leading techniques, and what to do or not to do to get the respect you should have from your equine friend. For a better behaved horse and to scheduling training sessions with Ken, give him a call at (330) 821-2056.

ï Dr. Cindy Jackson from Aurora Equine Specialty Hospital, who spoke about neurological issues and their various treatments and long term prognosis. Happy Trails continues to deal with a host of neurological diseases that affect many of the horses in our rescue programs, including everything from Wobbles Syndrome to EDM. Many thanks to Dr. Cindy Jackson and Korri Baraga for taking time out of their busy schedules to talk with guests at the event about the services offered at the Equine Specialty Hospital. You can access their website at equinespecialtyhospital.com, or contact them at (440) 834-0811.

ï Bill Billock, who educated horse owners on the importance of proper hoof care and having a well-balanced horse and hoof. Bill gave a wonderful presentation complete with shoes, hoof and limb examples as visual aids.

ï Dr. Nicoletti of St. Kitts Veterinary Clinic answered many commonly asked questions concerning laminitis and founder, and explained the treatment, recovery and prognosis of this very common horse disease. Many horse owners struggle with horses and ponies who have laminitis or are currently in various stages of founder, and you can never address these issues enough in clinics. St. Kitts has a 24 hour equine and camelid emergency service and is an equine, camelid and small animal practice located in East Sparta. Portable x-ray and ultrasound equipment is also available. Dr. Nicoletti can be reached at (330) 866-1737.

ï Judy Lee from Freedomís Touch, an Equine Massage Therapy program. Demonstrating on several lucky horses, Judy taught the relaxing and rejuvenating skills of equine massage therapy. The benefits of massage therapy on your horse can help them to achieve quicker recovery time, more fluid movement, and benefit their overall well-being. For a personal equine massage session, give Judy a call at (330) 297-7999.

ï Dr. Doug Hasbrouck, whose sound and practical advice addressed equine injury prevention. 90% of all accidents are avoidable, and Dr. Hasbrouck educated visitors on how to save yourself AND your horse from pain, suffering and having to deal with emergency vet visits. Dr. Hasbrouck is a field service vet who will make farm calls, and he can be reached at (330) 653-2153.

ï Dr. Doug Hasbrouck educated visitors on how to save yourself AND your horse from pain, suffering and having to deal with emergency vet visits. Dr. Hasbrouck is a field service vet who will make farm calls, and he can be reached at (330) 653-2153.

ï Eleanor Richards, the Equine Nutrition Specialist for Western Reserve Farm Co-op, who focused on the nutritional needs of a rescued horse, senior horses, and the special dietary needs of drafts. Eleanor helps to access the rescued horse of Happy Trails as they come in and helps to get them on the nutrition program that is proper for their specific breed, age, work load, and current general health and condition. For Western Reserve Products and questions about their nutrition and feed programs, give Eleanor a call at 440-479-9081 or 330-876-3486, or email her at elrichards@neosplice.com.

ï Doris Straka, a very talented animal communicator, who shared her special gift with visitors. Doris experienced her gift of animal communication at a very young age, and the rescued animals of Happy Trails have benefitted from her talents on many occasions. To communicate more clearly with your special pet or to get help with a possible medical issue concerning your pet's health, give Doris a call at (440) 256-3666.

ï Lisa Lambrakis, our territory sales manager for Farnum Companies, for presenting to us all the new and wonderful products available for our equine friends. Many of the products benefit the rescued horses directly, such as weight builders, skin care products, and digestive and arthritis supplements. For help in choosing the Farnum product that's right for your special equine, call Lisa at (800) 720-0032.

ï Rachel Whitehawk, Director of Whitehawk Ranch, for even scratching the surface of the delicate horse/human relationship as seen through the eyes of Native American Indian customs, and for sharing information about the Whitehawk Ranch programs for woman and girls. For more details about the Whitehawk Ranch Women's and Girls Programs, give Rachel a call at (330) 666-8444.

ï Sue Broman of Randolph Feed and Supply for educating guests about the importance of good quality hay in your horses diet. Sue knows her stuff! Many horse owners don't realize need for balance between grain and hay, and the how important the appropriate amount and quality of each can be to your horses optimum performance and
**The Mane Event Contí.**

health. You can have your hay tested, order quality feeds, and talk nutrition with Sue at (330) 325-7277.

Phyllis Lemon from Pegasus Therapeutic Equestrian Center, for providing information about the programs for special needs individuals. The mission of Pegasus farm is to maximize the potential of persons with disabilities to become independent, well rounded self confident individuals. To volunteer or participate in any programs through Pegasus, please give Phyllis a call at (330) 935-2300.

Special thanks also goes out to all the kind folks and businesses who donated items for The Mane Event raffle. Our hats are off to:

- Lone Pine Farm Tack (owner, foster mom, and long-time supporter of Happy Trails, Mary Verhoff) for donating the BEAUTIFUL synthetic endurance saddle, girth and bridle package. This gorgeous tack package was raffled off all by itself, and was desperately wanted by everyone who purchased a ticket!
- TSC, Tractor Supply Company of Ravenna
- Farnum Products and Lisa Lambrakis
- Phyllis Leonhardt
- Equine Specialty Hospital and Dr. Cindy Jackson
- Toni Longeville
- Billock Equine and Bill Billock
- Sherry Eucker, Natural Hoof Trimming
- Carolyn Hayes
- Big Dog Apparel
- Forgotten Animal Shelter
- Freedomís Touch Products
- Judy Lee, Freedomís Touch Equine Massage Therapy
- Carmen Studio

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 becoming a member or by making a donation to help the save the life of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today.

**Yes, I would like to become a member**

- **Happy Hen** $20 *
- **Pudgy Piggy** $35*
- **Cool Cow** $50*
- **Big Belgian** $100**
- **Animal Angel** $250 **
- **Farm Friend** $500** and above

* You will receive a membership card.
** Receive a membership card and a Happy Trails t-shirt.

Thank You!!

**DONATION INFORMATION**

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

- $15
- $25
- $35
- $55
- $75
- $____other

- Use this donation where it is needed the most
- I’d like my donation to go toward_________________________
which is mentioned on the wish list.
- I’d like my donation to be in memory of my beloved pet
___________, a __________ (type of animal).

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

NAME ___________________________________
ADDRESS ___________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP __________________________________ PHONE___________________________
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.

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Floyd asks, “Wouldn’t you like to be a sponsor?”
Compliments of our very own, Alex Hale...

*If a pig loses his voice, does it become disgruntled?*

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**PLEASE SAVE YOUR POP & BEER CANS!**

We are continuing to save aluminum cans throughout the year. Please consider placing a trash can labeled “cans” at your office or place of employment to help collect cans for the rescued animals. Cans can be dropped off any Sunday between 1pm and 5pm.

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Don’t forget to check out our forever-changing website at happytrailsfarm.org!

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**GOATS, GOATS & MORE GOATS...**

Happy Trails was involved in a highly publicized, major goat rescue from a severe neglect situation in Scioto County, Ohio, in February. The case is still in court at this time. Hopefully, the details will be completed by the next newsletter, and when the case is finished from a legal perspective, we will have a complete story for you. In the meantime, MANY THANKS to everyone who donated toward the care of the 200+ rescued goats and two sheep.

Happy Trails always seems to have a number of goats and sheep needing homes — please call if you would like one for a pet. They cannot be used for meat production or for breeding purposes.

**Brandy still needs a home, and no, we don’t take in dogs.**

Some so-and-so dropped her off over the fence in the middle of the night at the sanctuary last 4th of July weekend. We are still seeking an appropriate home for her, and the requirements are that you have to be smarter than the dog to adopt her. She is between one and two years old, spayed, potty trained and up to date on all her shots. She doesn’t do small kids, but would be great with older children or a family who like an overly friendly, stupidly-happy, lickable kind of dog. She’s medium size, and a family with a large fenced-in yard would be preferable. $100 Adoption Fee for Brandy. To meet her, call us at (330) 296-5914.

**JUST STUFF...**