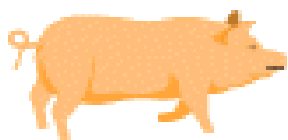


Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

FEBRUARY 2009

Newsletter



Their Role In Our Lives...

Animals Bringing People Together — The Story Of Shadow The Horse

The following story is one of hope and determination along with a few miracles thrown in there. There are a number of people whose lives are now intertwined due to their collective concern for the well-being of this one, precious horse. And though they originally came together for his ultimate good, the friendships that have formed and the bonds that have been created out of compassion for this Standardbred surely were the works of a much higher power. (A more detailed version of this story can be found on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.)

Yet another call came in to Happy Trails from an Amish farm in Holmes County. A young, blind Standardbred needed to retire from his life as a buggy horse. It was getting harder and harder to keep him straight when trotting down the road, and his family replaced him with a new horse. *Could Happy Trails take him into our Amish Horse Retirement Program?*

The sanctuary has been overwhelmed with desperate calls. What could we do to help this hard-working buggy horse? I explained

continued on page 3



letter from the director

Dear Friends Of Happy Trails,

Fleagle, my Basset Hound, gave me permission to forego my usual letter to re-run an essay by Jim Willis that was printed in last month's newsletter. To me, this essay speaks straight to our hearts, and I will again include my intro praising the work of all of our friends who work in animal rescue, for they are true heroes to me!

Annette Fisher

Annette Fisher
Executive Director



is a shared burden and the strength of numbers can accomplish much. If you think society and government are blind, it only serves to remind that we need to change

one mind at a time, one law after another.

We effect change by cooperation, not by isolation.

If you consider that we cannot save them all, and what difference does one make?, you ought to know the joy of the one who is saved.

Mourn those we cannot save, it is a eulogy to their being. Do not let their loss be in vain. Be

kind to yourself, remember your needs and those of your family and friends of every species.

Strive to be happy and healthy.

You are needed. Achieving

balance in life is a lifelong struggle.

We who help those who do not have all that they need should be among the most grateful for what we have.

Be proud of your accomplishments, not your opinions. The quality of your efforts is more important than the quantity.

Forgive your own deficiencies - sometimes your caring is sufficient. Everyone can do

something, it is up to you to do the thing you can.

A kind word and a gentle touch can change a life. If anger wells up within you, because people are the

problem, remember your humanity and that people are also the solution.

Concentrate on specific needs, pay attention to the individual - they make up the whole.

See beyond the unlovable, the unattractive, the impure and the wounded - see that their spirit is as deserving as the rest. Help them

heal. Their eyes are windows to their soul and the mirror of your sincerity.

All species, all beings, share this Earth in a chain of life.

Care more about what makes us alike than what separates us.

Policies, rules and regulations are not infallible. Apply them judiciously, interpret them wisely.

No decision based purely on money is ever the right one.

Listen to your heart. Sometimes we have to do that which we are most afraid of. Be true to yourself and your beliefs.

Family may abandon you, friends may disappoint you, strangers will ridicule you. People shun what they do not understand. Help them to understand - kindly, softly, gently.

Those who do not respect all life are to be pitied.

Often the wrongdoer is as in need of help as his victims.

Forgive, then teach by example.

Educate yourself or you cannot hope to teach others.

No action based in hatred is ever right and anger drowns out wisdom.

Yours may be a voice crying in the wilderness, make it a voice to be respected.

Listen more than you talk, be courteous and reliable. Learn to ask for help. Never waiver from the truth.

Know that it takes a lot of strength to cry. And with every defeat, we learn.

All Creation celebrates that which is in its own best interest.

The Children are our hope - nurture them.

Nature is our legacy - protect it.

The Animals are our brethren - learn from them.

Your rewards will not be material, but they will be meaningful, and the courage of your convictions can survive anything.

We are small boats cast adrift on a cruel sea, but someday the tide will turn toward a safe harbor.

No matter how dark the storm clouds, or deep the pain of heartbreak - never forget:

We are their heroes.

**Copyright © Jim Willis 2001,
Author of 'Pieces Of My Heart'
writings inspired by animals and nature'**

We Are Their Heroes

People who work animal rescue are some of the strongest, most courageous people that I know. They see and experience things that most people don't even want to hear about. They often stand strong for themselves, for the animals, and for those around them, and shed their tears in private after the rescue is complete. At times they are ridiculed for their decisions to stand up against the cruelty of man and are chastised when they choose to speak out against hideous forms of animal cruelty that is prevalent in our society today. This essay is to help our friends in animal rescue keep a good attitude, be compassionate toward the people who do not know how to be compassionate, and to keep focused on bringing peace and kindness to our world on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves...

If you worry that you have not made a difference, you have,
for only those who do not worry about it have not.

If you feel overwhelmed, if the weight of problems is too heavy to bear, remember it



The Story Of Shadow The Horse

(Continued from front page)

our situation, and politely asked what would become of their buggy horse if we did not intervene on his behalf. A very calm and matter-of-fact voice told me that he would be shot and buried on the property within the week. From past experiences, I knew that this was a simple matter of fact, not an idle threat.

Working with extremely limited time and no additional resources, we hoped and prayed for a miracle for him — a miracle that would happen within the week. And, as always here at Happy Trails, a miracle came through just in time — a brand new temporary foster home emerged in Holmes County, willing to take in this precious boy.

Enter Connie Miller, animal-lover, horse owner, and all-around kind and compassionate person, who agreed to bring the blind buggy horse to her home, where she would care for him and spoil him rotten. He couldn't have asked for a more beautiful home or for a more attentive foster mom! Connie even agreed to haul the horse for us.

On Wednesday, November 12th, Cari Ludrowski, a Happy Trails volunteer, and I arranged to meet Connie for the first time at the home of the blind Standardbred.

Shadow's Amish owner came out to greet us, and filled out the paperwork for our Amish Horse Retirement Program. We were directed to go

find the blind horse in the barn. The new replacement horse was in the pasture by himself.

I opened up the stall door, to see an extremely thin, malnourished horse standing on a concrete floor, piles of

manure climbing up around his ankles. "You might want to give him a drink before you take him," we were told. I looked around, and much to my amazement, there was no

water bucket in his stall. In order to get a drink, the horse needed to be led out into the aisle to a water trough. He trusted me completely as I led him out of his stall, down the aisle, and over to the water trough. He drank a long, long drink. Right then my heart broke in two for him.

With the amount of rescue groups that were already overflowing with abused and abandoned horses, what were our chances of finding a sanctuary with an opening available for a horse, let alone a *blind* horse?

As we put the word out about Shadow and his predicament (or, rather *our* predicament), we talked to many polite, overworked and overburdened folks in horse rescue. "We're full," was always the reply. "Good luck with that!"

Then came the unexpected message on the answering machine from HorseNet Horse Rescue in Mary-

land. "We have an opening for a blind horse — we can take him." Seriously? Someone had an opening for a blind horse?

Rob Willard, Happy Trails Board Member, offered to haul Shadow (Connie's pet name for him) to his new home in Mt. Airy, Maryland — a home that was ready to welcome their newest family member just in time for Christmas.

"Rosie needs a companion," said Ellen Williams, director of HorseNet. Rosie is an older, blind mare who would welcome a boyfriend! We made sure to tell Shadow that he would have a job waiting for him, and that his job would be to make friends with Rosie. He assured us that he was up for the challenge!

On Saturday, December 13th, Rob went to Connie's house and brought Shadow back to Happy Trails for the night. They would leave first thing Sunday morning on their journey. Connie had grown quite attached to her Shadow, and though she was happy that he found a sanctuary so quickly, parting was bittersweet. After tears and good-byes, Shadow loaded like the polite gentleman that he is, and headed

back to Happy Trails for the evening.

I felt a strange mix of emotions the next morning as I waved to Shadow as the truck pulled out of the driveway in the blackness of the 6am sky.

As the yellow trailer

lights disappeared down the driveway, I was thinking that I had just witnessed yet another Happy Trails miracle! What a strange turn of events, this horse going from being scheduled to be shot in the head to riding in luxury to a home where they actually knew how to care for blind horses.

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page 3



Barn manager at HorseNet.

Professor Oliver The Pig Teaches Some Valuable Lessons

Story By Mary Bittance

Who would think you could learn so many of life's lessons from a 900 pound pig?

When I first started to volunteer at Happy Trails, one of the first areas I worked in was the farm pig shelter where I met Oliver and his lady friends, Mrs. Beasley and Maria Pig. All three pigs are wonderful, massive adult farm pigs but Oliver is by far the most social, outgoing of the three.

My job was to strip out the old bedding in their shelter and put down fresh straw for them. I started stripping out the straw and kept, mysteriously, coming across twigs. Lots of them. I thought maybe they had been dragged in as the pigs came in from their yard. While I was doing this, Oliver was grumbling quite discontentedly but wasn't being aggressive at all. He just seemed upset with me. After the shelter was completely stripped, I brought in the new straw and started to spread it around. Apparently I wasn't fast enough because Oliver graciously came over and took the flakes away from me and started to shake them and spread them just where he wanted them. I just stood back and let him do his thing since he seemed very focused and wanted to make sure that each piece of straw was in the right place.

And then he did something that still makes me laugh (and explains all the twigs). He marched (and yes that was his attitude—he was on a mission) into the large yard and picked up a sizable twig and brought it into the shelter. He carefully put it down in the first place, stood back and eyed it carefully. He must have decided it wasn't quite right, and moved it to a new location. This

went on for three or four moves until he decided it was just right. Ten or twelve new twigs were then arranged in this same, careful, considered way. And only then did Oliver decide that his home was perfect and he snuggled in for a nap.

First lesson learned: If you're going to rearrange furniture, do it with considerable care.

By now it was time for dinner, so I brought the big bucket of pig pellets and added some rather soft, brown pears that were a little beyond perfect for people. Oliver gave me the biggest smile and slurped on those pears and pellets like they were a

feast fit for a King. The noises he makes (and all pigs do) when he eats makes the meal sound so delicious you think you're missing something great by not eating pig pellets. It's music to the ears.

Second lesson learned: Be grateful for the food you have even if it's not gourmet quality.

After dinner Oliver decided it was a very warm evening and perhaps it would be a good idea to take a stroll and cool off. I watched as he very deliberately stomped to the far end of the yard and lowered

himself into a mud wallow that he and Mrs. Beasley had made earlier in the day. Once he was in, he plopped down with such a thud that the only thing you could see were his bright eyes and happy smile. Oliver really enjoys life and spends a lot of time smiling. I was very hot and sweaty and the mosquitoes were annoying me so I went over to scratch his handsome head and almost joined him since he made the wallow look so inviting. I resisted, however, since I still had to get in my car and drive home.

Third lesson learned:

Take a break now and then and wallow in what you enjoy.

Finally, I came back later that



Oliver the pig takes a break between teaching classes....

night to be sure everyone was comfortable, and there was Oliver snuggled in the soft straw and snoring away, sounding absolutely content. I sat down beside him for awhile and rubbed his tummy and he made the most delightful relaxed sounds, smiling even in his sleep. This handsome pig knows how to enjoy his rest!

Final lesson learned:

Enjoy the day to the fullest and you'll enjoy an unhampered night's sleep.

Happy Trails Welcomes Megan Karol, Our New College Intern

Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, will wave good-bye to a Communications graduate in May and send her on her way, but not until she completes a 270 hour internship. And just who did she choose to do that internship with? You guessed it! None other than Ohio's very own Happy Trails.



college, it really revolves around the media, so this will be perfect. I love the animals, so being able to take them with me to the interviews/programs will be so much fun!"

What happens after graduation? "One of the reasons why I choose Communication as a degree

in college is because you can do so many things with it," said Megan. "I'm not about making a pretty penny, but more into doing something I enjoy. And, I know that is with animals. It's my passion, and I feel lucky to have discovered it at such a young age! So, if anything, I want to do something that involves helping, working with, or rescuing animals in some way, shape, or form."

Welcome, Megan, to the Happy Trails crew this spring!

To learn how you can incorporate a Happy Trails internship into your class curriculum, call us at 330-296-5914.

When asked how she came to choose Happy Trails as her facility of choice for her internship, Megan cheerfully responded with, "I chose Happy Trails for my internship experience mainly because of the animals and the fact that you are a non-profit organization. My interests seem to be geared toward non-profit organizations. The animal aspect is plain and simple: I absolutely love animals. They give me something that no human can. Every time I see an animal, I can't help but smile and find some quality about it that makes me love it dearly."

Megan has never worked with animal rescue before, so this experienced is definitely a first for her! Megan's responsibilities with Happy Trails will include writing several articles for our newsletters and website, acting as our representative with several area radio and television stations, and working diligently on several upcoming fundraisers. The responsibilities that she is most looking forward to are her experiences with TV & Radio. Megan said, "As a Communication major in

Pigs-In-A-Blanket

God bless the folks who have helped to keep our older and arthritic piggies warm and toasty this winter by dropping off old sleeping bags, comforters and heavy blankets!



The pot belly pigs snuggle up on cold winter nights not only underneath their heat lamps, but they also crawl underneath the warmth of the sleeping bags for a night of sweet piggy dreams. As always, we will continue to collect these three items throughout the year. We also use the blankets to assist in the comfort of the smaller animals during transport, such as the goats who head to OSU for treatment, or to line the bottom of the transport crates of the ducks and chickens when they visit the local avian vet. Of course the clean vet offices always prefer bedding of blankets as opposed to a messy bed of straw in their offices!

Sleeping bags, comforters and heavy blankets can be dropped off at the sanctuary on Sunday's between the hours of 1pm and 4pm. Please do NOT drop off sheets, pillow cases, cushions, or any items with stuffing in them, as these are items that we do not use.

On behalf of the warm and content pot belly pigs, Willis the pig sends out a great big thank you to everyone who has donated bags upon bags of warm bedding for their winter care!

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man."

***Mahatma Gandhi
(1869 - 1948)***

Volunteer Ilona Urban Creates A Happy Trails Presentation For Her Church

Retired school teacher, animal-lover and dedicated Happy Trails volunteer, Ilona Urban asked us if



Ilona showers hugs and kisses on all the horses at Happy Trails, but especially on one of her favorites, an older mare named Sweetart!

she could put together a presentation for her church, The United Church Of Christ in Kent. On the second Sunday of every month the church features a guest speaker who is involved in some type of community service. These presentations are called the Second Sunday Seminars.

We were thrilled that Ilona would ask to do this for Happy Trails, so we even offered to send along some of furry and feathered representatives, such as Natasha

the goat and Nacho and Nat, the roosters, who enjoy visiting folks on behalf of the sanctuary. When asked why Ilona chose to do a presentation on animal cruelty and the rescue and educational work of Happy Trails, Ilona had a quick reply, "It affects everyone's lives."

Like many, many Akron Beacon Journal readers, Ilona first read about Happy Trails in one of Connie Bloom's now infamous animal columns. Again, like most people, she saved the article and one thing after another came up, preventing her from volunteering. Finally, a second article caught her attention, and she then made the call to attend a volunteer orientation, and she has been hooked on the farm animals and horses ever since. When pressed to choose which animals were her favorites, Ilona laughs, "Like the song says, 'love the one you're with!' And I love them all!"

Many thanks to Ilona and the United Church Of Christ for choosing the sanctuary as their featured presentation!

If you would like to schedule a presentation regarding the animal rescue work of Happy Trails for your non-profit organization, church group, school group, or other social gathering, please give us a call at 330-296-5914.

Shadow The Horse

(continued from page 3)

I was thinking of all the lives he touched and all the people he brought together — people who may otherwise would not have met.

By helping Shadow, we showed the need for the continuation of our Amish Horse Retirement Program, met a truly compassionate foster home in Connie Miller, had the opportunity to connect with so many new friends in horse rescues across the United States, and have made a life-long friend and mentor in Elle at HorseNet. Rob got involved and offered to provide transportation; a humane officer friend, Jen, agreed to travel along to help also; other folks pitched in to help pay for fuel costs for the trip; Happy Trails volunteers stopped by to meet, greet and say goodbye to Shadow; and Rosie the horse now has a companion who she adores. To top that off, a Happy Trails supporter made a generous donation toward Shadow's care and even went to visit him in Maryland after he settled in! So in the long run, did we really help Shadow, or did he really help everyone else? I am going to guess that it's a blessed combination of these two trains of thought.

So in the spirit of working together to promote our friends in animal rescue, if the story of Shadow the horse has touched your heart, please help support HorseNet Horse Rescue in Mt. Airy, Maryland. HorseNet has nearly 100 rescued horses between their two locations, and at Shadow's location, he has nine other blind horse friends, including Rosie. Be sure to check out their website, and then tell Elle "thank you" on behalf of Shadow and Happy Trails!

HorseNet Horse Rescue, Inc
P.O. Box 358
Mount Airy, MD 21771
Ellen Williams, Director
info@horsenethorserescue.org
www.horsenethorserescue.org

Please tear out the adoption flier at the right and hang it up in a business or public venue near you!



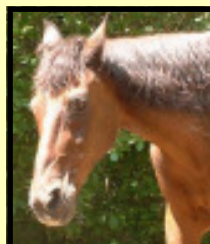
Rescued Horses In Need Of Homes

(330) 296-5914 • www.happytrailsfarm.org

An adoption counselor will be happy to discuss our animal adoptions.
We do not approve barbed wire fence.



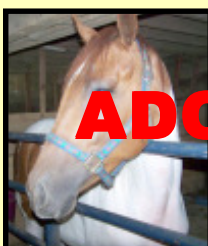
Sophie — 17 year old beautiful bay Standardbred mare, excellent for an advanced beginner. Adoption Fee: \$450



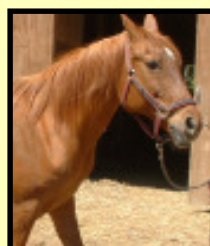
Romeo — 13 year old bay Standardbred gelding. Has cancer, but still hopes to have a family of his own. *Adoption Fee



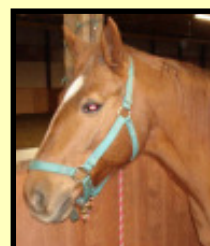
Houston — 21 year old Arabian gelding, has Cushings under control with daily meds. *Adoption Fee



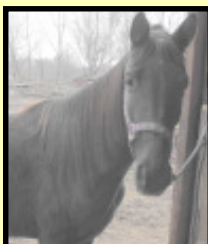
Polaris — 3 year old brown and white Palomino gelding, not under saddle, not broke. Adoption Fee: \$450



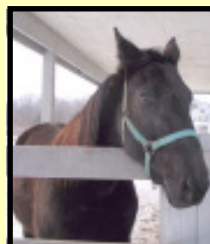
Callie — 15 year old chestnut Arabian mare; not rideable due to an old knee injury. Very sweet. *Adoption Fee



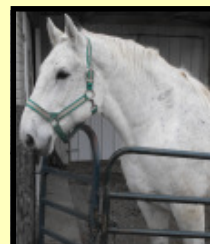
Kai — 10 year old chestnut mare, sound and healthy, requires an experienced handler. Adoption Fee: \$450



Tuscany — 3 year old gaited mare; very petite, needs a smaller rider; not broke. Adoption Fee: \$350



Nick — 18 year old big black Standardbred gelding, retired as an Amish buggy horse. *Adoption Fee



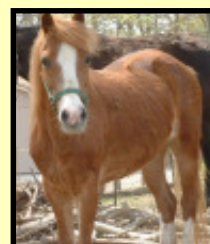
Butch — 15 year old white Percheron draft gelding, retired as an Amish plow horse. Can ride, but is losing his vision. Adoption Fee: \$250



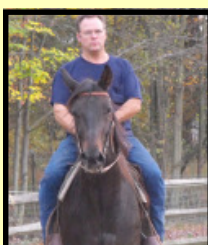
Juliette — 20 year old black Standardbred mare; retired Amish buggy horse; excellent to ride. No health issues. Adoption Fee: \$350



Baby Hurley — 6 month old baby Quarter horse — full of energy and loves attention! Adoption Fee: \$250



Susie Pony — 21 year old pony mare, loves children and other horses. Has Cushings under control with meds. *Adoption Fee



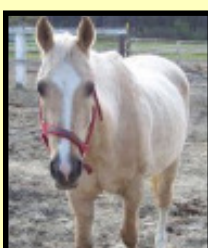
Takado — 17 year old Quarter-mix gelding; needs an experienced rider. Adoption Fee: \$450



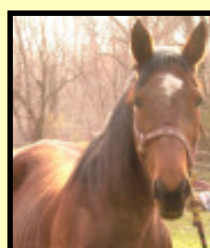
Peppermint Candy — brown and white 20-something mare. Most loving horse in the world — would be great pet for kids! *Adoption Fee



Solera — 10 year old Arabian mare, sound and healthy. Requires an experienced rider/handler. Adoption Fee: \$450



Sweettart — 20-something year old Palomino Quarter horse mare; has chronic mastitis; very sweet and gentle. *Adoption Fee



Hurricane Jenny — 18 year old gorgeous bay Standardbred mare, ok'd for riding at a walk — calm and gentle pet. Adoption Fee: \$250



Anya — 17 year old red roan. Requires a experienced handler and a lighter rider. Adoption Fee: \$450

*Adoption fees for Pasture Pals, non-rideable horses, will be waived for a limited period. Check with the sanctuary at 330-296-5914.

Two Happy Trails Volunteers Give Their Perspective On Volunteerism

article by Megan Karol

Alex Hale has been a dedicated volunteer at Happy Trails since January of 2002.

He first read about the sanctuary needing help in the Akron Beacon Journal. We were asking for someone who had a truck and could help us pick up feed for the animals. Sure enough, Alex had a truck and wanted to help.

While at the farm, he then received a tour and saw everything that makes Happy Trails what it is. An eager and anticipative Alex explained to Annette Fisher, Executive Director of Happy Trails, how much he loves to build and fix things. He then learned that the sanctuary was in need of a horse barn, and this is what first introduced Alex to what he could accomplish and fulfill at the sanctuary. Today, our board members, volunteers, and horses have Alex to thank for our horse barn and this is one of Alex's biggest accomplishments made ever while being a volunteer.

Each and every Sunday for Alex is committed to Happy Trails. He likes to get an early start and enjoy a nice cup of coffee and good conversation with friends Annette and Russ Fisher before a hard days work. Over the years, Annette and Russ have become like family to him after moving to Ohio many years ago and leaving his family behind in California. The nice people he has met at the sanctuary is what he attributes to one of his biggest accomplishments. He has made a lot of friends through volunteering and has come to know a great number of individuals. He gets along with most people and



Alex Hale, long-time Happy Trails volunteer and dedicated animal-lover, built the outdoor rooster yards for the ex-cockfighting roosters. Alex is quite handy with power tools and can fix or build just about anything!

describes himself as a “people person.” He takes joy in working with the other volunteers and that is something that keeps him coming back to help out.

Alex also knows there is work to be done at the sanctuary and he has the talent, skill, and craft to do it. There is a lot to be fixed and repaired at the farm, and he has what it takes to get the job done. He also knows they really need the help, so every Sunday that he comes out he knows there will be something for him to aid and assist with.

Farm animals remind Alex of his childhood. Growing up on a farm, Alex was exposed to cows, chickens, and pigs as a little boy. He recalls Joy, the cow, as being his favorite animal at Happy Trails and can still catch a glimpse in his mind of her adoring face. He treated her special with valentines, cards, and other sorts and keeps fond memories

of her in his thoughts. Today, he takes pleasure in working with the animals at Happy Trails and has also learned a lot about them, especially horses. Annette has educated him enormously about horses and the care, attention, and medical expertise that they need.

What Alex likes the most about Happy Trails is keeping the animals warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This can be a huge challenge for us at the sanctuary, but many challenges never seem too large for Alex. His motivation and positive disposition give him the advantage for what he needs to accomplish anything he starts. He definitely sees himself working with animals in the future, for that is how he started his life. He also wants to continue coming out to Happy Trails to help out and volunteer because its convenient, close, and he enjoys the farm animals. Volunteering has also made a difference in his life. It not

only allows him to spend his Sundays more productively, but it has enabled him to learn a lot about both people and animals. Alex will continue to be a true asset to the sanctuary and his help will be forever treasured.

For one year now, Leah Franchi has been a committed volunteer at Happy Trails.

While reading the Akron Beacon Journal morning newspaper, she came across an article asking for volunteers. She was immediately drawn for she has always wanted to volunteer somewhere and give her time. The fact that Happy Trails just so happen to be a non-profit organization that rescues animals made it even better.

Having a full-time job that Leah works during the week, convenient hours to come out to help was a must. The greatest part about Happy Trails was that they were looking for

people who could come out and help on the weekends. With Leah's Saturday's free, that ended up being the perfect day for her to contribute her time. Today, every Saturday for Leah is dedicated to Happy Trails and she couldn't think of a better way to spend her day.

A pure and simple love and joy for animals is what keeps Leah coming back to volunteer. She really, really enjoys what she does at the sanctuary and likes the hard work too. Having the opportunity to work around the animals and execute hard physical tasks are two combinations Leah enjoys.

Her biggest accomplishment at the farm has been getting to know the animals and becoming comfortable around them. Previously to Happy Trails, Leah had never been exposed to farm animals. This was a complete and totally new experience for her. After she had been volunteering for a month or so, she soon came to know the animals and their needs.

She also learned how each of them is different and carries a contrasting personality with them. Becoming educated in what the animals need and how to care for them was a learning goal Leah had that today she has accomplished.

She is a huge animal lover and cares deeply about all of the animals at the sanctuary. However, there are two animals she holds close to her heart. The first one is Tuscany the horse. Leah finds her sweet, timid, and beautiful. She was a volunteer at the time Tuscany was rescued. Seeing the change and amazing recovery that Tuscany went through makes her even more special to Leah. The second animal she holds close to her heart is Mona Lisa the farm pig. Leah

can't help but smile when she rolls over to get her big, fat tummy rubbed!

Since Leah had never been around farm animals before, adjusting to their size was a bit of a challenge, especially with the horses. Happy Trails houses draft horses, which can weigh up to 2,000 lbs. At first, Leah was a bit timid around them because of their large size. She soon learned that she has to be the one in control and in demand, even though she belittles in size compared to them. She now has a strong hold on who she is and controls the horses very well. Another challenge for Leah is getting all of her work done. Since she is so task oriented, she really prefers to complete everything that needs done. Unfortunately, her Saturdays at the sanctuary go by quickly and she has learned that sometimes it's just impossible to get everything done. However, over the past year of volunteering, she has learned to be more time efficient, and this has truly shown through her work.

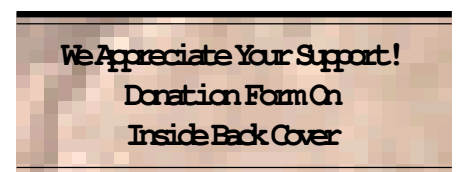
Leah without doubt sees herself volunteering at the sanctuary for many years to come and also sees herself working with animals in the future. It's important to her to volunteer and give her time, and she also feels it's a very beneficial way to spend her Saturdays. We at Happy Trails adore the fact that we have a volunteer who is so compassionate, warm, and sympathetic about animals. Leah will continue to be an undeniable volunteer at the farm and her help is greatly appreciated.

Wondering how you can get involved?

Check out all the volunteer opportunities on pages 10 and 11!



Leah Franchi has been volunteering at Happy Trails and working with rescued farm animals for about a year now, and she sees herself continuing to volunteer for many more years to come! Here she gives a smooch to one of the new baby chickens at the Back To Nature Walk fundraiser, where she worked as a volunteer for the entire day!



Join The Happy Trails Get Involved Campaign

Many animal-friendly folks often ask us the same question: "How can I personally get involved in animal rescue?"

*The answer is that there are many, **many** ways in which you can get involved!*

Do you have talents to help out with...?

• FUNDRAISING/GRANT WRITING:

Our fundraising committee is what enables us to generate the much-needed income to continue our rescue work each year. Medical and veterinary expenses, shelter upkeep and repairs, nutritional needs such as grain and hay, and transport costs definitely take up the majority of our meager budget. If you are willing to donate some of your time to helping us plan and carry out some of our fundraising efforts for 2009, we would welcome the extra sets of hands! *Call Annette Fisher at 330-296-5914.*

• ANIMAL TRANSPORT/HAULING:

If you own a truck and trailer and are able to help haul animals to or from vet appointments, pick them up from a cruelty location and transport them to either Happy Trails or another safe



facility, haul loads of hay and straw, or take an animal to their new home, your ability to help us haul would be most appreciated. A reliable, safe truck and trailer is a must when hauling rescued animals, and at this time, Happy Trails does not own a truck. Folks with one-ton or heavy-duty trucks are especially valuable for our draft horse rescues. *Call Rob Willard at 330-592-2763.*

• VOLUNTEERING AT THE SANCTUARY:

Adults at least 18 years old or teens that are at least 16 years old, are welcome to sign up to volunteer at the sanctuary itself. These volunteers handle the daily care of the facility and of the animals by mucking out stalls, scrubbing water buckets, mending fences, making repairs, cleaning piggy shelters, providing the animals with fresh bedding, etc. It's all outdoor/barn work, so our volunteers dress in layers and boots to prepare for our unpredictable weather. We care for the animals 24/7 whether it's raining or snowing or doing anything in between. *Call Cari Ludrowski at 216-870-4787 or Sue Buttermore at 330-388-2106.*



• EMERGENCY ANIMAL-RESCUE

CREW: When Happy Trails is called to assist any Ohio county in an animal emergency, our animal emergency crew tries to respond as quickly as possible to provide animal transport, arrange foster homes, facilitate the arrival of a vet, catalog and photograph



the animals on the property, and work in cooperation with local enforcement for a good outcome for the case. Though it is always important that volunteers are able to follow instructions safely and efficiently, it is especially important to be able to do so at a cruelty scene. We are hoping to plan a seminar for our emergency crew volunteers later this spring. *Call Rob Willard at 330-592-2763.*

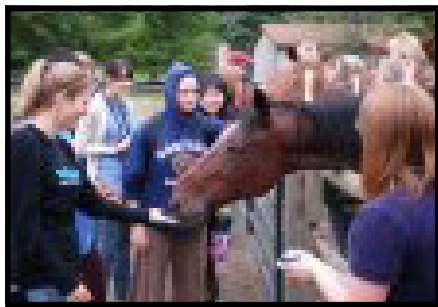
• ANIMAL FOSTER HOMES:

Happy Trails is realistic in that we ourselves cannot afford to pay for an unlimited amount of animals in our foster home program. However, in the event of an emergency, many other counties call on Happy Trails to provide a list of folks available to help them out in an animal emergency, and you would be working directly with other counties and other rescue groups. We are always helping them find foster homes for horses, pot belly pigs, goats, sheep and cows. The ideal foster homes have safe fencing, a knowledge of the type of animal they wish to foster, and an ability to quarantine a new animals or herd of animals away from your other farm pets. In many cases and depending on the county requesting assistance, foster homes may be responsible for the cost of the animals in their care. *Call Mary Bittance at 440-834-0233.*



• TOUR GUIDES/GREETERS:

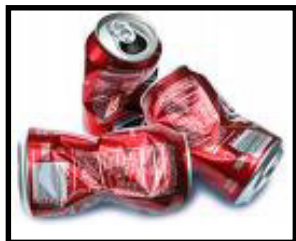
Attention senior citizens and folks who do not feel drawn to do manual labor!



This spring, Happy Trails will once again be scheduling tours of the sanctuary throughout the nice-weather months. If you have the gift of gab and enjoy meeting people, giving personal tours or acting as a weekends greeter at the sanctuary might be just the way you can get involved! Tour guides are taught the stories of the animals and trained to give our visitors an enjoyable, pleasant visit with the rescued animals. Call Cari Ludrowski at 216-870-4787.

• RECYCLE FOR THE ANIMALS:

Happy Trails collects aluminum cans and ink cartridges regularly. The funds collected from our recycle program have helped to fund quite a number of sanctuary projects. Find out where you can help us set up can and ink cartridge collection sites, and how to go about doing that! Call Sharon Barnard at 330-329-9727.



• **SPECIAL PROJECTS/SKILLED LABOR:** The sanctuary is ALWAYS under constructions somewhere, with repairs to be made, fencing to be installed and buildings to modify. If you would like to dedicate your special skill to assist the rescued animals at the sanctuary, we are especially in need of the following skilled labor for this spring:



painters, electricians, dry-wall workers, concrete folks, construction workers, and professional tree-trimmers. We are attempting to complete our new sanctuary office, run electric to the animal-areas in the back of the sanctuary, finish construction on the farm pig feeding pavilion, get a concrete aisle poured in the horse barn, and get dirt and stall mats put in the horse's stall, among a host of other projects too! Call Alex Hale at 330-606-2872.

• **MONTHLY SPONSORS:** Our monthly animal sponsors become a big part of the animal's lives, and the sponsors often visit their sponsored animal regularly to pet and bestow special treats on them (and not to mention, take lots of pictures)! The animals most in need of monthly sponsors are the ones who may never be adopted, due to health or age issues. Your sponsorship helps to provide them with the needed medical care, nutritional needs and safe and warm shelter to help them have a peaceful and comfortable life at the sanctuary. Call Sharon Barnard at 330-329-9727.



• **FARM ANIMAL VISITATION PROGRAM:** Petting and visiting with farm animals often brings great joy and happiness to the senior citizen residents of area nursing homes. Natasha the goat, Nacho the rooster, and an assortment of rescued farm animals created a program where they can visit with the folks in nursing homes. You will learn how to handle the visiting animals as well as visit safely



and comfortably with people in wheel-chairs. Our volunteers help with keeping the animals and their areas clean during their visit, and help with passing out bookmarks or other memorabilia about the animals. Call Cheri Rider at 330-301-1552.

• ADOPT A RESCUED ANIMAL:

How do you go about adopting a rescued animal and adding them to your farm pet family?

Choose the type of animal you are seeking, and then meet with an adoption counselor to visit the animals in need of homes. The adoption counselor can help explain how to fill out the adoption paperwork, and what we look for in an adoptive home! Each animal that leaves the sanctuary and finds a permanent home, opens up space for Happy Trails to bring in yet another abused or neglected farm animal! Call Mary Bittance at 440-834-0233.



Don't let another year pass you by without getting involved — we need you, the animals need you, and our society needs your involvement in animal rescue!

Get Involved In Animal Rescue!

Call the sanctuary today at 330-296-5914.

Quote To Share

*"A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal."
Proverbs 12:10*

A Note From Our Friends At Farm Sanctuary



farmsanctuary
rescue • education • advocacy

Here (at right) is a letter that was sent out by Farm Sanctuary to Ohio residents regarding the latest animal cruelty that continues to infest our wonderful state of Ohio. Remember that Ohio is already number 50, out of all 50 states, with regards to animal cruelty issues and lax laws to protect animals from inhumane and abusive treatment. And keep in mind that poultry is *not even* on the books — **our feathered friends are not protected by Ohio laws in any way**. Is allowing such a horrific facility here in Ohio how we want to show our compassion for animals as Ohio residents? I am guessing that most people who want our animals treated kindly and humanely will simply not stand for more of the same of what we already deal with here in our home state. Check out the information that Farm Sanctuary provides, and then help prevent additional animal cruelty from residing in Ohio. Thanks, Ohio residents, for caring enough to speak out on behalf of the animals!

And make sure to check out http://www.farmsanctuary.org/issues/factoryfarming/eggs/bc_evidence.html and <http://www.farmsanctuary.org/issues/factoryfarming/eggs/gemperle.html>

How Do You Get Animal Cruelty Laws Changed In Ohio?

Often humane officers are not able to remove a suffering animal from a situation of abuse or neglect due to our bottom-of-the-barrel Ohio laws. People often ask what can they do about it. "Change the laws," is always my answer. "How do we do that?" they ask.

Well, here's exactly how you do that!

Sign up to attend Humane Lobby Day on Thursday, February 12th, 2009, in Columbus at https://community.hsus.org/humane/events/lobbyday_ColumbusOH_February12_details.tcl.

What is Lobby Day?

Humane Lobby Day is an event sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States where citizens who wish to protect our animals gather to learn and practice lobbying for animal protection laws at the state level. It is a

full-day event that includes a lobbying workshop and an overview of relevant bills in your state legislature. Appointments are made for you with the legislators that represent you, so you can visit with the legislators face to face and ask for animal-friendly votes.

Your meeting will generally only last a few minutes and you'll be given specific talking points and training on what to cover during the meeting.

I would encourage everyone who has the time to attend to do so. People always complain about our lax animal-cruelty laws, but not too many people want to take *or make* the time to do anything to change the laws. **HERE'S OUR CHANCE** to have our voices heard with our elected officials!

One law at a time, we can make a difference.

Ohio: Are You OK With Cramming Six Million More Hens Into Battery Cages?

Dear Annette,

Residents in Union County are fighting the construction of what would be Ohio's largest egg farm confining six million hens on a single parcel of land and they need your help!

As the country's second-largest egg-producing state, Ohio is already home to more than 26 million laying hens. Nearly all of these hens are confined in battery cages that prevent them from standing upright, spreading their wings, or even taking more than a few steps for their entire lives. Now, Iowa-based Hi-Q Egg Products LLC is looking to build and operate a six-million-chicken egg factory that would produce 70,000 tons of chicken manure annually in <http://action.farmsanctuary.org/site/R?i=P2RINlwca57OaNAYw7wRVw..> York Township in northwestern Union County. If this is approved, when combined with existing facilities in that area, it would mean the confinement of 11 million chickens — nearly the entire human population of Ohio — within a three-mile radius. Please take a minute to spread compassion by voicing your opposition to this mega-egg factory being built in your backyard. http://action.farmsanctuary.org/site/R?i=ZngRW6KX-M_lqV7loz-oOQ..

Thank you,

Gene

www.farmsanctuary.org

Highly Recommended Reading

Slaughterhouse

by Gail Eisnitz, Chief Investigator
With Humane Farming Association

From the Publisher

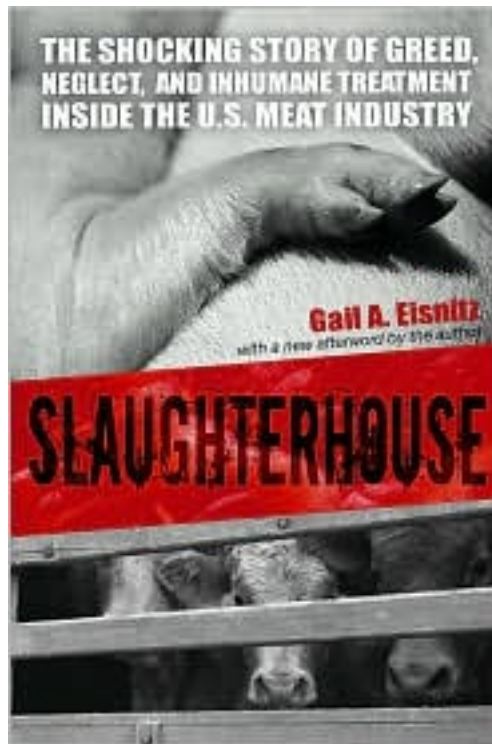
What started out, with a single complaint about a Florida slaughterhouse turned into a tale of intrigue and suspense as investigator Gail A. Eisnitz unearthed more startling information about the meat and poultry Americans consume. This shocking story follows Eisnitz as she becomes submerged in a slaughterhouse subculture, venturing deeper and deeper into the lives of the workers.

Slaughterhouse takes readers on a frightening but true journey from one slaughterhouse to another throughout the country. Along the way we encounter example after example of mistreated animals...intolerable working conditions...lax standards...the slow, painful deaths of children killed as a result of eating contaminated meat...the author's battle with the major television networks...and a dangerously corrupt federal agency that chooses to do nothing rather than risk the wrath of agribusiness...before the whole affair is blown wide open in this powerful expose.

In an effort to understand how such rampant violations could occur right under the noses of U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors - the individuals charged with enforcing humane regulations in slaughterhouses - Eisnitz examines the inspectors' track record for enforcing meat and poultry safety regulations, their primary responsibility. Following a long paper trail, she learns that contaminated meat and poultry are pouring out of federally inspected slaughterhouses and, not surprisingly, deaths from food-borne illness have quadrupled in the United States in the last fifteen years. Determined to tell the whole story, Eisnitz then examines the physical price paid by employees working in one of America's most dangerous industries, including suffering disfiguring injuries to crippling repetitive motion disorders to alcoholism.

Quote from established author, Peter Singer:

"Whether you eat meat or not — if you care about humans or animals — this book is a must read."



Excerpt From The SATYA Interview With Gail Eisnitz

<http://www.satyamag.com/jan98/farming.html>

Q: How do you answer those who say that the industry is only responding to demand?

A: The only thing I can say is, read my book. Yes, it is true that meat-eating consumers may be subsidizing the outlandish production rates and resulting atrocities through their demand for meat. **But people do not demand that pigs and chickens be boiled to death, that cows be skinned and dismembered alive.** The demand that exists is the direct result of deceptive advertising, of USDAs rubber-stamp

approval that meat and poultry have been produced according to the law. **The public demanded passage of the Humane Slaughter and Meat Inspection Acts with the expectation that animals would be humanely slaughtered and meat would be contamination free.** The public assumes that when it makes its purchases at the store particularly when the product has the governments seal of approval on it, the product is not contaminated and the animal was humanely slaughtered.

If people knew what they were really getting, they might not want to support such a system. That's why I wrote *Slaughterhouse*: to provide the average American consumer (who eats more than 200 pounds of meat and poultry a year) with the information they need to make more intelligent choices about the food they eat.

Meet Our Equine Trainers, Ken Aberegg and Dave Fedor

Whenever Happy Trails has a horse that needs some work, we turn to one of our professional equine trainers, Ken Aberegg or Dave Fedor. The old-fashioned training term “breaking a horse” definitely does not apply when working with either of these gentlemen, because the horses are definitely not broken when they’re done working with them. The horses are kinder and gentler and easier to handle for the average person, making them more adoptable and more appealing to someone who may not be that savvy of a horse handler.

Dave Fedor of Ravenna is a unique combination of horse-trainer and Christian minister, combining his love of horses and his compassion for people. Dave specializes in reining training and more performance-type of training

which requires a higher discipline and a good, solid foundation. Dave believes that his approach works on all horses, even the Happy Trails rescued horses. “Go back to the basics,” said Dave. “Any horse that’s ‘broken’ can be fixed if you want to take the time. You *can* erase a background.” Dave erases their background by treating them as an unbroke horse. He and the horse start on the same page. “You have to treat them like a heard animal. If you don’t treat them like that, they will find your weakness and exploit it.”

Dave, who gentled his first horse at age 19 (he is now 55!) is often up for a challenge. Like many people who are simply in need of guidance and direction in their lives, Migisi, an older Happy Trails Quarter horse with definite ideas about being in charge, changed his

attitude and his behavior after three months of training and trail-riding with Dave. Not only did Migisi settle down, he became a very friendly and easy-to-work-around kind of guy, who was adopted by a family who now simply loves him! It’s amazing what patience and perseverance can do, and Dave certainly has both!

Dave is currently in his third month of working with Solera, a Happy Trails Arabian

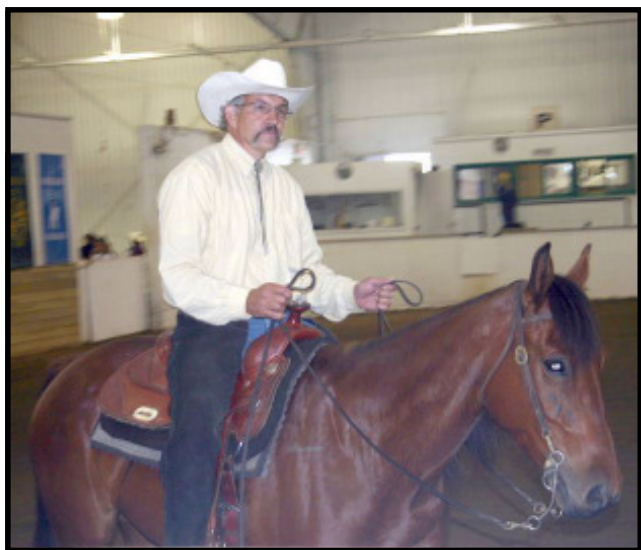
mare in need of manners and time in the saddle. He feels that this beautiful chestnut 10 year old mare will do best in a home with an experienced handler and someone who has the time to spend with her regularly.

When he’s not working with just horses, he’s working with horses and people! As a minister of the Cowboy Church, Dave has been holding a cowboy church service on the last Saturday of every month at Blair’s Riding Stables on the Hudson/Twinsburg border. You can get more information about the Cowboy Church at <http://blairsridingstable.com/cowboych.html>.

If you have a horse that is challenging your meager horse abilities and is in need of additional training, you can contact Dave either at 330-425-RIDE, or on his cell at 330-612-0050.

Ken Aberegg of Alliance is well-known in the horse community for his quit wit and entertaining sense of humor — and oh ya, and for his ability to train unruly horses, too!

The most recent rescued horse that Ken has been working with is Butch, a 15 year old white Percheron gelding that recently retired into our Amish Horse Retirement Program. Butch is a special needs horse, but that didn’t deter Ken whatsoever! Butch has lost much of his eyesight, and spent his entire life as a plow horse on an Amish farm. So what does Ken do to help Butch get a good home? Why, he works with him to build his confidence and gets him started under saddle! Butch has been doing great with his riding training, but will need a confident handler to work with him due to his vision issues. Butch enjoys having a job to do, and will do best if he can be ridden in a safe environment, such as an



Dave’s passion is working with reining horses, such as the one shown here.

arena, regularly. This is but one of many rescued horses that Ken has welcomed from Happy Trails.



Ken Aberegg relaxes aboard Butch White Feather, a 15 year old white Percheron gelding who is losing his eyesight. Butch is available for adoption (Ken is not...).

We always have to laugh at his motto of "Don't cuss...call Ken!" So, if your horses is causing you to use some colorful words to describe his antics and you have reached the end of your lead-line, give Ken a call at 330-821-2056. Ken is also open to take your questions over the phone and will offer you some helpful advice on how to get along with your horse.

And when you do talk to Ken, make sure to ask about Hot Shot Ott and Tequila. And no, those aren't his two new favorite drinks, but rather, they are his two new favorite (and only) mules! Ken had always wanted a mule (no, we're not sure why either). So now Ken is also into training mules, so if your favorite stubborn mule is giving you

a hard time, ask Ken for some help with training your long-eared friend.

Ken also helps to raise funds for the Happy Trails equine programs by taking the horse tack and related horsy items that we collect to a local auction. After Happy Trails sorts out our tack donations and saves what is needed at the sanctuary, any extras or duplicate items are sent to Ken. He then carefully goes through the tack and puts the items into categories or makes repairs as needed. This valuable service helps provide funds to care for the rescued horses. So if you or your other horsy friends have any gently used tack that you were thinking about getting rid of, give us a call and what we can't use here at the sanctuary, we'll be happy to move it along with Ken for the benefit of our equine rescue programs!

Many thanks to both of these gentlemen for their time and talents and the risks that they take daily to work with our abused and neglected furry friends! They themselves are a combination of skill, talent, patience, understanding, and experience. They are brave and sometimes broken. They are never paid enough for the risks they take daily, so our hats are off to the trainers who help our horses to be calm and safe to work with for us and for you, their adopters!

Adopt A Rescued Horse!
330-296-5914

USDA Fines Leroy Baker, Owner Of Sugarcreek Auction, \$162,800

After years of getting away with animal cruelty, the USDA has now fined Leroy Baker \$162,800 for violations of animal safety regulations. Our compassionate public can now follow the latest updates to this story at <http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=104662&provider=top>.

Go to Animals Angels link and click on achievements to see the Federal Motor Carrier violations.
<http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/SafeStat/DriverSEA.asp?ais=&DOT=484764&WhichForm=>
Here is an excerpt from the violations review:

Vehicle Information

Unit Type Make State License # VIN #
1 TRUCK TRACTOR PTRB OH PVA6527
2 SEMI-TRAILER MHEB ME 0986008

Violations

Section Code Unit OOS Violation
Category Violations Discovered
•392.2S D N SPEEDING Speeding
•392.5(A) D Y ALCOHOL Poss/use/
under inflnce alcohol-4hrs prio duty
•395.3(A)(2) D N 10/15 HOURS 14
hour rule violation (Property)
•395.3(A)(2) D Y 10/15 HOURS 14
hour rule violation (Property)
•395.3(B) D Y 60/70/80 HOURS 60/
70 hour rule violation (Property)

Be sure to not only read the newspaper article, but on the right of your screen, you can view the television news coverage video with Tom Meyer. Most of the footage shown is from the Happy Trails/Frog Pond mass horse rescue on May 9th, 2008.

You can also read the entire Happy Trails article, including details about our mass Sugarcreek horse rescue on May 9th, 2008, with Frog Pond Draft Horse Rescue, and a request to back-yard horse breeders regarding our horse over-population, at http://happytrailsfarm.org/artman/publish/article_262.shtml.

Create A Portobello Ragu Masterpiece, Compliments Of Chef Scot Jones

Chef Scot Jones of Akron's own Vegi-Terranean Restaurant helps you prepare an animal-friendly meal for this week!

VegiTerranean, a vegan restaurant in Akron created by rocker Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders, truly has *thee most* incredible food. Be sure to treat yourself to a dinner delight, and check out their website at www.thevegiterranean.com!



Linguine With Portobello-Mushroom Ragu

3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp. minced garlic
1 sweet onion, minced
2 medium portobello mushrooms, destemmed and sliced into 1/4-inch-thick strips
1/2 tsp. minced fresh rosemary
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1/2 cup dry red wine
1 1/2 cups canned whole tomatoes, drained and chopped
1 lb. whole-wheat linguine
Vegan Parmesan, to taste

- Heat the olive oil in a skillet. Add the garlic and onions and sauté over medium heat until the onions are translucent. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are tender and have released their liquid. Stir in the rosemary, salt, and pepper and cook for 30 seconds.

- Add the wine and simmer until reduced by half, about 3 minutes. Add the tomatoes and simmer until the sauce is thickened, about 5 to 8 minutes. Adjust the seasonings.

- Meanwhile, cook the linguine according to the package directions.

- Toss the linguine with the mushroom sauce. Serve immediately with vegan Parmesan.

Makes 4 servings



This recipe is highly recommended by one big pink and very inquisitive Celita Pig. She enjoys endorsing delicious animal-friendly and cruelty-free recipes.

Excellent Recipes!

How about trying a meal or two this week that is animal-friendly, cruelty-free and heart-healthy? The scrumptious dinner recipe above is completely free of any animal products (they call a meal like this "vegan"). We'll do our best to feature at least one animal-friendly recipe in each newsletter!

Deciding to choose more compassionate and heart-healthy foods?

Check out a great assortment of delicious vegan recipes at...

- <http://www.veganconnection.com/recipes/index.htm>
- <http://www.pcrm.org/health/veginfo>
- www.vegforlife.com
- www.goveg.com
- www.fatfreevegan.com

Misc. Tidbits

Tribute To Herbert And Humphrey

In early December we had to say good-bye to two of our duck residents, Herbert, a blind white Pekin duck, and Humphrey, also a white male Pekin duck. We helped them to cross the Rainbow Bridge due to varied health issues that came to take away their quality of life. May they now be splashing about in big, beautiful ponds and enjoying the company of lots of other duck friends!

Raffle Ticket Winners

Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the two Christmas gift baskets. Congratulations to our lucky winners — Claudia Lynn for Holiday Basket #1 and Barb Wible for Holiday Basket #2.

Save Those Aluminum Cans!

We have been happily overwhelmed with aluminum cans — keep 'em coming! Our Happy Trails aluminum can recycle program helps fund many projects here at the sanctuary. We most certainly appreciate everyone who saves their aluminum can and drops them off at the sanctuary on Sundays between 1pm and 4pm. Don't forget to ask your friends and co-workers to help us save can also!

Chinese Proverb

A great proverb for those who work animal rescue against all odds, and for those who help make miracles happen daily.

"The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it."

Did You Know That...

...Happy Trails deals with farm animal cruelty on *every* level, from blatant neglect of the horse left to starve to death to the abandoned animals left behind when folks have moved away to the atrocities that take place daily on our factory farms, on our transport trucks and in our slaughterhouses?

Farm animal cruelty goes across the board, and compassion doesn't allow us to pick only certain animal cruelty issues to address while we conveniently ignore others. We cannot ignore the disturbing facts of the inhumane treatment that many people have never been exposed to regarding the level of animal cruelty currently accepted (or often ignored) on our factory farms, in our food production systems, on the transport trucks, and in our mass-production slaughterhouses. We will continue to urge everyone, whether you are vegetarian or have a meat-based diet, to support the humane treatment of *all* animals, and help to protect them from abuse and unnecessary suffering. This issue's educational page will focus on the foie gras industry.

Though It Sounds Pretty, It Ain't! What Is The Foie Gras Industry?

The following article is compliments of www.gourmentcruelty.com, an excellent accurate and factual website documenting the foie gras industry. Please check out their website!

Foie Gras—French for fatty liver—is the grossly enlarged liver of a duck or goose. Sounds delicious, right? Medically known as hepatic lipidosis, foie gras is a disease marketed as a delicacy. Birds raised for this gourmet cruelty are force-

fed enormous quantities of food through a long metal pipe three times a day. This process of deliberate and painful overfeeding continues for up to a month, by which time the birds' livers have swelled up to twelve times their healthy size.

The process of forced feeding is so traumatic, and the confinement and conditions on foie gras farms so debilitating, that the pre-slaughter mortality rate for foie gras production is up to 20 times the average rate on other duck factory farms.*

During the course of their investigation, GourmetCruelty.com discovered corpses of ducks who had literally burst open through overfeeding. Investigators also found many birds who had choked to death on their own vomit. Necropsies performed by veterinarians on dead ducks taken from Hudson Valley Foie Gras determined that some of the birds had died of aspiration pneumonia—a painful and often fatal condition caused when, during the process of forced-feeding, food is pushed into the lungs of the birds.

Foie Gras Producers

Two companies produce all of the domestically raised foie gras in the United States. New York State's Hudson Valley Foie Gras and California's Sonoma Foie Gras. Combined, they are responsible for the torture and death of half a million ducks every year.

Hudson Valley Foie Gras

Hudson Valley Foie Gras is the largest foie gras producer in the U.S. and one of the largest factory farming corporations in New York State. At any given time, Hudson Valley Foie Gras is raising, force-feeding, and slaughtering approxi-

This long metal feeder is forced down the birds' throats three times a day.



mately 40,000 ducks.

At Hudson

Valley, row after row of ducks live trapped in isolation cages so small they can barely move. Examining these rows, investigators found many sick and injured birds as well as birds languishing next to the corpses of birds who could not survive the harsh conditions on the factory farm. Those birds who do survive the overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, confinement, and repeated trauma of forced-feeding, are slaughtered at barely four months.

Sonoma Foie Gras

Sonoma Foie Gras is responsible for the production of 20% of the United States' foie gras, and the confinement, forced-feeding, and slaughter of over 100,000 ducks a year. At a very young age, the ducks are put into crowded pens in filthy sheds. The floor is covered with feces and vomit. The farm is so unsanitary that rats run freely. *Investigators witnessed and documented a rat eating two ducks alive.*

After this life of torture and pain, the birds who have survived are thrown into crates and shipped back to Grimaud for slaughter, processing, and marketing.

Please help put an end to this cruelty. To find out what you can do to help, go to <http://www.gourmentcruelty.com/help.php>.

<http://www.gourmentcruelty.com/about.php>

* *Welfare Aspects of the Production of Foie Gras in Ducks and Geese*, European Union's Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare, December 16, 1998.

Checking Up On...

Corona...

Jeanne Alger, very proud adoptive mama to Corona, is happy to say that Corona has come a long way since her arrival at Happy Trails as a retired Amish buggy horse. After recovering from severe malnutrition and anemia, Corona is now Jeanne's favorite trail horse, and here (below, left) Corona and Jeanne participated in the Mantua parade, with Corona being calm and call and good as gold as folks with children came up to pet and visit the beautiful horse. We should



probably mention that Corona is but one of four Happy Trails adoptive horses in Jeanne's care, as well as two Happy Trails foster horses! *You go girl!*

Triumph...

Have you heard that Triumph was trailed to his new home on Christmas Day???? Again, many thanks to Last Chance Corral for taking in the starved, half blind, two year old Percheron for Happy Trails re-

cently. You can read about Triumph story on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org. An



assortment of excited children, their eyes with disbelief, watched as Victoria Goss (above — in a Santa hat no less) unloaded the Cutright family's newest four-legged family member. What an incredible Christmas for everyone involved!

Justice and Lacey Luray...

Kathy Kall is still in love with both of her Happy Trails rescued horses, Justice, a quite handsome Standardbred gelding, and Lacey Luray, a Haflinger that was retired from an Amish



farm where she was used as a brood mare until she could no longer have babies. The horse are happy, healthy, and very well cared for, thanks to Kathy's love for her animals!



Malcolm...

Talk about a lucky little pig! Malcolm (above left) has completely stolen the hearts of his new family (Malcolm and the Flanagan family discovered each other just in time to celebrate Christmas together!). Malcolm, in turn, has thoroughly approved of his new digs, his new family servants and his younger "brother pig, Gump! 15 year old Patrick Flanagan (above right, just incase you confused him and Malcolm) is Malcom's number one fan — Patrick is incredible with animals and has a heart of gold (of course, according to Malcolm!)

A Million Thanks!

It was an incredible Christmas for the animals and for the sanctuary, and we are deeply grateful for the support and encouragement that was sent our way over the holidays!



We are still reeling from the recent holiday season, when we were simply overwhelmed with the kindness and thoughtfulness of sanctuary supporters who arrived bearing gifts of animal supplies, bags of grain, blankets for the piggies, bottled water, pop and work gloves for the volunteers, new heated water buckets, fruit and veggies for animal snacks, and much, *much* more!

• A very special thank you goes out to the kind folks at historic Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron who welcomed Happy Trails and a group of our rescued farm animals who spent the entire holiday season at the beautiful facilities.



Mrs. Beasley was awakened from her nap time to don a festive Santa hat for her fans!

• We were simply *amazed* once again at the sheer number of animal-lovers who sponsored a rescued animal for a friend, family member or co-worker for Christmas — you guys kept Sharon busy all the way up through...well, through New Year's Day, with requests for last minute Christmas and New Year's sponsorships! *You guys are AWE-*

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 sending a donation to help spread compassion and the save the life of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today.

DONATION INFORMATION

I'd like to send a 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 add me to your mailing list. ☐ I am already on 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!

Happy Trails rescue programs are funded by your thoughtful and generous donations. Many thanks for your support and kindness!

SOME! The animals all thought they looked rather special in their holiday photos with their Santa hats and reindeer antlers and Christmas bibs, thanks to the creativity of Happy Trails very own, Sharon Barnard!

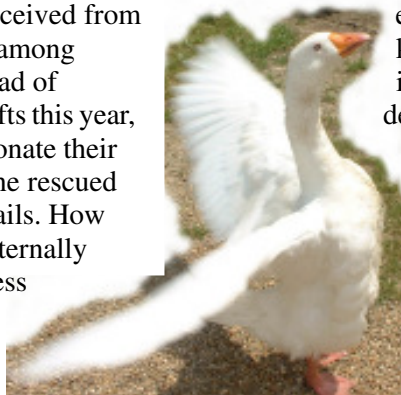
• The other thing that blew us away this year was the number of phone calls and notes we received from families who agreed among themselves that instead of exchanging family gifts this year, they were going to donate their Christmas funds to the rescued animals of Happy Trails. How *incredible!* We are eternally grateful for this selfless holiday gesture, and our hats are off to all the families who

came to this decision — you have made a huge difference in our ability to care for the rescued animals!

• Happy Trails received notes and letters from animal lovers everywhere, and we made sure that we read each and every one of them!

It's often your words of encouragement that keep us going — your inspiration and confidence mean a great deal and help us to continue on with what is often difficult and heartbreaking work. **You are truly "the wind beneath our wings"!**

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Get Involved Campaign!

An Invitation From Mona Lisa, The Beautiful Happy Trails Farm Pig

"Summer is just around the corner, and soon you will be lying about in your mud waller, soaking up the rays, wondering what in the world there is to do with your bad self. We sure could use your help in animal rescue this year! How about joining the Happy Trails 'Get Involved Campaign', and sign up to get involved with animal rescue? Calls come into the sanctuary daily about farm animals in cruel situations — I hear the servants talking about it. I, myself, was severely abused and taken away from a really bad person. And my friends, Celita Pig and Cisco Pig, were rescued from starvation and the most terrible conditions, and their case went to court. They won their case and we all won our freedom, thanks to Happy Trails and the humane officers who called them. Check out how you too can help animals like us on page 10. "

