

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary



“HAPPY TALES”

Animal Stories and Updates

FALL 2005 Newsletter



HAPPY TRAILS RECEIVES SEVERAL GRANTS AND A VERY SPECIAL AWARD!

Hard work, dedication, and compassion for farm animals wins Happy Trails the support of the community, the state, and the nation!

This truly has been an amazing year so far for Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary! We are honored and humbled to be the very happy recipients of:

- The Hank Award, bestowed compliments of Rio Vista Products,

with Happy Trails being chosen nationally from a record number of nominees this year;

- A special Equine Basic



(above) Susie Wiley of Pennsylvania, works with Houston, a handsome 18 year old Arabian gelding, while equine trainer, show judge and riding instructor, Ken Aberegg (center), checks on Nancy Geideman, riding Dallas, another 18 year old Arabian gelding. Both ladies volunteer their time and expertise to ride and help provide basic-training under Ken's supervision for the rescued horses.

(left) Montel the farm hog says... "Thank you very much, Ravenna United Fund!"



Training grant from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust through Key Bank in Cleveland, assisting Happy Trails in providing professional equine training for the rescued horses to help make them more adoptable;

- A special project grant from our community through the Ravenna United Fund, enabling the sanctuary to construct a safer fencing and a larger exercise area for the farm hogs, and to create a warm and sturdy shelter for the rescued big pigs.

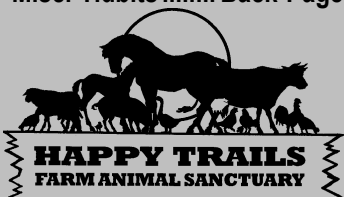
To read more about these three special honors, check out the stories on pages 6 and 7.



(above) A great Happy Trails crew was on hand to accept the Rio Vista Award. Back row (l-r) Russ Fisher, Sharon Barnard, Laura Amer, Debbie Friend, Jeanne Alger, Chris Cook, Annette Fisher, Debbie Bragg, Becky Albright, Nancy Geideman, Eileen Roloff, Dick Zampini; front row (l-r) Cathy Allison, Laurie Jackson, Nancy Conring, and Jasper, Sharon's dog. All are either volunteers or board members — I think Jasper's a board member - I'm not sure...

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(330) 296-5914

letter from the director

I figured it was only appropriate that I use as my photo for this issue one of me and my old Quarter horse, Camry. We don't know for sure just how old Camry really is, but suffice it to say, she's pretty well up there — late twenties is our best guess.

I got Camry sort of by accident, a story too long to explain in the space allotted here. But she was my personal, good trail horse for about two or three years. I knew when I got her that she hadn't had an easy life or been treated all that great, so I knew my riding time with her was going to be limited from day one.

But for being an old mare, she taught me everything that a novice horse-person needed to be taught. This included patience, forgiveness, trust, unconditional love, and a host of medical terms like cataracts, suspensory tendons, calcium deposits, well-sprung ribs, and egg-bar shoes.

When I knew the time had come to retire Cam, I selfishly wanted to keep her with me, so I could make sure that she would be spoiled rotten. After all, who could take any better care of my own personal horse than I, who was so completely in love with her, could?

Long story short, Camry had an opportunity arise where she could go retire in complete happiness with an old friend of hers that she knew from the sanctuary — a gentle giant Belgian mare named Baby Bopp. Baby Bopp had been adopted by Susie Wiley, first a Happy Trails volunteer, then an adoptive horse mom, and now a true and much-valued friend.

With a great deal of selfish tears, I decided that it was in Camry's best interest to let her retire at a peaceful, quiet place with her best horse buddy. If I were to keep her here with me at the sanctuary, Cam would have to deal



with a lot of stress and constant activity, with new horses constantly coming and going. Not all of

them were always polite and easy to get along with either. We didn't have the extra large green pastures that she would experience at Susie's, and the horsey friend's that Camry would make at the sanctuary would constantly be leaving her as they would get adopted.

For her past two years of retirement at Susie's, Camry has wanted for nothing. Susie has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to spoiling Miss Camry, and Camry and I both appreciate all that Susie has done for this lovable dingbat of a horse.

Cam's time with us here in this world is drawing to a close, as she is physically beginning to go downhill at an alarming rate. All of the love and money that Susie and I have poured into her for the past four years or so could not undo a lifetime of crappy care.

What is breaking my heart, along with thinking about losing such a precious mare, is having to take phone calls from people who call into the sanctuary simply wanting to "dump" their older horse. You know, after all, it's not convenient — they need to get one they can ride; they're on a limited income but somehow they have enough money to want to get one to replace it; this horse needs medicine; this one has a hurt leg and should stand in a stall for six months to recover, but I want one I can ride now; cold weather's here and I don't want to have to care for it all Winter; etc.

Do any of these uncaring horse owners ever take a step back and think of these horses on a whole different level rather than so selfishly? If a horse has served you well and put up with you and your

quirks and idiosyncrasies for any amount of time, you **owe it** to your horse to make sure that it is taken care of in it's twilight years, convenient or not. Happy Trails is not a retirement home for horses that people are ready to throw away, nor are we a placement service. How do you get owners to take responsibility for their own animal, and not to mention get some compassion, for the horse they simply want to "dump"? The horse didn't ask to get old, or sick, or injured. Your horse should become as much as a part of the family as your kids, your spouse, your parents.

It wouldn't have even occurred to me to try to "dump" Camry on a rescue group. I even had a difficult time letting her go to an absolutely wonderful home! I am grateful for Cam that she is one of the lucky ones - that she ended up with an owner who would show her love and care and make sure that she didn't end up at an auction or a slaughterhouse. It deeply saddens me that not all older or injured horses are not that lucky, and with a heavy heart, we turn away people daily simply wanting to "get rid of" a loyal equine pet.

If we are able to plan it out, I'll be there with Susie when Camry leaves this world. If not, Cam and I have made our peace with each other and with her crossing the Rainbow Bridge at some point — a time when maybe even she will be the one to choose. And as sad as I will be that she is gone, I can take comfort in the fact that she was not "dumped" at an auction or slaughterhouse when she could no longer be ridden. I guess I'll just have to continue to say some prayers for the horses who aren't as lucky (and probably some for their un-enlightened owner's too). If you own a senior or injured horse, put down this newsletter right now and go give that old mare or lame gelding a big ol' hug.

Sincerely,

Annette Fisher
Executive Director

VOLUNTEERISM

Happy Trails has *THE BEST* group of volunteers! These hard-working, dedicated souls shovel manure, rake piggy pens, handle yard clean-up, mend fences, make barn repairs, feed and water, and help with regular farm chores. To volunteer at Happy Trails you must be 18 years old.



Nancy Sidwell, Russ Fisher's mom, takes time to wash off the always-muddy Cub Cadet.



Rob Willard operates the mini front-end loader and moves some sand.



Dick Zampini leads Scotch out to the pasture while waiting for the vet to arrive to geld the young colt.



Alex Hale takes a break from Happy Trails repair projects to help to clean out one of the horse stalls.

Volunteer applications are available through the Happy Trails website at happytrailsfarm.org. Sunday's are busy days at the sanctuary — lots of hard work and manual labor. Join us for a good workout on Sundays!

For all of you folks who live or work on a farm, we're sure you can appreciate some farm humor...enjoy!

A FARM FUNNY

LETTER FROM A FARM KID, NOW AT SAN DIEGO MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT

Dear Ma and Pa:

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 am., but am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again.

It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route marches", which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox

at home.

Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice but awful flat.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Capt. is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds, and he's 6'8" and weighs near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,
Gail.

Annette Fisher, Exec. Director (330) 296-5914
Russ Fisher, President (330) 296-5914
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Sharon Barnard (330) 928-3623
Chris Cook (330) 929-5653

Chuck Conring (330) 733-1478

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

Record Temperatures For The 6th Annual Happy Trails Summer Picnic & Fund-raiser

What an incredibly hot day it was for the 6th Annual Happy Trails Summer picnic and fund-raiser! Ninety plus degree weather, however, didn't stop die-hard Happy Trails supporters from coming out and getting their farm animal fix for the day! Guests got to see the Parade of Horses, and some brave souls climbed aboard the forecart to get their photo taken with Tony and Red, the Happy Trails Amish Belgian hitch team; kids and kids-at-heart were good sports about getting their faces (and other body parts) painted with cartoons of farm animals and other temporary tattoos; and everyone got to meet Sugar, the newest, pinkest pot belly pig who had just arrived at the sanctuary the night before!

In fact, one of Sugar's biggest fans



at the picnic was Dick Goddard, Chief Meteorologist for WJW Fox 8 News. The photo here shows his love for all kinds of animals. Dick has been a wonderful supporter of animal rescue groups across Northeast Ohio, and has always been kind enough to include the fund-raising efforts of Happy Trails in his itinerary.

We have had the nicest group of volunteers pitch in and help for the day. For being an all-volunteer organization, I really have to hand it to the hard-working, compassionate, dedicated, animal lovers who braved record-setting temperatures to donate their time and talents for the entire day to make the annual picnic a success.

Special thanks to:

- Denise Moore, who was busy painting away on all the little faces and

arms of young and old alike

- Frank Steigh, long-time Happy Trails supporter who kindly donated the use of his speaker system to provide background country music for the event, and use of his microphone for announcing at the parade of horses

- Siciliano's Pizza for donating jojo's (they're the best, by the way!)

- Volunteers and board members who did anything and everything they were asked to help out with both the week before as well as the day of the picnic

- Photographers: Abby Robinson, Marcinda Franks, and Chuck Conring

- Nancy Sidwell for creating the beautiful Happy Trails quilt to bring to a close that special fund-raiser

- All the picnic sponsors: Faith Pescatore, Rick & Nancy Winrod, Rolling Thunder Window Cleaning, Susie Wiley and Family

- Everyone who donated raffle items

- Jerry and Angie Hoover who have followed us from early on and continue to donate and support the sanctuary regularly and come out for every picnic — you guys are great!

Happy Trails was able to raise approximately \$2,400 toward the care of the rescued animals — from the bottom of their little hooves, we thank all of you for your support!

Fall Open House — A Very Relaxing Day!

The Fall Open House, held at the sanctuary on Sunday, October 16th, was a wonderful, cool Autumn day. Group tours were given and guests got to meet new arrivals as well as being able to say hello to old animal friends who are still with us.

The Fall Open House is simply a casual, visit-the-farm kind of day, and visitors had the opportunity to stroll around the facilities and meet and greet and visit and pet! It was a perfect Fall day with beautifully orange and red painted trees as a back drop highlight-

PLEASE CONTINUE TO 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 4pm. For more information, call Sharon at (330) 928-3623.

Winter Volunteers Needed To Help Feed and Water!

Sign up as a Winter volunteer to help feed the rescued animals once a month from November through May, a whole six times during the year! As always, volunteers must be 18 years of age. Morning feeding is 7:30am - 9:30am, and evening feeding is 4:30pm to 6:30pm. You can sign up, for example, to help feed on the first Monday evening of every month for the Winter Volunteer Feeding Program. It would take very little of your time and be a huge help to us! Call for more information or to sign up (330) 296-5914.



ing the horse barn. Festive displays decorated the yards, such as the one in the photo above. There were plenty of straw bales, corn stalks, pumpkins, farm animal sculptures and gorgeous mums! A warm bonfire provided a reason to rest and sip hot cider or hot chocolate!

Thanks to all our guests who came to visit !



Let's Address A Difficult Topic — Euthanasia

What a hard topic to even discuss — who likes to talk about if it's time to help an animal cross the Rainbow Bridge or not? No-one that I know of. But it is something that, as a rescue group, we have to deal with on a regular basis. Let's review the Happy Trails perspective and approach it from a question and answer angle.

Does Happy Trails euthanize to simply make room for more animals to be accepted into the sanctuary?

That's a definite no. Though Happy Trails is not a retirement organization, we will not euthanize an animal simply because it is taking up space.

What are the reasons that Happy Trails would euthanize a rescued farm animal?

There are quite a few factors that come into play here — the biggest one, I think, is evaluating the animal's quality of life. Simply because an animal is breathing, does not mean it is happy, pain-free, able to recover from trauma, or enjoying a pleasant and content life. Whenever the quality of life is questioned, we always obtain the opinion of a veterinarian who specializes in that type of animal. Then, we usually get a second opinion, just to reassure ourselves that it's the right thing to do.

If an animal is suffering terribly with no means of recovering or eliminating extreme pain, we would suggest euthanasia. If an animal is older and surgery is its only treatment option with a slim chance at a positive outcome, *and* it would recover with more problems than what it started with, we would opt for euthanasia. If an animal is a threat or a danger to people, other animals or itself, including extremely aggressive or unprovoked behaviors, we would suggest euthanasia.

What are some reasons that Happy Trails would not opt to

euthanize a rescued farm animal?

If that animal has difficulty with motor skills or stiffness due to arthritis issues, but can still move about on its own and appear to be enjoying its environment, we would try to compensate with joint supplements and/or pain medication. If a horse, for example, has a leg injury and cannot be ridden, but still appears to be happy, well-adjusted, eating well and socializing with other horses, we would not put the horse down simply because it cannot be worked.

How do you draw the line between an animal having a good quality of life and being able to realize that it is suffering to the point of it being inhumane to allow the animal to continue on?

That's the million dollar question. How *do* you do that? We struggle with that one daily. The best way to answer that is that we do our best to evaluate each animal on a case-by-case basis, and rely on the expertise of the veterinarians to guide us in the right direction. No decisions concerning quality of life or euthanasia are ever made by one person. We talk about each situation as a group, weigh the pros and cons, and discuss what would be in the animal's best interest. Only in the event of a true emergency, usually at an emergency hospital under the direction of a supervising veterinarian, are spur-of-the-moment decisions concerning euthanasia needed to be made.

Are any of the animal currently at Happy Trails lame or crippled?

Of course! Always — we are a rescue and rehab organization! There is always someone with a limp, a leg issue, some arthritis, a bad knee, hoof problems, etc. Does that mean that they are dying? Heaven's no! I have a tendency to compare people and animal situations — I personally had my leg broke in several places a few years

back, and on some of the coldest of Winter days, I still experience a good limp. Does that mean that I'm dying or that I don't have a good quality of life? Well, I should hope not! I guess a good way to look at the animal's quality of life, is to determine if they are still having more good days than bad days, and to question if they comfortable and content for the most part.

Why is this such a difficult topic to discuss?

Many people are very opinionated when it comes to euthanizing animals. Some people feel that any cripple animal, especially horses that are not workable, should be let go. "After all, what good are they?" ask the uneducated and narrow-minded. Often times the true personality of the horses come through the best when they are not rideable — when we are not looking at them in terms of what they can do for us. I have learned some of my most valuable lessons in life from the animals who supposedly had nothing to offer anyone. They can teach compassion, caring, unconditional love, treating us with kindness though they may be in pain, and rise above their suffering to reach out to us and offer their comforting whinnies, oinks, quacks and baaahhs.

Then there are those who feel that no animal should ever be put to sleep, and that all creatures should choose their own time to go, even it means a great deal of misery and suffering for them. I like to think that here at Happy Trails we're pretty much middle of the road. We don't want to see an animal suffer needlessly and simply exist in excruciating pain, but at the same time, we don't want to jump the gun for an animal who may still be happy and not ready to leave us yet. We simply do the best we can, which brings us back to where we started — Euthanasia — addressing a difficult topic.

Rio Vista Products Chooses Happy Trails As The Recipient Of The Hank Award!

Blue skies and smiling faces were everywhere at the Randolph Heritage Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 24th and 25th! For about the fifth year in a row, Happy Trails set up camp for the weekend at the Portage County Fairgrounds to help celebrate the Randolph Heritage Festival.

Visitors and guests were treated to an array of craft vendors, wood carving demonstrations, scrumptious food, kettle soup and homemade desserts in the dining hall, antique cars, tractor pulls, festivities for the kids, an old fashioned soft ball game, the constant powerful presence of the Happy Trails Amish Belgian hitch team, Tony and Red, and lots of



Chris Cook, board member, visits Shelby, who appears to be busy reading the sign.

animals to visit at the Happy Trails display area.

What was extra special about this year's Heritage Festival was that David Towle, Rio Vista Products Sales Manager, was on hand to present the Hank Award to Happy Trails as an organization.

The Hank Award is indeed an honor to be recognized! This award is bestowed on one deserving individual and one dedicated organization each year to ac-

knowledge their rescue efforts regarding horses or dogs. Happy Trails won this award for our equine rescue, rehab and adoption programs.

Nominees had poured in from all over the United States, and the winner, normally being chosen and announced in February each year, was not able to be chosen or announced until July due to the overwhelming amount of entries received.

Happy Trails was thrilled to accept a year's supply of Rio Vista products, such as grooming supplies, shampoos, conditioners, hoof picks, shines, detanglers, tote bags and hats. We also received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Rio Vista congratulating the sanctuary, a handsome plaque which was presented to us at the festival, and a financial grant of \$2,000.

We accepted this award on behalf of the rescued horses, Happy Trails Board of Directors, volunteers and supporters.

This award and the rescue efforts of Happy Trails would not be possible without the encouragement of our community and our compassionate, caring support network.

Many thanks to everyone, friends, volunteers and family members, who attended the festival and showed their support for Happy Trails, and to all the volunteers, board members and hard-working folks who made the entire weekend happen.

Special thanks for being so

kind and helpful goes out to: Nancy Conring, Sharon Barnard, Chris Cook, Debbie Friend, Dick Zampini, Kevin and Debbie Bragg, Jeanne Alger, Nancy Geideman, Becky Albright, Rob Willard, Russ Fisher — many of these guys were there the entire weekend!

And a special acknowledgment goes to the following animals who helped out: Red and Tony — the Happy Trails Amish Belgian Hitch Team, who, in their minds, worked very hard all weekend giving cart and riding demonstrations; Shelby

the rescued Premarin Belgian draft, who, six years ago, was the result of a phone call to Rio Vista Products and helped to start Happy Trails; Floyd the chicken, who patiently allowed everyone and their brother to hold him all weekend; Zinger the pot belly pig who snoozed through most of the festivities and tolerated many belly rubs; Zeus and Quincy, the resident geese who did their job as guards of the tent and displays at night (or so they thought); Yelana and Boris, the two Pekin ducks, who have since been lucky enough



Russ Fisher presents Floyd the chicken to his adoring fans.



Debbie and Kevin Bragg exercise Red and Tony during the festival.

to have found a wonderful home. It was truly a very special weekend for Happy Trails! Many thanks, Rio Vista!

Happy Trails Receives The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust Equine Basic Training Grant Awarded Through Key Bank

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary would like to send a sincere thank you to a very compassionate foundation who has chosen to award a special grant to help with the sanctuary's equine rescue programs.

The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust through Key Bank of Cleveland, awarded Happy Trails a grant specifically to help professionally re-train the horses in our equine rescue programs. Many of the horses who come into the sanctuary through the Amish Horse Retirement Program, have either pulled a buggy or a plow for most of their lives. Their chances at finding a good and caring retirement home are greatly increased if they are healthy, sound and safe enough to ride.

Though many of them remain in fairly good health, they may not have ever been ridden, or may require only an experienced rider as their handler. The all-new Equine Basic Training Program through Happy Trails allows these



Ken Aberegg works with Grandpa Walton, an old Appendix gelding, and volunteer rider, Amanda Brennenman. Here they are testing him to see if he would be safe enough for a child to ride.

horses to be professionally re-trained from being able to only drive or plow, to being able to be ridden safely.

Some rescued horses, once recovered from trauma or injury, become vibrant and full of energy. This training will help to direct that energy into safe handling.

This is all made possible through professional horseman, show judge, riding instructor and trainer, Ken Aberegg of Alliance.

Our goal is to help make the rideable horses more "user friendly", if you will. This should help to expedite adoptions, allowing stall space to open up more

quickly. This in turn will enable Happy Trails to take in even more horses seeking refuge, and also will help eliminate the amount of time that a horse stays at the sanctuary. We are very grateful to Mr. Richard Obermanns and the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust for approving this grant for Happy Trails!

Ravenna United Fund Provides A Grant Enabling Happy Trails To Improve Farm Hog Shelter

A warm thank you also goes out to The Ravenna United Fund for approving a special grant enabling Happy Trails to build a new shelter and living area for the rescued farm hogs who reside at the sanctuary.

There are currently six of the "big boys" who have come in through our rescue program, and



Chloe Pig accepts a bribe from Sharon, Happy Trails board member. Unwittingly, Chloe agrees to munch on a strawberry fruit pie, none-the-wiser that Sharon had laced it with hog wormer medicine! The mud waller behind Sharon was carefully created by, you guessed it, Chloe herself!

they weigh anywhere from about 700 lbs. up to about 1,100 lbs.! They require extra sturdy fencing and very solidly built shelters. Their new and larger area will be constructed further back into the woods, where they can enjoy a bigger, safer and more sanitary environment, and a warmer and drier Winter living area.

On behalf of the farm pigs, our Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers, many thanks to Maureen Frederick and the Ravenna United Fund members for their compassion and caring! We truly appreciate the support of our community!



Visitors gather to watch the weekly training sessions in the outdoor arena at Happy Trails.

SERIES 2: AMISH HORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

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

This is the second article in a series talking about the Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program.

The widespread recognition concerning this program, which offers an alternative to sending an older, lame or injured buggy horse or plow horse through the local auctions where they are normally picked up by the slaughterhouse buyers, has been nothing short of amazing. Folks in the Amish communities across Ohio have welcomed this program and have helped us to spread the word that their horses who have worked very hard for them can be rewarded with a loving home for their retirement years.

Many of these horses do not have to retire completely, but simply are not able to buggy the long distances between towns, or may not be able to pull the weight needed to keep them as a part of a much-needed plow team.

Depending on their individual health assessments, they can make fantastic trail horses for light riding or back-yard fun, and some of the cart horses can still pull for shorter distances for pleasure driving.

The drafts make awesome trot-around-your-back-forty type of horses, and if you have never ridden a draft horse, you are missing a thrilling experience.

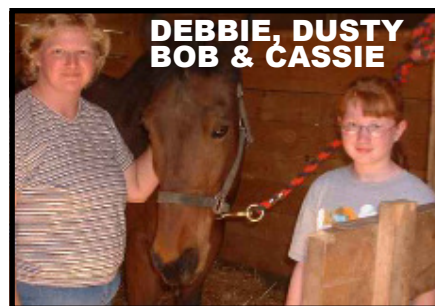
Probably 98% of the Amish horses received into Happy Trails program are extremely well broke, safe to work around, and great for beginners or simply need a little polish. They are very well mannered, and are used to the farm routine that they have known their entire life. They tie and stand politely, are usually traffic safe, and don't often spook at very many things.

We are in the process of creating a waiting list of individu-

als wanting to adopt a rescued Amish horse. After an adoption application is filled out, these homes will be pre-approved with a home-visit from an adoption counselor. The person next in line on the list will then be contacted as soon as the next Amish horse is accepted into the Happy Trails program, and they will have the first opportunity at adopting that horse. You may indicate whether you are interested in a buggy horse (normally Standardbreds) or a draft horse (usually either Belgians or Percherons).

Let's take a look at several examples of the path of an Amish horse seeking a retirement home.

Dusty Bob, a handsome dark bay Standardbred gelding, wasn't in bad shape, but he simply couldn't travel the distance between home and town and other



family members. He had an enlarged front knee, though it didn't appear to cause him any lameness or discomfort.

A friend of Bob's family contacted Happy Trails and asked if we could accept this lovable, funny creature into our Amish Horse Retirement Program, and we welcomed Bob readily.

Dusty Bob's charisma won him the hearts of a sweet ten year old girl, Cassie, and her mom, Debbie. Along with another Happy Trails horse, Dusty Bob was adopted into their family. Though he technically belongs to young Cassie, I believe from his viewpoint, their entire family actually belongs to him!

Bob now lives in the lap of

luxury, with huge green fields for play or for munching, with a friend horse for a companion, and he gives as much love as he receives. His is truly a happy ending story!

Happy Trails received a call from an Amish owner near Middlefield, Ohio, this past Sum-



mer. He owned a breeding farm, and one of his 16 year old broodmare Haflingers would no longer take to breed. She was gentle, kind, great to work around, and loved being around children. This thoughtful owner did not want to send his favorite mare to the local sale, knowing that her chances of being purchased by the meat buyers were all too good. He inquired if Happy Trails would accept this Halflinger into our Amish Horse Retirement Program, and of course, we did!

The very sweet mare was here a very short time, before she was snatched up by a family who had adopted from us in the past. They were looking for a good, safe horse that even their grandkids could ride, and of course, they fell in love with Lacey!

Lacey now lives on a beautiful farm with two other horses for companions, and gets to be the family's all-around good trail horse! Another happy ending story!

But in all fairness, no, not all the horses that come through the Amish program are rideable or drivable. Those that are not rideable or drivable still make wonderful pasture mates for your other horses, and often make great pets for kids to learn to work around. Most are well-mannered and gentle.

Don't miss this opportunity to adopt a retired Amish buggy or plow horse — call Happy Trails for more information (330) 296-5914!

Response To Dr. Phil's Comment On Horse Ownership As Exercise...

**author unknown - via forwarded email received earlier in the year.*

At this time of the year, ads for weight-loss programs saturate print media and the airwaves. Even TV talk shows devote time to the battle of the bulge. I caught part of a Dr. Phil episode in which the prominent self-help guru was evaluating the situation of one overweight guest. The woman commented that she'd like to buy a horse so she could get exercise via riding. "That's great for the horse," responded Dr. Phil drolly, "but what good is it for you?"

Clearly, the good doctor doesn't own a horse. At least, not the right horse. A quiet, well-broke, agreeable mount may indeed not offer much in the way of fitness training. But the right horse (and most of us have owned one or two, haven't we?) will provide a body-building, cardiovascular-enhancing workout that would make Richard Simmons envious.

Allow me to explain....

With the right horse, you begin your fitness program by walking out to the pasture. As you stride briskly, you carry the halter and lead rope behind you, pushed up high on your back so the lead doesn't drag. The purpose of this is to tone your chest and upper-arm muscles (because you're not fooling your horse—he knows what you're carrying). As you approach to within a few feet of him, he'll walk slowly away from you, then stop. This will be repeated several times in succession, until you're ready to jog. At that point, the horse will trot, then gallop around the pasture. If you're at the advanced level of fitness, you may continue chasing after him for maximum aerobic benefits. Beginners may prefer to toss the halter and lead on the ground, bend forward from the waist, and engage in heavy breathing and chanting (that's what we'll call it, anyway—chanting) as the horse continues to circle the field. When the horse determines you've had enough of this warm-up session, he'll allow you to catch him.

Now comes the total upper-body workout of grooming.

The right horse, of course, will be caked in dried mud. The cement-like consistency of it will require work-to-exhaustion effort of your biceps and triceps. Try not inhale too deeply as you create the cartoon character Pig Pen out

of your horse. When the dust clears and your coughing dies down, you may continue the exercises.

Next comes the bending, stretching, and toning of hoof-picking. Bend over, pick up the horse's left front foot, then be prepared to jump back as he stomps it back down to the ground. (Keep your knees bent as you jump, to protect your lower back.) Reach down and pick up the foot again, hopping about with the horse to maintain your grip as you attempt to pick what seems to be dirt mixed with Super Glue from the hoof. Eventually the horse may stand still; you may be chanting again by this time. Repeat the entire circuit three more times with the remaining feet.

Once you can stand erect again, it's time for the insect repellent exercise. True, with this one, your horse may actually get more of a workout than you do, but you certainly get more of the repellent. It goes like this: Squirt! - circle-circle. Squirt!-circle-circle. Squirt!-circle-circle—and so on, until you're completely misted with repellent.

With the right horse, saddling up provides both aerobic and strength building benefits. The trick is to keep your feet moving as you heft the saddle blanket over and over, trying to keep it in place on a moving target. The blanket exercise warms you up for the saddle exercise, for which the routine is the same, only the weight is much greater—perfect for buffing those hard-to-tone shoulder muscles.

Now comes the mounting exercise. With the right horse, it's left leg up, hop-hop-hop, left leg down. Left leg up, hop-hop-hop, left leg down. For balance, go around to the other side and continue the exercise (right leg up, hop-hop-hop, right leg down, etc.). When your heart rate begins to exceed your target range, look for a bucket. Bend over, pick it up, place it upside-down next to the horse, wait for the horse to move away, then bend over, pick it up again, place it next to the horse, and so on. When the horse deems you've had enough of these repetitions, he'll stand still and allow you to actually mount.

At this point, of course, you'll be too exhausted to ride. It's best not to overdo it, so dismount, grab a protein bar, and head to the shower...

Hey, Make Sure To Save Your Old Blankets & Sleeping Bags for the Piggies!

Yes, Old Man Winter is waiting for us right around the corner, and the pot belly piggies are starting to snuggle underneath their warm comforters and heat lamps already, as temperatures drop into the thirties in the middle of some of the colder nights.

We are in desperate need of more sleeping bags and blankets for the incredible amount of piggies who reside at the sanctuary. Many of them are victims of abuse and neglect, and we try our very best to make their lives as pleasant and comfortable as possible. One way is to make extra sure that the cold temperatures don't cause unnecessary stress on those who are arthritic. Given a choice of having a warm sleeping bag or sleeping with no covers, the piggies, nine times out of ten, will opt for snuggling rights.

Donations of sleeping bags, blankets, and comforters may be dropped off at the sanctuary on Sunday's between 1:00pm and 4:00pm.

And, yes, it's time to save ACME RECEIPTS again!

Acme receipts dated from September 4 through March 25 will help raise money for the rescued animals of Happy Trails. Please mail in your receipts that you have collected to Happy Trails, but remember, the receipts need to be marked between the dates listed. 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!



A Typical Week Of Expenses At Happy Trails

NOTE: This article was written during the Summer months, but all information is still factual and up-to-date.

Many wonderful Happy Trails supporters generously donate to help support the farm animal rescue efforts here at the sanctuary. Though I'm sure that everyone has a basic idea of how our funds are spent, I'd like to highlight some typical as well as not-so-typical expenses that we deal with on a daily basis.

Let's take one week for a typical example. Some of our basic operating expenses include having to purchase grain, provide hay, bedding and medical needs for (currently) about 16 horses, a cow, three sheep, two goats, about a billion geese, ducks and chickens, 23 pot belly pigs, six farm hogs, and a partridge in a pear tree...Just kidding about that last one. So, there's about 60 to 70 animals moving through the sanctuary at any given time, and that number doesn't include the animals we have out in foster homes. We are still responsible for certain areas of their care also.

Our grain costs last week came to \$187. It varies from week to week depending on if we received any grain donations or not.

A load of hay came in at \$3.75 a bale, and we got sixty bales — \$225 worth. With our pastures eaten down and the amount of horses here at this time, we are going through about ten bales per day, so that is not quite a week's worth of hay to us.

We need to keep up with bedding for everyone, from the piggies to the horses to the ducks to the sheep. We had been using strictly straw, which we've found on an average of \$3.50 a bale. A

load of about 40 bales of straw this past week cost us \$140. Our stalls in the horse barn are 12'x12', so they take a little more bedding than the smaller stalls that many people have. We would like to switch over to bags of sawdust shavings for the horse barn, but it's actually even more expensive than straw, with an average price of about \$3.75 to \$3.99 per bag. We tried getting a load of sawdust once, but that wasn't realistic either, not having any safe or dry area in which to store such a large amount of sawdust.

The above list is for basic food and bedding expenses. Those figures don't count the medical issues from last week.

Royal, a handsome Standardbred gelding who was once treated once for EPM, a neurological disease affecting stability and balance, had another episode with reoccurring symptoms. His 28 day paste medication alone was \$550.

Barney, another Standardbred gelding, was given the typical thorough check-up and health evaluation upon being accepted into our program, which was \$150.

A mom Standardbred and her baby, who was born with a congenital birth defect (a deformed front hoof and ankle), was accepted into the Happy Trails rescue program, but not after a complete examination which came to a total of \$550.

Hoover the new mini-pig needed neutered — \$135.

The rooster hurt his eye in a bar fight (read - through the fence) with the other rooster — Ophthalmic Terramycin was \$8 a tube.

All the horses were due for their six-week hoof trimming. Draft

horses cost a little more, and four draft horses at \$35 each cost \$140. Twelve regular horses at \$20 each to trim, cost Happy Trails \$240.

The goats and sheep were due for Vitamin B-12 shots. Luckily we had those on hand - no out of pocket expenses this time.

We ran out of fly spray — two gallons of Bronco at TSC was about \$14 each.

The one group of horses kicked in half the one metal gate out in the pasture — read \$45 for a new, cheapest we could find, metal 12' panel gate.

And that's just for one week.

The week before the Summer picnic, we had more gravel delivered to help complete the truck turn-around in front of the horse barn to make loading and unloading safer for the horses as well as the people and trucks involved in transport. Gravel itself was \$375, with another \$75 to have it spread and put in place.

Some of the projects that we are still hoping to accomplish include: having a cement floor laid for the one piggy shelter that often floods when it rains — quoted price: \$550. Having stall mats installed in all the horse stalls to help save on soggy bedding and help prevent pawing and digging of the stalls — quoted price per stall (there's 14 stalls) \$150. Getting a few final loads of gravel dumped to finish off the turn-around area next to the horse barn — average cost per load: \$180.

Our expenses very weekly due to unexpected circumstances or emergency rescues or what happens to need repaired that week. Certain items that we constantly need to purchase are grain, hay, straw and medications. Hopefully this will at least give you an overall idea of how funds are used to contribute to the direct care of the rescued farm animals.

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:

- Lacey Luray, a beautiful, sweet 16 year old Haflinger mare was adopted by the Call family from Brunswick, who also previously adopted Justice, a handsome Standardbred gelding
- Cactus, a handsome, young, energetic Tennessee Walker gelding was adopted by Kevin Bragg, Cactus's number one fan!



- Raynee, a sweet mare with a great personality was adopted by Mary and John Bittance. Raynee plans on being a wonderful trail horse as well as a special friend to

Copenhagen, their other horse.

- Sharon and Chris, the two woolly and funny sheep, finally have a home to call their own at Char and Tim Scroggins farmstead in Spencer
- Donna Iacobini, bless her heart, as always, has opened up her home to even more Happy Trails chickens and ducks
- Lisa Cox welcomed several domestic ducks into her life through the Happy Trails adoption program
- Christopher LeVoyer of Richfield, made two pot belly pigs, Sugar Pig and Hoover, along with sheep friend, Conrad, very happy when they were adopted. These three happy animals now live at an awesome facility - complete with their own pond in their yard!



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 _____

☐ 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 _____

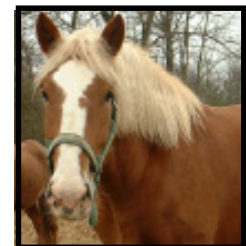
EMAIL _____

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.

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



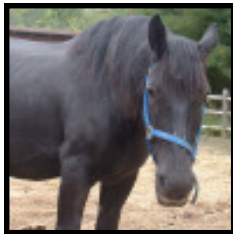
Luke asks, "Wouldn't you like to be a sponsor?"

Special Tributes To Our Furry & Feathered Friends Who Have Crossed The Rainbow Bridge...

Special memorial tributes are written for the animals as each of them passes. This is our way of remembering their lives, the lessons they have taught us, and honoring their memory and existence. Due to space restrictions in this newsletter, we would like to direct your attention to our website at happytrailsfarm.org, where you can read from-the-heart tributes to these wonderful creatures who have gone to God while in our care.

We'd like to remember with love:

MEMPHIS BELL, a beautiful, big, black 23 year old Percheron mare. She was always gentle, kind and best friends with her long-time plow companion, Norma Jean, who still resides at the sanctuary.



FLOYD, a funny, little, friendly, comedian chicken who has left a void at the sanctuary that no other



rooster will ever be able to fill. Everyone who visited the sanctuary was able to hold and hug little Floyd, and he would snuggle with you happily when people wanted to pet the little guy. We are hoping that he is up in chicken heaven playing

“Wiiiiiild Chicken” with God...

PRISCILLA, an absolute sweetheart of a precious little pot belly girl piggy, loved her belly rubs. She would look up at you with a look that would make you melt! She stole our hearts and was such an incredible love — she is dearly missed.



SAMMER DOG, the old-as-dirt black lab who was our “city worker”, making sure that everyone did their job to her satisfaction. In her warm Winter coat and scarf, she would ride in the Cub Cadet and help to haul manure across the street to the cornfield. If you started to leave without her, she would limp along side to let you know she was available to help. Samantha lived a very long, happy life.



GENEVIVE, a pretty, awkward, opinionated gray turkey, who thought the yard belonged to her. Zeus the goose allowed her to think that she was in charge of all the other chickens and ducks. Genevive enjoyed roosting up on top of the chicken and duck enclosure and looking down at all her charges from her lofty perch.



Hard-To-Place...

Let's Talk About Joy The Cow, Dancer the Horse, and Chloe, Montel & Rusty The Farm Hogs

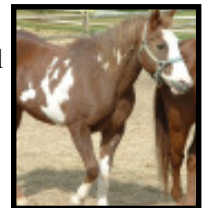
Talk about a challenge! How about helping us out here...

I'd like to highlight several extra-difficult to place animals that have been in our rescue and adoption program for a while now — maybe you would consider either adopting them or helping to spread the word for us that they are in need of a good home.

Joy the Cow has been with us for the past three years. She came to Happy Trails from a county SCPA after she had been found frozen into the ground at only five weeks old. Due to national adoption criteria for sanctuaries, Joy would not be allowed to be used for meat production or for breeding purposes. Unfortunately, we don't have a line-up of people wanting or willing to take on a pet cow, no matter how sweet or loving she can be.



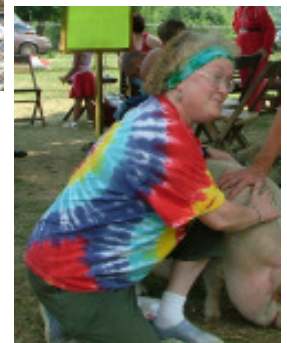
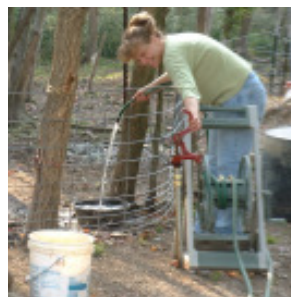
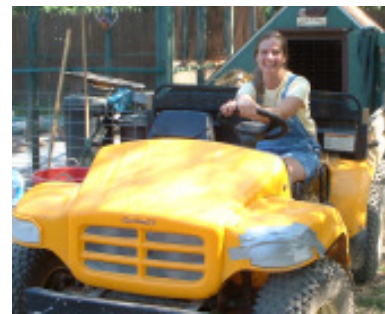
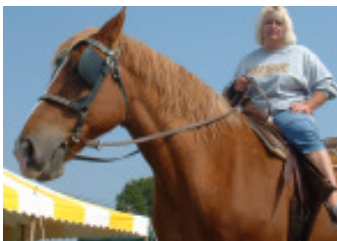
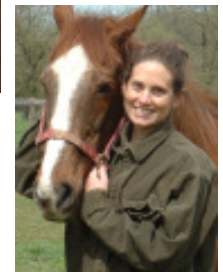
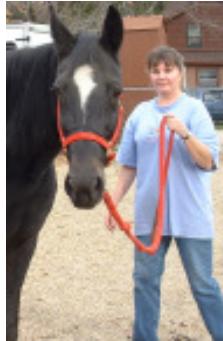
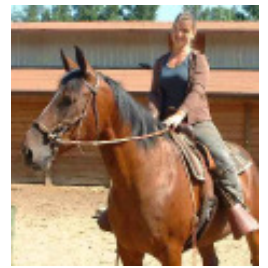
Dancer is a challenge to place also. She is an 18 year old gorgeous Paint mare who is in the Pasture Pal Program, meaning that she is not rideable. Dancer has lower articular ringbone in her front right ankle, and occasionally has a limp. Horses that are not rideable are often difficult to place, since most people want a horse with intentions of using it for a purpose. Dancer is sweet, lovable, and very much deserving of a caring retirement home. Please consider adopting Dancer as a buddy for your other horse.



And then there's the farm hogs, who are funny, have great personalities, and are absolutely huge! They are awesome to get to know, and would love to hang out as big pets on your farm! As with all farm animal adoptions, they cannot be used for meat production nor can they be bred.



The Servant Girls of Happy Trails...



All of the wonderful ladies pictured here have shoveled, cleaned, hauled, donated to, adopted, washed exercised, rode, pet, organized, watered, fostered, fed, and loved the farm animals of Happy Trails. And the rescued farm animals, in return, **LOVE** their servant girls!!!

Watch for "The Guy Servants of Happy Trails" in the next newsletter!

Mini-Stories: How They Came To Be A Resident At Happy Trails



The stories of how many of the rescued farm animals end up at Happy Trails are not pretty. We take in the “worst-of-the-worst” situations. I’ll spare you the gory details, but to give you some typical stories of how the different farm animals found refuge at Happy Trails, we’ll highlight just a few examples. **Keep in mind that Happy Trails is set up as a support organization for humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio, and our criteria for taking in farm animals is that they have been abandoned, abused or neglected.** In many of the horse cases, they would have been bound for the slaughterhouse auctions and picked up by the meat buyers.

Here’s a few of their stories...

A big chubby, friendly and lovable pink pot belly pig arrived at the sanctuary. Unbeknownst to her, her owners were planning to savagely mutilate and torture her for “fun”. Their plan was uncovered, the pig was removed from this horrible situation.

Two sheep, who had not been sheared for about four to five years, lived through last Winter under the shelter of an old car hood. A county humane society asked us to accept these two sheep into our rescue program.

A rooster was found abandoned on the highway in Cleveland. Another was found wondering the streets of inner city Akron.

A shy, pink, mini pot belly pig, recently won his freedom through a court case. He had been removed from a neglect situation by



a county humane society along with two other pigs, an assortment of chickens and a steer.

A sweet, lovable pot belly pig came to Happy Trails in the middle of last Winter from an area where there had been a great deal of flooding. The dog house that was supposedly his shelter not only flooded, but when cold temperatures came, the water in the flooded dog house froze. This large block of ice was the pig’s only bed to keep warm.

A now-beautiful Tennessee Walker mix gelding, was abandoned and left in his stall to starve to death in Southern Ohio when his owners moved away.

A sweet little Pekin-mix duck had been attacked on an open pond by wildlife. She suffered soft tissue damage to her hip, resulting in her dragging her leg painfully to walk. Happy Trails had her examined and x-rayed, and she was put on cage rest for several weeks. She can now walk normally once again.

A grey domestic goose was abandoned at a nearby State Park and brought to the sanctuary, both of it’s wings appearing to have been broken. A corrective surgery, compliments of Happy Trails, helped to heal the painful wings.

A pink pot belly pig was found wandering in a very unsafe location of an inner city, near an area that was suspected to have dog fighting rings. It is assumed that the pig may have escaped from this situation where the pigs were used as bait to train the fighting dogs.

Each animal that comes to Happy Trails has a very sad story to tell, and a specific abuse circumstance as to why they ended up at

the sanctuary.

It is for this very reason that we do not take in what we call “owner surrenders”, animals that people simply don’t feel like keeping any longer and don’t want to take the responsibility to find them a home on their own.

Happy Trails is a true rescue organization, and we like to think that we’re here to help those that are in need of help the most. We do our best to keep our precious little space and financial resources open for those who have been abused, abandoned and neglected.

Happy Trails is not a placement service if you want to find a different home for your farm pet, nor are we an animal retirement community. We get calls regularly from people who pleasantly want to “donate” their horse or other farm animal who is old, lame, crippled, too expensive, too aggressive, etc.

If Happy Trails was a much larger organization with a paid staff and bigger facilities, we could possibly take in more of these types of cases and help in more personal situations. For now, however, as Happy Trails is continuing to grow as an organization and is learning the ropes of operating a non-profit on often very little resources, we are strong in our conviction of being here for the “worst-of-the-worst” — those animals who have no where else to turn — those who have been abused, abandoned or severely neglected. As much as we would love to take in every farm animal that people simply want to throw away, we are not in a situation where we can do so. My heart and prayers goes out to all of them, for none of them ever ask to be placed in the homes they have or in the situations they are faced with. I would hope that people learn to take responsibility for the animals they chose to take into their lives in the first place, and take the initiative to find them safe homes when they grow tired of them.

Upcoming Fund-raisers...

INTERNET BENEFIT AUCTION

Happy Trails is eager to announce that our upcoming silent auction, which has been in the process of evolving into a major production, has taken on a new and exciting twist!

This extremely important fund-raiser for the rescued farm animals of Happy Trails has transformed into an **Internet Benefit Auction!!!** This "Internet Benefit Auction" will take the place of our on-location "Silent Auction", and all proceeds will directly benefit and help to care for the abused, abandoned, and neglected horses and other farm animals who seek refuge through Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary.

What exactly is a "benefit auction"?

A benefit auction is a fund-raiser, usually held for a 501c3 non-profit organization such as Happy Trails. Often buyers will pay more than an item is worth simply because they are making a donation to a worthy cause. Buyers bid against each other over a period of time to help raise the price of an item, and to help encourage donations in this way.

The Happy Trails Internet Benefit Auction will be held beginning November 14th, and each item will list the time available to bid on it. Make sure to visit the auction site regularly, as additional packages and items will be added during the bidding dates.

Some truly fantastic packages will be available for bidding, including celebrity items, gift certificates, signed photographs, computer equipment, beautiful jewelry, designer clothing, antiques, paintings, household goods, gift baskets, vacation packages, and some unique holiday gift ideas.

The auction can be accessed either through ebay directly at <http://stores.ebay.com/Happy-Trails-Store>, or through a related link to

ebay on Happy Trails website at happytrailsfarm.org. Details and bidding information will be available through either website.

Please help support the rescue efforts of Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary by participating in the Happy Trails Internet Benefit Auction!

You can participate either by helping to spread the word about the fund-raiser or by going on-line and making a purchase for a great cause!

Please pass along this information to friends, family and co-workers, and feel free to post the auction information on related websites and other internet announcement centers.

As we head into Winter, the need for the animal rescue services provided through Happy Trails becomes even more apparent with bitter temperatures and icy winds. We cannot make a difference in their lives or continue to provide the highest quality medical care and appropriate shelter needs without your compassion and support — *please* help the sanctuary by spreading the word about the Happy Trails Internet Benefit Auction!

Pet Photos With Santa At The Grateful Dog Bakery in North Ridgeville

This holiday, **The Grateful Dog Bakery at 31966 Center Ridge Rd. in North Ridgeville** is hosting Pet Photos with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 11am-5pm and on Sunday, Dec. 4th from 12-4pm. The cost is a \$5.00 donation per pet and the Bakery is donating ALL of the money to the local shelters. When each person arrives for their pet photo, they will be asked which organization they wish their payment to go to. Make sure to specify Happy Trails if you are taking your pampered pet to The Grateful Dog Bakery for Pet Photos With Santa!

Gussy-Up Your Favorite Pet For Pet Photos With Santa At Western Reserve

Don't be shy — get that Santa hat out of your cedar chest and stuff your little Chihuahua in it for a "Happy Holidays" Pet Photo With Santa!

Western Reserve of Ravenna will host this fund-raiser for the rescued animals of Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary on Saturday, December 3rd, from 10am to 1pm.

Bring in your most unusual, your most dressed up, your biggest, your smallest, your calm, your hyper, your goofy and your lovable pet! When annoying relatives send you that cutesy photo of little Johnnie or baby Susie, you can fire them one off of Fido getting tangled in Santa's beard! (Sorry Santa, just kidding...)

But seriously, start out the holidays not only with a great spirit and positive attitude, add a little humor to your day (and ours) by bringing your favorite pet to have his or her holiday photo taken with Santa Claws! And at the same time, you will be supporting a great and worthy cause, and contributing to the care of rescued animals who have been saved from situations of abuse, neglect and abandonment.

Western Reserve is located at 467 Cleveland Rd. in Ravenna, and they can be reached at **(330) 296-3424**. Thanks, Western Reserve, for hosting this fund-raiser for Happy Trails! Hope to see ya there!





5623 New Milford Road • Ravenna, Ohio 44266

(330) 296-5914

happytrailsfarm.org

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MISC. TIDBITS

- If you are a meat eater, how about giving the animals a break once a week and have a vegetarian dinner? Some tasty ideas would include spaghetti with a tomato sauce or alfredo sauce and garlic bread; meatless lasagna; potato soup or brown beans and corn bread; veggie dogs and french fries; or bean burritos and nachos!
- Make sure to keep checking out our website regularly for updates — happytrailsfarm.org.



• With the holiday season upon us, how about making it a new family tradition to create a care package for your local animal shelter, humane society, animal protective league, or sanctuary? Check out who is closest to you in your area, and give them a call to see if they have a wish list. And this tradition doesn't have to limit itself to holidays — the rescue groups can sure use your help all year long.



Everyone contacts rescue groups expecting them to take in whatever unwanted animal they come across or want to get rid of...but when is the last time they donated anything to help them out? Most dog and cat organizations, like the farm animal sanctuary, operate day to day and work with very little resources. Please help support a local animal rescue group, whether it's a dog and cat group, a bunny organization, a wildlife center, or another animal-specific group, that you feel does a good job.

• Please encourage your friends and family to not purchase pot belly pigs from breeders. These adorable babies get sold to many people who don't think through the responsibility of owning a pet house pig, and in their not too distant future, will get dumped when they are no longer small, cute, or when their owner finally figures out that

having a pig in their apartment wasn't such a smart idea after all. It's incredibly sad at the amount of calls Happy Trails receives weekly from people wanting to get rid of their pot belly pigs.

• Get involved as a Happy Trails volunteer by helping out with a fund-raising committee. If you enjoy organizing, making phone calls, and planning special events, please give us a call and we'll be more than happy to include you in our next fund-raiser.

• I know this is early, but don't let your friends and family who live in the city or in apartments get baby chicks and ducks for pets. They all end up either dead, injured or dumped off at local animal shelters. Just incase the temptation is there at Christmas as well as Easter, please keep this in mind.

