

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

OCTOBER 2006

Newsletter



START SAVING YOUR ACME RECEIPTS ONCE AGAIN!!!

It's that time of year — time once again to start saving your Acme receipts to benefit the rescued animals at Happy Trails. Acme donates 1% of all receipts collected from September 17, 2006 to April 7, 2007. Send them to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Questions? Contact Chris Cook at (330) 256-8011.

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What Does Happy Trails Operate On? *Dedicated, Hard-Working, Compassionate Volunteers!*

Without the financial means to operate with a paid staff, Happy Trails currently relies on all volunteers. The new Happy Trails Volunteer Program organized by our very own Chris Cook (*right*), has been raised to a new level of professionalism.

After submitting a volunteer application, volunteers then attend an orientation meeting where they receive a tour of the sanctuary, hear more details about the sanctuary itself, and learn about



safety rules, regulations, and sanctuary policies. Though we hope to achieve our goal of having the reliability of a paid staff, the



"You gonna eat that whole piece?" Cactus asks Alex. Russ Fisher (left) and Alex Hale (right) take a well-deserved lunch break as Cactus the horse butts in for his portion of the goods.

dedication of die-hard volunteers is the heart-beat of Happy Trails. We'd like to acknowledge those who give of their most valuable possession, their time. We'd also like to invite you to join our (*cont'd. on page 8*)

letter from the director

Every once in a while something happens that makes you sit back and think, "Wow, that's what it's all about." I had one of those defining moments recently, as I was wondering about how you get people to link that fact that the compassion that we show to all animals spills over into our personal lives and reflects in our relationships with other human beings. I was thinking things like, what better way to teach compassion than by example? Live your values, stand up for what you believe in, and do as much good as you possibly can in this world while you are here.

An example of this really hit home for me when I then received an unexpected e-mail from a fellow Portage County resident. I'd like to share a portion of it with you....

"I am from Portage County, Ohio. I read about your farm in the newspaper my mom sent to me. I am currently deployed to Iraq but I would like to know how I can help



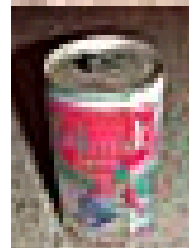
your cause. I love all animals and I love knowing that there are people out there (like yourselves) who help these animals. I sent my mom your wish list so she may be sendin



Aunette Fisher

KEEP COLLECT- ING ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE ANIMALS!

We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that has participated in our aluminum can fund-raising project.



We are often asked, "Does recycling cans really help out that much?" So we wanted to let everyone know what one year worth of "Can Money" has paid for:

1. We have wired and installed lighting on the shelters and barns at the sanctuary. The lighting makes it safer for the volunteers when daylight hours are short to feed in the winter and they are also nice to have in case of an emergency.
2. The Summer Festival Shuttle service was completely paid for with can money.
3. We bought fans for the horse and piggy barns to help keep them cool this past summer.

So, **please** continue to save your aluminum beverage cans and tell your family, friends, co-workers, and even ask your school to help save aluminum cans for the rescued animals!

You may drop off cans at Happy Trails on Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. or call Sharon @ 330-928-3623 for other arrangements or questions.

Thank you again for your continued support!!!

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

We would like all of you to get to know all of us — the Happy Trails Board of Directors! In this issue we'd like to feature and introduce you to Happy Trails Treasurer and all-around irreplaceable, high-energy, get-'er-done, funny girl, volunteer and board member, Nancy Conring. Let's find out a little bit about Nancy...

What got you involved with Happy Trails?

I saw an article in the Beacon Journal about Annette and Russ and what they were doing at the farm and thought to myself — this is a couple I need to know. I was laid off at the time and gave them a call to see what I could do to help.

What is one of your funniest memories about something that has happened at the sanctuary since you've been a part of Happy Trails?

So many funny memories come to mind, but to mention a couple — I suppose one was the very first day my neighbor and I volunteered at Happy Trails. We were given the task of transporting a stinky male goat and a rooster to Spencer, Ohio, in the back of my husband's pickup. Four hours later we were terribly lost and driving

rooster do a barrel dance on the top of a muck bucket that he was trying to attack. You just have to look at him and laugh. Of course all the times that someone, including myself, has fallen into the hog pen mud is also good for a few laughs.

Tell us about your own pets, and if you have adopted any of them from Happy Trails.

Let's see — I have five throw-away dogs and a menagerie of cats that I had before I started volunteering at Happy Trails. Now I have two goats, Elvis and Moulon, two pot belly pigs, Junebug and Jitterbug, and an assortment of chickens, ducks and rabbits. I have always wanted to be on a farm and now I have a miniature one to take care of. All the animals with the exception of the dogs and cats have been adopted from Happy Trails.

What goals would you like to see Happy Trails reach during this next year?

My main concern this year is to get our animal population down so we can make room for future rescues. Many of our animals have been at Happy Trails for many years and truly need to find their own permanent, loving homes. I personally have placed many of the ducks and chickens, and am now working on getting Joy our cow a wonderful home in Virginia. All of our animals deserve a second chance and would make wonderful pets for anyone with the right facility and loving hearts.

Describe from your own point of view what Happy Trails is all about and what you would like the public to know about the sanctuary.

Happy Trails is a much-needed facility located in Northeast Ohio, but providing rescue services throughout the state. The public doesn't realize how many farm animals are being abused, abandoned and neglected daily due to the poor legislation



in Ohio. This group of animals virtually has no protection from unscrupulous breeders, commercial food producers and uncaring animal owners. What we do at Happy Trails is give a farm animal a second chance at life with a caring family who will treat the animal with respect and give it lots of love. We would like to educate the public so that the farm animals will be treated with respect and given proper care no matter what their purpose.

If you could educate people about farm animal care or having a certain cont'd. on page 13

Annette Fisher, Exec. Director (330) 296-5914
Sharon Barnard, President ... (330) 928-3623
Becky Albright, Vice President (330) 877-0091
Nancy Conring, Treasurer (330) 733-1478
Paula Moran, Secretary (330) 285-1200
Chris Cook, Volunteer Program Director
..... (330) 256-8011
Russ Fisher (330) 296-5914
Debbie Friend (330) 628-0192

Happy Trails welcomes new board members:

Lynn Baxter, Paula Moran, and Timy Sullivan

Chuck Conring (330) 733-1478



around Medina with these two critters in the back. My neighbor kept saying, "What have you gotten us into now???" and laughing all the way. The smell didn't get out of the truck for a long time after that. Another funny was watching Dorito our

Janice the Pig's Story is Told!

by Annette Fisher

Two very special animals are credited with helping to found Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary: one is Shelby, the Premarin draft filly that I applied for and adopted from an out-of-state rescue group when she was only three months old — she was my inspiration to rescue horses. The other animal is Janice the pig. Here's her story, which had been selected as Story of the Week on the Angel Animals website (www.angelanimals.net). This is the inspirational story of how Happy Trails came to be a farm animal sanctuary!

Six years ago I met a lady who was selling horse equipment at a tack swap, and we were comparing notes on how difficult it was to go on vacation and have someone take care of your horses and farm animals in the way you want them to be cared for. She said that she was getting ready to go on a vacation, and would be glad to pay me if I would come over every day and take care of her animals for her. I immediately agreed to help.

Upon arrival at her farm to learn about feeding and daily routines, I was shown quite a variety of horses, dogs, cats, a donkey, a farm hog, and a long list of other furry creatures. We came to a small door that opened into a pen located inside her horse barn. The tiny pen was completely closed in, and peering through this small door I could see thick spider webs and their creators hanging low from the ceiling. There, in her own filth and waste, lay a 150 lb. pot belly pig, unable to move, her front legs curled up underneath her. She had no hair, and her skin was thick and peeling.

In complete amazement at seeing this poor creature, I blurted out, "My God,

what happened to this pig?" I was told that someone had brought her to the farm about six years ago, and they had dropped her getting her off the truck. "I think they broke her legs," the woman calmly explained.

"What did your vet say?" I questioned. My mouth dropped open in utter disbelief as I heard the reply, "Oh, we never called a vet."

The farm's owner then left on her vacation, and was supposed to be gone only three days. This pig tore at my heart and haunted my thoughts when I would leave the farm. I would leave it's door open so that it could get some fresh air, and I found straw to give it for bedding so it wouldn't have to lay in such filthy conditions. The owner decided to stay gone for another day, then another day, and finally a week went by before she returned home.

"How much do I owe you for feeding?" she asked me.

"How about just giving me your crippled pig?" I replied, terrified that she wouldn't agree to such a request. The deal was agreed upon, and I took Janice the pig to our local veterinarian for a complete physical and exam.

Working for a week not only did I not make any money, but it cost me \$280 in an hour at the vet clinic. X-rays

showed that her legs weren't broken, but had atrophied due to being kept in such horrible conditions and such a small area. She would never be able to walk normally, and her bones in her front knees would continue to fuse. I discussed euthanasia with the vet — would it be kinder to let her go?

The vet's reply was kind and sympathetic, and an emphatic "no!". "Annette, this is the best the pig's ever had it! Let her enjoy life for a while, and she'll let you know when she's ready to go." That was now six years ago.

What the vet was talking about, was that we had built Janice her own log cabin, fairly large, complete with heat lamps in it for the cold Winter temperatures. We filled her log cabin with extra thick straw for her bed, and gave her old sleeping bags and blankets to snuggle under. Her fur grew back, her skin healed, and I had gained her trust. She would look for me to bring her healthy snacks and hold her water bowl so that she could get drinks easily. Janice was given an arthritis supplement for any discomfort





from situations of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

This beautiful, loving, sweet, crippled pig who now loves peppermints and belly rubs and good conversations, is credited with founding an organization that has now helped over 550 farm animals over the past six years receive medical treatment, hope, love, compassion, and a chance at enjoying a life of peace and comfort with their new human companions.

My bond with Janice is incredible, and she continues to be healthy and to thrive on attention. I have come to understand her language, and she is very vocal about her thoughts. She makes a rather low and quiet noise that sounds like the word "boof" when she is happy and content and all is right with her world. When expressing displeasure about a late meal or not being in the mood for her drink of water, she very loudly proclaims a noise that sounds like "uhboooooo!"

Janice still "scoots" around as opposed to being able to walk normally, but she enjoys her time outdoors, and loves the smell of her freshly-washed blankies. Thanks to this one very very special pig and what she endured in her earlier lifetime, an overwhelming number of other farm animals were given a new lease on life. These rescued animals have in turn touched the lives of so many people, from their caretakers at the sanctuary to the vets who treat them to their newly adoptive families. I have to very humbly say that Janice is one absolutely incredible pig.

in her legs, and she would get (and continues to receive) daily body massages.

A few months had passed after welcoming Janice to our farm. We then again rescued another pot belly piggy, a youngster who we named George, and presented him to Janice as her companion. The two eventually became best friends, and they enjoyed each other's company immensely. George grew up with Janice, and now loves her with all his heart. George travels around our farm and takes stories back to Janice about the other animals he would meet and greet.

This heart-breaking experience with Janice made me wonder — if this poor pig was hidden in this barn and needed help, what other farm animals might be hidden in barns that may be in need of special care? I started to inquire with

county humane societies and animal protective leagues across our state about what happened to farm animals that were removed from abuse situations. Their options weren't always great. Some agencies would euthanize the farm animals since many were designed to handle only domestic animals. Several agencies were reluctant to even remove the farm animals from neglect because they had no where to take them.

I decided that people needed to learn to treat the farm animals with compassion, and give them the proper care and respect that they deserved. Janice the pig was my inspiration to create the organization now known as Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization located in Ravenna, Ohio, that focuses on the rescue, rehabilitation and adoptions of farm animals that have been removed

Remember to check the household and cosmetic products that you buy for the important disclaimer "Not Tested On Animals!"

SUMMER FESTIVAL UPDATE

The volunteers and board members who were meeting and greeting visitors at the Happy Trails Summer Festival held on Sunday, June 25th, were in awe of the crowd that took the time to visit the rescued farm animals residing at the sanctuary.

1,014 guests signed in, and



that number doesn't include the 40+ volunteers that it took to make the day possible, or the groups of people who managed to wander past our overwhelmed greeters. Animal lovers from all over Ohio and several surrounding states enjoyed a leisurely day of petting and hugging an assortment of farm animals including the pot belly pigs, giant draft horses, Joy the friendly Holstein cow, Dorito the rooster, and many more furry and feathered creatures.

Thanks to our very special guests who gave seminars, clinics and demonstrations. Many festival-goers have been contacting us since the big event to ask how to get in touch with the special guests, so here's their contact information:

- **Doris Straka**, Animal Communicator (440) 256-1245.
- **Ken Aberegg**, Professional Equine Trainer and Riding Instructor (330) 821-2056

- **Lisa Deckert**, Certified Equine Massage Therapist and Rieke Practitioner (330) 606-4468.
- **Steve Hebrock**, Certified Natural Hoof Care Practitioner (330) 813-5434.
- **Joni Clague**, Pot Belly Piggy Care and Adoptions (440) 543-1570

Many thanks to the patient

crowd for waiting politely for the shuttle bus, which ran non-stop throughout the day. We hosted a much bigger crowd than anticipated! The feeling of love for

the animals, the encouragement and appreciation of our farm animal rescue work, and the stamp of approval we received from the kind and thoughtful visitors who took time out of their day to check out Happy Trails, *was simply overwhelming for all of us!* Thanks to everyone who attended our fund-raiser!

Special thank you's also go out to:

- **Everyone from the llama group** who brought some of the most adorable and precious llamas you'd ever want to see!
- **Face painter, Denise Moore**, who tirelessly painted a slew of creatures and creative designs on little faces, arms and legs!
- **The Happy Trails crew for the day** — way too many volunteers to list and I'm afraid we'd miss someone!
- **K105FM and morning co-host and DJ, Mary Ann Graff**, who conducted a live broadcast from the sanctuary during the festival and



played country music's hottest hits!

- **Volunteer horse riders for the Western Riding & Training Demonstration:** Kevin Bragg, Amy Haag, Eileen Roloff, Nancy Geideman
- **The businesses who graciously allowed us to use their parking facilities:** Havre Woods Metro Park, Young Friends Day Care, AA Chiropractic Clinic.
- **The Grateful Dog Bakery** for donating it's profits for the day to Happy Trails
- **The Country Critter Journal** for having newspapers available for our guests
- **The Vegetarian Advocates Group**, who gave out veggie diet information and scrumptious soy ice-cream sandwiches.

MANY THANKS TO THE FESTIVAL SPONSORS

- **Faith Pescatore** who sponsored the farm hog area
- **Mary & John Bittance** who sponsored the pot belly pig barn and Norma Jean's horse stall
- **Nancy L. Edgell** who sponsored Tony & Red, the Happy Trails Belgian Draft Hitch Team, and the Face Painting Booth
- **Christina Heasley** who sponsored the Vegetarian Booth
- **The Mustard Seed Market** who sponsored Tony & Red, the Happy Trails Belgian Draft Hitch Team
- **Eric & Diane Sotnak and Jim Fentules of Valley Graphics** who sponsored The Bouncy House
- **An anonymous donor** who sponsored the Dunking Machine

FOLLOW-UP STORY

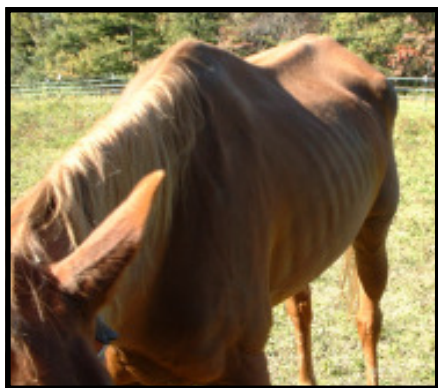
How's Grandpa Walton doin'?

Well, Grandpa Walton looks nothing less than fantastic! He is



thriving and has settled in quite comfortably at his newly adoptive home with Abby Robinson!

We affectionately call Grandpa Walton our "Miracle Adoption". Why is he a miracle? For several reasons! The photo below is Grandpa's "before" photo — how he looked upon arrival at Happy Trails. The above photo is his current look — pleasingly pudgy and completely in love with his new mama! As a 30 year old gelding with little-to-no teeth, it was a complete miracle that someone had



a heart big enough to choose Grandpa Walton as the newest member of their family! **Thanks to the Robinson's for providing Grandpa with a loving family!**

PIGS IN A BLANKET

Yep, it's that time again! Time to clean out your closets and laundry shelves

and scare up some old comforters, sleeping bags and blankets for the crippled and arthritic pot belly pigs who are residents of Happy Trails.

Though the wee pigs do get heat lamps to snuggle under during the bitter cold winter months, they still choose to also work their way underneath the warmth of an extra sleeping bag or heavy comforter. It's been amazing to see the absolutely beautiful quilts and afghans that have been donated for the precious porcines — there is nothing cuter than to see a little chubby pig who can't easily get around, all wrapped up under a colorful quilt with only it's little nose and eyes peaking out to see if dinner is ready yet.

Thanks to everyone who has donated a warm blanket or a heavy-duty sleeping bag or old towels. Due to the amount of rescued animals at the sanctuary, we go through these items at an alarming rate during the winter.

You may drop off your cold weather goodies at the sanctuary on any Sunday from 1pm — 4pm.



THE MANE EVENT FUND-RAISER CANCELLED

Originally scheduled for Saturday, October 7th, The Mane Event, the everything-horse-related Happy Trails fund-raiser to have been held at the Portage County Fairgrounds, has been cancelled. We need to be realistic about the amount of places our dedicated and hard-working volunteers can be, and we are hopeful that we will have enough committee members to put it together for next year.

THANK YOU'S

There are always more people to thank for their help and kindness than what we have room for in our newsletter, but we always like to highlight a few.

A very special thank you goes out to **Dr. Lori Bieber of South Russell Veterinary Hospital.** Though Dr. Bieber specializes in domestic animals in her practice, she helps the rescued farm animals of Happy Trails by providing them with most of their medications. As a rescue organization, we go through more than our share of meds. **Many thanks, Dr. Bieber, for supporting our rescue efforts!**

Thanks to all the drivers who regularly haul horses for us: **Rob Willard, Kevin Bragg and Dick Zampini.** Careful and safe drivers are at the top of our list to keep the rescued animals comfortable on their journey to the sanctuary or to the vet clinics and hospitals.

From all of us involved with Happy Trails and dedicated to the rescue of the abused and neglected farm animals, **a special thanks goes out to our husbands, wives and families,** for understanding when emergencies arise with a sick or injured animal or when we have to skip out on a planned family event. It's happened to all of us at one time or another, and it is very reassuring to know that help from another caring soul is only a phone call away. We have all been there for each other and for the animals — we could not ask for a stronger bond or a more dedicated staff than the one that operates Happy Trails.

BAKELESS BAKE SALE THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2nd Annual Bakeless Bake Sale this spring. With your help, it was again a "Sweet Success". We would also like to thank the business who generously donated their services in printing the letter and envelopes.

Happy Trails Volunteer Program *(cont'd. from front page)*

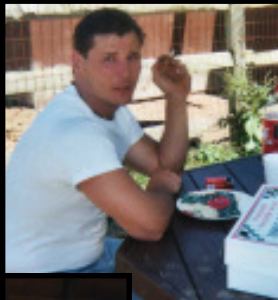
volunteer staff, and find your niche among our many volunteer opportunities.

Here some of the ways that volunteers serve Happy Trails:

◆ **Sanctuary Clean-Up:** Typical cleaning and upkeep of the sanctuary (usually done on Sundays). This includes mucking horse stalls, raking piggy yards, picking up manure from the various paddocks, scrubbing water buckets, folding piggy blankets, weed eating, weeding the flower beds, and yard clean-up in general.

◆ **Construction Projects:** Anyone handy with a hammer and nails (and saws and drills and nuts and bolts) is welcome to join our volunteer construction team. This crew

Rick Turner volunteers as a top-notch construction worker.



Adam Buttermore is a hard-working Sunday volunteer, and Catlain Katon is a intern volunteer.



handles anything from fence and gate repairs to completely constructing entirely new shelters and barns.

◆ **Adoption Counselors:** Are trained to counsel potential adoptive families and learn how to conduct a home visit to approve a facility for each particular type of animal.

◆ **Phone Representatives:** Happy Trails receives about a million phone calls a day. Volunteers are always helpful when trying to return large amounts of phone calls. Phone representatives are taught how to answer questions and provide referrals.

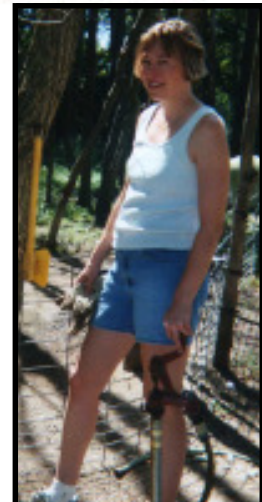
◆ **Community Events and Fund-raisers:** Volunteers are always needed to serve on fundraising committees, as well as to help staff our booths at community events. The Happy Trails reps will pass out literature, answer questions, and help build a lasting relationship with each community.

◆ **Mailings:** Volunteers help to fold, tab and place mailing labels on the literature mailed out from Happy Trails. Bulk mail can be very exacting, and Nancy Conring who is in charge of our bulk mailings, is a patient teacher to get the job done correctly.

Many thanks go out our latest

Happy Trails volunteers for showing such compassion and care for the rescued farm animals: Chelsea Orsburn, Adam Buttermore, Joanne Queensberry, Cheri Rider, Caitlin Doherty, Annemarie Geffert, Tim Tapajna.

At this time we do not have anyone available to organize a children's volunteer program, so all volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Chris, like all of us, is a volunteer also, with a full time job



Lauren Carroll is a die-hard Sunday clean-up volunteer.

Lisa Deckert volunteers as a Certified Equine Massage Therapist for the rescued horses.



and family responsibilities. We appreciate Chris's determination in seeing our new volunteer program come to fruition.

For more information, call program director, Chris Cook, at (330) 256-8011. Please be patient as she is often flooded with calls and tries her very best to return all calls in a timely manner.



Debbie Friend volunteers to work the logo apparel booth at community events!



Joanne Queensberry is an all-around volunteer with star quality!



Becky Albright and Rob Willard volunteer to hitch up and drive the Happy Trails Belgian draft horse team.

EQUINE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IS THE PLACE TO BE IF YOU'RE A HORSE IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE!



Due to the nature of our rescue work at Happy Trails, we have had many opportunities to work with the kind, patient and caring staff at Equine Specialty Hospital, a state-of-the-art medical, surgical and diagnostic center, located in Burton. Hospitalization is often a necessity in order to save the life of one of our equine friends, so Happy Trails over the years has come to know the good folks who take such great care of our rescued horses when emergency and elective situations arise. We'd like you to get to know them too!

Hospital owners and boarded specialists, Dr. Cindy Jackson, DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and Dr. William Jackson, DVM, MBA, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Surgeons, are the heart of the hospital. Though both are highly trained professionals in working with horse health care, we have been amazed at their kindness and patience in dealing with the people who accompany the horses.

At Happy Trails we work with many veterinarians who specialize in all types of farm animal care. I think that sometimes the vets don't realize just how important their "bed-side manner" is when dealing with a sick, injured or dying animal, and



how important their attitude and outlook is to the frustrated or stressed owner who is trying to make the right decisions concerning the life of a beloved animal under not-so-great conditions.

Dr. Cindy Jackson and Dr. William Jackson take the time to explain everything in great detail about the horse's medical condition to the owner so that informed decisions can be made. They have always been very realistic and paint a very honest picture of the situation at hand.

Equine Specialty Hospital is well-known for their emergency and elective services which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your horse is monitored round the clock by a highly trained team of registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants who provide continuous exceptional nursing care to all the patients.

The Equine Specialty Hospital has two fully equipped surgical suites. The first suited primarily for orthopedics and the second for soft tissue surgery. All necessary equipment for the procedure being performed is readily available to the surgical team. This may include video endoscopic units, lasers, ultrasound, radiography, electrocautery, endo-stapling equipment, insufflation units, arthroscopes, laparoscopes and all the necessary orthopedic equipment for fracture repair including 3.5 mm, 4.5 mm and 5.5 mm screw sets and bone plating systems.

The Medicine Service of the Equine Specialty Hospital provides comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic services for the equine patient. A partial list of services provided by the Medicine Service includes: respiratory tract assessment, neurologic concerns, intensive care of newborns,



Cynthia A. Jackson, D.V.M.
*Doctor of Veterinary Medicine,
Diplomate American College of
Veterinary Internal Medicine*

assessment of weight loss, care of laminitic patients, ophthalmology, and gastroscopy (viewing the stomach of a horse).

Diagnostic Services include: nuclear Scintigraphy (bone scan), Computer Tomography CCT Scan, Digital Radiography, Digital Ultrasound, Endoscopy, Gastrosocopy, and Myelography.

**The hospital is located at 17434
Rapids Rd., Burton, Ohio 44021.**



Be sure to keep this number handy for emergencies, special medical issues, or for extremely thorough health and wellness examinations — 440-834-0811.

SHOW ME THE HORSE

by Carolyn Hayes

Carolyn Hayes is a dedicated Happy Trails volunteer, horse adoptive mom, equine foster home, and long-time Happy Trails supporter.

There is an old English proverb that says, "Show me your horse and I will tell you what you are." I think you could take that one of a few ways. The first way would be superficially; like whether you drive a Mercedes Benz or a VW Rabbit. My farrier, upon meeting my gorgeous Standardbred mare, Sequoia, for the first time remarked that she must have been an Amish Cadillac because "she sure is good looking for a Standardbred." When I told him that Happy Trails has rescued her off the back of a meat truck a few years ago, his jaw dropped a little.

Nowadays, Sequoia doesn't look like a horse that you would sell by the pound. She's a sleek, well-muscled bay with a serious sense of pride. The only physical remnant of the harsh life she lived before her rescue is the scar tissue in her right eye that has left her partially blinded. My vet said that it's likely that her vision is shattered on that side — like looking through a broken mirror. She has adjusted so well that most days, I forget that she has an imperfection. For the rough life she survived on the racetrack and then as a road horse who undoubtedly worked all day and in any weather, her spirit remains unbroken. Her former owners ran her until she had nothing left to give, and her reward for such hard work was a trip to the local auction where the meat buyers were waiting for horses just like her. It boggles the mind to realize just how many horses come to this sad, terrifying end — each one with a story and a spirit of their own.

No matter how many draft horse stalls I muck or how many volunteer evening feedings I volunteer for at Happy Trails, I will never be able to repay the good people at the sanctuary for the kindness and mercy that they showed Sequoia the day they saved

her. They took it upon themselves to buy her off that awful truck and get her the costly medical treatment she deserved. Not only was the poor girl road-weary — she was suffering from EPM, a neurological disease that more easily effects a horse who's immune system has been worn down. While her recovery was slow, Happy Trails took it on faith that she was worth saving. I couldn't be more grateful that they were there. She recovered 80% from the disease and with a lot of patience and ground work, she is now safe to ride around the backyard. Sometimes diamonds truly can be found in the rough!

A different side of the "show me your horse and I will tell you what you are" proverb can be illustrated through the story of my other Standardbred,



Royal. Royal was accepted into the Amish Horse Retirement Program in March of 2005. He was also suffering from EPM, and because of this could no longer work for his Amish family as a buggy horse. Rather than dumping him off at a local auction where his fate would be sealed, his kind and caring Amish owner sought an alternative retirement for his family's "fast horse". If it were not for this ground-breaking Happy Trails program, his options would have been severely limited. Royal's owner showed us through his compassion for his horse, exactly what kind of a man he is. He didn't take the usual way out and recover a little of his investment by selling the horse by the pound. He took to heart the hard work that Royal had done for him and sought to return the favor.

Royal was deeply affected by several bouts with EPM, and went through several rounds of medical treatment with Marquis, the best drug to combat the disease. Through the Summer months it was unclear whether Royal would survive — 60% of recurrent

episodes of EPM are fatal. He rallied himself and pulled through the pain and uncertainty and has recovered to a comfortable degree. He will never be the marathon runner he used to be, but he is more than well-adjusted to his life of leisure hanging out with his pretty mare, eating cookies, getting belly-rubs, and chasing the barn cat around the pasture. It was love at first sight for Royal and I — I thought he was handsome, and he was sure I had horse treats hidden in my pockets for him. He is truly an inspiration to me — he fought every day of his illness with an unshakable strength of will I would hope to one day possess a mere fraction of. For all of the rough days that he has survived, he is the funniest, most easy-going and loving horse I have ever met. A day without big horse hugs from "My Boy" just wouldn't be much of a day at all.

If the old proverb holds true, then I am more than happy to show off my horses to anyone and be judged accordingly. I am rather proud of those sleek pudgy bays out grazing in my yard — they deserve our respect and admiration. They've run a good race and they've held their heads up high. And if you yourself are looking for a new friend or two, I highly recommend retired Amish horses. They're great listeners and they can teach you a lot about who you really are.

AMISH HORSES CURRENTLY AVAIL- ABLE FOR ADOPTION

The Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program is a unique program that allows a buggy or a plow horse that can no longer earn its keep on an Amish farm, an avenue to a kind and caring retirement home as opposed to being sent through the local slaughterhouse auction.

The Amish families who willingly give up their retiring equine do so out of love for the horse, and they want to see the family horse who has worked so very hard its entire life find a place where it can enjoy life and spend its remaining years in peace and comfort.

However, Happy Trails is not

always able to accept the amount of horses awaiting help into our program — we always operate at full capacity.

We would like to do our very best, however, to help place these horses.

Many of the horses may not be rideable due to injuries or lameness issues, but have an awful lot of love left to give. Some may be rideable, but will have limitations as to the type of work that they can comfortably handle.

Here's some of the retiring Amish horses we are trying to place:

Cindy Lou Who:

A drop-dead gorgeous dapple bay Standardbred mare, 15 years old, about 15 hands tall. Deals with severe allergies and needs a salve put in her eyes daily. The vet gave her the ok to be placed in the Rideable Program, so she



is now sound and can be ridden. Since Cindy Lou Who was always a buggy horse, she will need trained to become a safe trail horse. She loves attention, and has lots of energy. Cindy Lou Who currently resides at Happy Trails.

Darlin' Dixie:

A 15 year old beautiful solid black Standardbred mare, about 16 hands tall.

Due to bowed tendons on her front legs and very weak suspensory tendons on her back legs,



she is not able to carry any weight. Dixie has tons of love to give, and is going to make a simply fantastic buddy for some lucky horse, and a great personal pet for some lucky horse lover! Dixie is also currently a resident at Happy Trails.

Rusty and Surefoot:

Here we have a duo — two best friends seeking a home together. Rusty is a 16 hands, 17 year old chestnut Standardbred

gelding who is rideable (for an experienced rider), but he does



have limitations as to distance and the amount of weight he can handle. Surefoot is his cute-as-a-button tag-along pony friend — a 24 year old brown and white little paint guy who is just too cute for words! Surefoot is broke



to ride and drive, but has not been worked for quite a while. He would need an

experienced handler as well. These two would like to find a home where they can continue to hang out together. Since the sanctuary is operating at full capacity, they are still residing on their Amish farm.

For adoption information and details about any of the Amish horses available for adoption, or for info on any of the other horses and farm animals available through our adoption program, go to www.happytrailsfarm.org for a complete list, or you can give us a call at (330) 296-5914.

Visit Happy Trails By Signing Up For The Fall Educational tours

What are Happy Trails Fall Educational Tours all about?

The guided tours take up to ten people in a group, and your tour guide will give your group a personal walking tour of the sanctuary.

At each animal area, you will be given a short presentation regarding farm animal information that reviews the proper care, shelter, nutrition, and medical needs of the animals that you are visiting.

The complete tour will take approximately an hour and a half.

What Do I Wear?

The tour includes hiking on trails through the woods to visit the farm hogs, the horse pastures, and the pet cemetery. Happy Trails is a working farm, and often with unpredictable weather, can be muddy and/or have uneven ground. Hiking boots or muck boots are recommended, and dress in layers.

What Is The Fee To Participate In A Guided Educational Tour?

The Fall Educational Tours are a fund-raiser for Happy Trails. There is a minimum \$10 donation per person requested.

What Are the Dates And Times Of The Tours?

Sunday, October 1st:

one tour only at 2:00pm

Saturday, October 7th:

first tour starts at 12:00pm

second tour starts at 2:30 pm

Sunday, October 15th:

one tour only at 2:00pm

Saturday, October 28th:

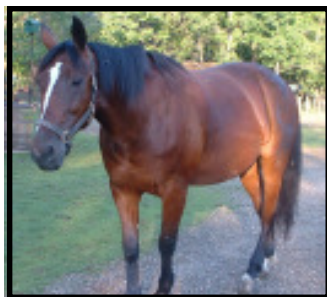
first tour starts at 12:00pm

second tour starts at 2:30pm

Reservations are necessary.

You may use our on-line registration

(www.happytrailsfarm.org) to confirm your reservation date, time and the number of people that will accompany you. Or you may contact Nancy Conring at (330) 733-1478 (before 1:00pm)



"Hello...I'm Barney, and I'll be your tour guide!" Though Barney insists on being a tour guide, don't worry, you'll get a real person when you come for the actual tour!

How Do We Find Happy Trails And Where do We Park?

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is located at 5623 New Milford Road in Ravenna (Portage County). Parking will be at the sanctuary itself, and a representative will help you park safely.

What If It Rains?

Unless there is a torrential freezing downpour, the Happy Trails staff works outside year-round right along with the animals who live outdoors. If there is rain, feel free to bring along a rain coat and enjoy being outside in the refreshing fall weather right along with us!

If I Can't Make Any Of The Tour Dates Listed, When's The Next Time I Can Visit?

At this time, Happy Trails does not schedule tours during the winter months. We will begin tours again in late spring after the winter mud dries up. As always, there will be our summer festival which is held on the last Sunday in June.

Happy Trails does not have a paid staff, though that is a goal we are working toward. Since we rely on all volunteer help, we do not have certain hours at this time for visitors to simply drop by. If you are interested in adopting a farm animal, an adoption counselor will chat with you over the phone, and then proceed to setting up an appointment if you would like to continue with an animal adoption.

Get To Know The People Who Provide Guidance for Happy Trails (cont'd. from page 3)

type of farm animal for a pet, what important information would you want to share?

Each animal has it's own set of requirements. People have to really think it through and educate themselves before taking on the responsibility of owning a farm animal. Besides the cost of owning and properly caring for a farm animal, they must consider the acreage or area needed to comfortably keep their pet. Are they willing to have their property routed up by a pig, or fenced in to accommodate a horse and provide a warm and safe building for them? People have a tendency to buy animals on a whim because they are cute and small, not realizing they will get big and require much more space than they are willing or able to provide, especially in the case of city-dwellers buying pot belly pigs. We simply ask that people educate themselves first before getting any animal for a pet, whether it is a dog, cat or farm animal, and especially ask yourselves, are you ready to make a lifetime commitment to this animal?

What one important piece of information would you like to share with readers about Happy Trails?

Happy Trails is the only farm animal sanctuary in Ohio of this magnitude. As you know, Ohio has a large farming community in many areas. Our services are needed here to provide a safe haven for the animals, to educate the general public, and to address the need to defend a group of animals that have virtually no protection from abuse and neglect. We pray that with the help of our local communities and kindness and support of many caring individuals, we will be able to continue our work here in Ohio.

**Ask us about
sponsoring or
adopting a
farm animal!**

(330) 296-5914

National Animal Identification System Evolving

The US Department of Agriculture is going to implement an animal ID plan for all animals, supposedly to help in tracking sick or exposed animals in case of disease outbreak. Their goal is to identify a foreign disease exposed animal within 48 hours of discovery. Before this happens, animal premises will have to be registered. This means all stables and farms that have animals that will travel will need to register. This includes the sanctuary, as we have animals that travel regularly as they become adopted into new homes and occasionally are adopted out of state.

An identification device will be attached to the animals. Farm animals that need to be registered include equine, bovine, alpacas, sheep, swine (pot belly pigs and farm hogs), goats, poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese), and more. Dogs, cats and rabbits are NOT going to be registered.

Horses will have either a microchip, freeze brand or tattoo. If you choose to take your horse off your premises to go riding at a Metro Park or to participate in a show, you need to pre-register the location of the animal. Go to www.ohioanimalid.com for more information and to form your own opinion of this program and who it is going to affect the most. The Ohio Farm Bureau has information also at 614-246-8262.

LOVING MEMORIALS

There have been many kind and compassionate folks who have graciously made donations in memory of their loved ones who have passed away. What a beautiful way to honor a friend or family member's memory than to give the gift of hope and life in their name. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has made a tribute for that special someone who has gone on before us, and we want to make sure that their spirit lives on in the peace and tranquility of the sanctuary.

THINK FIRST ON BEHALF OF THE DUCKS AND CHICKENS....

There has been a disturbing amount of calls coming into the sanctuary regarding unwanted classroom project animals. The majority of these are chickens and ducks that are hatched in the classrooms as projects to teach the cycle of life.

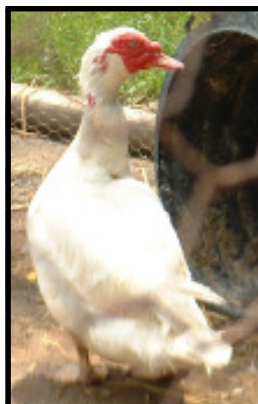
Recently there was a request for 12 fertilized chicken eggs to be used as a teaching tool. With all the greatest respect to our teachers and educators we need to point out some tragic statistics regarding these animals that you are reproducing in mass quantities.



Apparently in most cases there are no set plans or arrangements made for the babies that are produced. Often times they are sent home with the children to unsuspecting parents who do not have the knowledge or facilities to take care of them (city ordinances do not allow chickens and ducks inside city limits).

Right here begins the abuse and abandonment cycle. The baby will not get the proper nourishment or living conditions it is supposed to have. The parents will get frustrated and dump the baby in the woods or field or on an open pond, not wanting to bother to try to find it a home.

Finally the reason animal sanctuaries and rescues are so full is because of the continuous over breeding of unwanted animals including chickens, ducks and other small animals that are considered to be disposable after the teaching process. Teachers and parents both need to stop and think before encouraging this type of lesson in the classroom. The teacher that wanted 12 fertilized chicken eggs would probably hatch at least ten of them. Out of the ten, I can guarantee that at least eight of them will be roosters. From our experience and knowledge at the farm, we can tell you that no one wants to adopt roosters. They cannot live in groups with other roosters and must be kept separate to prevent fighting. They are often too noisy to be kept in any type of residential area.



Please, I am begging you not to allow this type of hands on lesson to be taught in your son's or daughter's classroom. Educators can teach this lesson from books and videos without producing more unwanted animals in this world. Please discuss this with your child's teacher at your next open house or PTA meeting. The only way to stop this unfortunate cycle is through education. There is no lesson to be learned in the reproduction and abuse of so many animals.

Nancy Conring, Treasurer

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA JEAN

In March 2005, Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary accepted into our Amish Horse Retirement Program a pair of older Percheron draft mares. Jean and Bell, big, beautiful and solid black, were 22 and 23 years old, and had worked extremely hard their entire life as good, reliable plow horses for their Amish family. We added to their plain names, and the girls became known as Norma Jean and Memphis Bell.

Because of their age and the physical ailments of Memphis Bell and the underweight condition of Norma Jean, they were not able to work. This of course made it more difficult to place them in an adoptive home, and they spent six months hanging out with us here at the sanctuary before we lost Memphis Bell due to debilitating arthritis.

This tribute today is now to honor Bell's hitch partner, Norma Jean, who we sadly lost on Saturday, August 26th.

Saturday, August 26th, started out like a typical morning here at the sanctuary. I wandered out into the yards for early morning feeding, greeted by the usual good morning sounds of happy and impatient grunts, squeals, whinnies, honks and cockadoodledoos. As I looked over to where the horses were standing outside the barn in a paddock, I noticed Barney and Houston, two of the geldings, hanging around a large round bale of hay. Joy the cow was nearby. All the other horses seemed to be where they were supposed to be, except I didn't see Norma Jean. I didn't think much of it — a lot of times at night she would hang out in Barney's stall in the barn — she had fun taking over his stall and pretending to be the mare in charge.

Only from a different angle could I see Norma Jean laying down on the other side of the round bale. This still didn't concern me. There have been times that Red, one of our big Belgians, would lay flat out in a mangled pile of hay in the middle of nowhere. For a long time I would panic and go running over to him, only to have him sleepily lift his head and look at me as if to say "Are you disturbing me again?"

So I kept an eye on Norma Jean from my position at the pig barn. I saw her lift

her head and twitch her ears and I breathed a sigh of relief — nothing wrong, it's still early and she's just tired I thought. After a short while, I came out of the pig barn and looked in the direction of the horses. Barney, my goofy Standardbred, was standing over Norma Jean with his head down on her head, nuzzling her, and she still wasn't getting up. Something had



to be wrong.

As soon as I got close to Norma Jean, I could tell in her eyes that something had happened. She could lift her head, but her body was not cooperating. She had no signs of colic and could not roll even if she wanted to. I immediately suspected a stroke. I did my best to reassure her, gave her a shot of Banamine to help relax her, sprayed some calming flower essence remedy on her nostrils, and began offering her peace and comfort with Rieke. I called the vet, and Happy Trails neighbors and volunteers, Debbie and Kevin Bragg, came over to help. Barney, number one fan and admirer of Norma Jean, looked worried and would stand over her and softly breathe on her face. Very lovingly he licked up and down her front leg, and began to groom her ankles. When he did not get the response he had hoped for, he walked around behind me where I sat on the ground massaging Norma Jean's back. Quietly and respectfully he leaned over me and blew warm air on my head. He nuzzled my hair and then stood quietly with me for a few minutes.

Doc Hasbrouk arrived and sadly confirmed what we had suspected — Norma Jean most likely had a stroke during the night. Her paralysis could have been due to the stroke, or even possibly due to a spinal chord injury if she had fallen when the stroke occurred. The kindest and most humane thing to do was to let her go.

With Debbie and Kevin holding her head and softly whispering comforting words to Norma Jean, with me sitting against her back with my arms around her, and with Russ massaging her legs, she received the dose of euthanasia. She was gone in seconds, seemingly ready to see her long-time best friend, Memphis Bell, once again. I am positive that Bell was waiting at the Rainbow Bridge to greet her and to show her the way across.

Norma Jean was a huge presence in the Happy

Trails barn in many ways. Russ lovingly referred to her "Enormous Jean". Every time I would pass her stall, I would pet and hug her gigantic head and straighten her mane away from her eyes.

Norma Jean had gained nearly 300lbs. since her arrival at Happy Trails, and finally this past summer, her once dull and lifeless coat simply gleamed in the sunlight and she had a bright spark in her eyes. During her last year at the sanctuary, everyone had commented on how Norma Jean had blossomed. Though I am sad that her time here on this earth with us was over, I am thrilled that she gets to be with her beloved Memphis Bell and enjoy the forever green pastures that bring her peace and happiness. I personally am extremely grateful to Norma Jean for the many valuable lessons she taught me, and I hope to one day hug her around her neck again and tell her thanks in person.

May you enjoy the wind in your mane, the company of your horse friends, cool flowing streams and lush pastures — until we meet again Norma Jean! We love you!

RECOMMENDED READING

**"Thinking In Pictures:
And Other Reports From
My Life With Autism"**

and

"Animals In Translation"

both by Temple Grandin, Ph.D.

Temple Grandin is well known for designing one third of all livestock handling facilities in the United States. She tried to make the process more humane and to help alleviate the fears and stress induced upon the frightened animals. Because she is autistic, Temple thinks, feels and experiences the world in ways that



are incomprehensible to the rest of us. She has a unique way of relating to animals, and her books help people understand how the animals think and feel. To learn more about this unique and compassionate individual, you can also check out **www.templegrandin.com**.

UPDATING OUR MAILING LIST

Happy Trails operates primarily on private donations, and we want to make sure that our funds are helping the rescued animals in the best way possible.

We will continue to send out newsletters to everyone on our mailing list throughout the end of this year. At the end of December, we will cutting back on the expense of bulk mailing, and only current donors (people who have made donations in the past year) will continue to receive our quarterly newsletter and occasional updates. Though we would like to include everyone in our mailing who simply enjoy receiving the newsletter, it is not financially possible to continue to do so. We appreciate and thank everyone who supports the sanctuary and our rescue efforts!

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

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

DONATION INFORMATION

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

☐\$25 ☐\$35 ☐\$55 ☐\$75 ☐\$125 ☐\$_____other

☐ Please use this donation where it is needed the most.

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

☐ Please keep me on your mailing list.

☐ Please take my name off your mailing list.

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

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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

You can sign up to receive occasional sanctuary news updates through e-mail. Log onto our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org and register to receive farm news!

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
Pot Belly Pig	\$25	\$300
Farm Hog	\$25	\$300
Horse/Pony	\$50	\$600

(As of this printing there are currently no sheep, goats or cows at the sanctuary — they have all been adopted!)



Hogan the pot belly pig asks, "Wouldn't you like to be a sponsor?"





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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

“My name is Houston....



...and I am one of the equine residents at Happy Trails. I'm a 19 year old handsome Arabian gelding.

Even though I had been ridden in my past, I received some basic riding training and ground manners

training with the sanctuary's very kind horse trainer, Ken Aberegg. After working with me for a few months, (and realizing what a quick learner I am I might add!), I was almost quiet enough for kids to ride.

However, I was then diagnosed with Cushings Disease and because of Cushings, I also foundered.

But with a lot of love and care and the right medication, I recovered very nicely.

My hooves are pretty close to being normal once again, thanks to the wonderful job done on them by Steve Hebrock, a (very patient) Certified Natural Hoof Care Practitioner.

I should be able to be ridden again very soon, but I'm not a very big guy. I'd prefer to find a smaller adult or an older teenager for my new human companion. This is a biased opinion, but I am very sweet, lovable, rather handsome, and have a great personality. I do need to take my medication every day to help control the Cushings, but it's not a big deal — I take it very nicely — I'm used to it! And have I mentioned how handsome I am???"

A special thanks goes out to Chuck Conring, Happy Trails webmaster, for handling all of our computer needs and donating TONS of time.

Check out our informative website at
www.happytrailsfarm.org