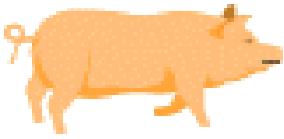


Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary **FEBRUARY 2010**

Newsletter



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**Buckeye Is Still In
Recovery - page 5**

SWEET!



New Rescue Vehicle Donated - page 4

letter from the director

Dear Friends Of Happy Trails,

So I'm standing there in the middle of some Godforsaken area of Noble County looking at this buffalo, wondering what next we'll get ourselves into, when it really clicked. The whole picture came together.

I believe that Happy Trails is often presented with rather challenging animal rescues and challenging court cases because we have a unique way of bringing people together for the good of the animals. Or, should I say, the animals have a unique way of bringing people together, and the folks at Happy Trails are simply an effective catalyst for helping to make things happen.

Are we able to save every animal in every rescue we attempt? Definitely not. Are we able to assist with every single request that comes in? Not realistically, with not always enough funds or manpower.

However, are we asked to do the impossible on a daily basis with limited funding and an all-volunteer staff? You betcha!

And why? Because usually we can!

I am constantly amazed at the expansion of our net-working capabilities and the



simply amazing people who reach out to help us. I am in awe of the amount of caring and compassionate people who come to our rescue with each request that we send out. Seeing an overwhelming response of kind-hearted people wanting to get involved in farm animal rescue truly offsets the disturbing situations of animal abuse that we encounter daily.

We are at the point where I truly believe that if we had to ask for help with rescuing sixteen camels and a partridge in a pear tree, within hours we would have camel experts lining up with people who had appropriate camel trailers and camel foster homes, and partridge experts who could explain to us how to successfully rehab the partridge.

And the number of people who care continues to grow. People are becoming increasingly aware of the farm animal and horse abuse that exists in our own communities, and people are choosing to acknowledge and address this abuse and neglect in a big way. Folks are now standing

up for these gentle creatures who have no voice and declaring boldly that animal abuse in all forms is simply wrong and won't be tolerated

It's about time that we call animal abuse, animal abuse. I admire and respect everyone who is doing something to make a difference and who is getting involved in animal rescue in some way. Thank you for your willingness to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves!

With kindness and compassion for all animals,

Annette Fisher
Executive Director



5623 New Milford Rd.
Ravenna, Oh 44266
(330) 296-5914

Make sure to keep up with
all the latest Happy Trails
stories and happenings
on our website at
www.happytrailsfarm.org

The Great Bison Rescue

On Friday, January 8th, Happy Trails volunteers arrived in Caldwell, Ohio, at the request of the Noble County Sheriff's Department. A group of farm animals were not being fed, watered or cared for properly, and they needed to be removed from their situation of neglect.

In the midst of one of the worst snow-falls this winter, Happy Trails volunteers Debbie and Wes McCourt, and Ashley Szakachs, arrived with their truck and trailer rigs to help corral and move the abandoned animals to safety .

The property was on a very steep hill (*I called it a mountain*), and the driveway was completely buried in snow.

Of all the animals, we spotted the bison first. After several failed attempts to lure her off the hill, we agreed to concentrate on finding the other farm animals first before dark. It didn't take us long to locate the donkey, the mini horse and four goats. The poor donkey had really badly overgrown hooves and was extremely thin. The four goats were also very underweight. They all got loaded safely. *Success!*

Now for the bison. I tracked the big girl around the left side of the mountain. She stayed a good distance in front of me, and was very fast for such a big animal. She appeared several times that afternoon, and after observing her behavior we determined that she wasn't aggressive, but more likely just scared. We decided that it would take people with a lot more experience, equipment and expertise than we had to complete the buffalo round-up. Before

Read Sedona's entire story in great detail and see many more photos on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.



Doesn't the saying go, "God only protects fools and children?" Here, Sarah Aitken kneels in front of the buffalo and offers Sedona an apple out of her hand!

the roads had a chance to get any worse, we headed back to Happy Trails.

At the sanctuary, the nervous animals were unloaded into safe, dry stalls with thick straw bedding. They had water waiting for them and a mound of hay. Everyone dove in.

Now to figure out what to do about the bison we left behind.

Detective Mackie of
Continued on Page 16

An Amazing Gift!

Happy Trails was especially blessed this holiday season with a very special gift — the gift of a new rescue vehicle, outfitted for farm animal rescues!

Since the generous donations that we normally receive are dedicated to the care of the rescued animals and their vet costs, nutritional needs, shelter requirement and rehabilitation, our rescue equipment has taken a back seat for many years. Many, many years.

The sad old van with the cracked windshield and the dented door that we arrive in at a rescue sight is a thing of the past, *thanks to the kind and generous patrons of the Vegi-Terranean restaurant in Akron!*

We were thrilled beyond belief when we were asked to take a look at a truck that was being chosen and outfitted to help upgrade Happy Trails rescue services.

Here's the scoop on the truck:

- 2007 — ¾ ton gasoline pick-up
- Heavy duty suspension
- 4-wheel drive
- Two trailer hitches — a bumper hitch and a gooseneck (fifth wheel)
- Search lights for our night rescues
- Awesome graphics
- 8' bed with sprayed-in bed liner
- Extended cab with half back seat
- Cloth (*no leather!*) interior

Many thanks to the kind and generous patrons of Vegi-Terranean for such an absolutely amazing gift!



The truck is like a moving billboard, and now you can't miss us! All of us at Happy Trails are extremely grateful to the patrons of the Vegi-Terranean Restaurant for making such a major item from our wish list become a reality for the sanctuary.

Buckeye Is Still Recovering At OSU

On Friday, November 27, 2009, Happy Trails assisted the Trumbull County Sheriff's Department with the removal of 11 horses, a calf, a goat, chickens and guinea fowl from a property in Newton Falls, Ohio. Buckeye (as we aptly named the young gelding because of the amount of time he ended up spending at the equine hospital in Columbus) was one of these horses. He was emaciated and suffering from severe neglect. Looking at this photo on the front cover of the newsletter, would you have guessed this horse to be only five years old?

The vets at OSU (Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital) in Columbus felt that Buckeye deserved a chance at recovery. So did we.

Buckeye's body was one of the worst conditions of any horse we had ever seen in our many years of animal rescue. He was like a skeleton with skin draped over his bones. Because of his extreme body



These two photos were from Saturday, November 28th, when Buckeye first arrived at Happy Trails. His skin was open and raw, and every bone in his frail body protruded for all to see. He was extremely weak. He was also only 5 years old...



Happy Trails volunteer, Lori Luisi, visits with Buckeye at OSU, not long after his leg surgery. She assured him that there are good people in this world who want to see him recover and live a life free from pain and suffering. She introduced herself to him as one of those people.

condition, bringing him back from the brink of death was an incredibly slow process. A horse that is nearly starved to death has to be introduced to a re-feeding process gradually. As Buckeye began to slowly receive more grain, his blood phosphorous and albumin levels would indicate that his body was not taking the additional nutrition very well. As the intestines begin working again, sometimes there is permanent damage to contend with. And there is always the chance for colic, blockages and other medical issues.

Though we had all hoped that Buckeye would

Continued on Page 18



In late-January, after his leg surgery, Buckeye continued to steadily gain weight and strength, and he continued to show complete trust in his human staff by constantly being kind, cooperative, and gentle to work with.

Wish List: Hey, We Need Hay!

Happy Trails goes through literally tons of hay every week, and why shouldn't we? With over

30 horses alone in our rescue program, add in the goats and the sheep, the

ponies, the minnies and the donkeys, and you need a *whole bunch* of hay every single day! Happy Trails is often responsible for providing hay to our temporary foster homes also, so if you or anyone you know is able to donate hay, here is what we look for: hay that is not more than a year old; it can't be wet or moldy; and it needs to be a plain ol' good quality hay.

Don't have hay but would like to donate to help out? You can mail a tax-deductible donation marked "for hay" in the memo, and your donation will help us purchase a truck load of hay. We normally pay \$3.00 per bale for hay, and we purchase our hay in truckloads of about 130 bales.

There are a lot of items that you might be able to donate that would be very helpful, and also are still tax-deductible.

Drop Off Times

Happy Trails does not have the funds to pay a staff in order to have regular hours to be open to the public. Donations can be dropped off to our volunteers who are at the sanctuary on Saturdays or Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. If you leave your contact information, a thank-you/tax receipt will be mailed to you.

Misc. Items

Here are items, both big and small, that would be helpful!

• Gas or Fuel Cards

(We are *ALWAYS* driving somewhere. And when we are called to assist in an animal rescue three, four, or nine counties away, gas costs sure do add up. A donation of a fuel card is very much appreciated.

• Muck Buckets

Somehow or other they also seem to get broken. We can accurately blame Red, the draft horse, for the last mangled muck tub, since he used it to scratch his leg on it.

• Office Supplies

Copy paper (white or colors), pens, stamps, manila folders, scotch tape, scissors, staples and staplers, postage stamps, paper clips, notebooks.

• Large Pet Porters Or Wire Crates

In good condition. We use these for smaller animal rescues and hauling animals such as ducks, pot belly pigs, chickens, geese and turkeys to the vet or to their new homes.

• Bottled Water

Or soft drinks for our hard working volunteers.

• Stall Dry

Bags of stall dry to dry out wet ground in the shelter areas.

• Printer Cartridges

For our Epson CX4800 printer

• Paste Wormers

Such as Panacur, Ivermectin, Quest, Strongid or Zimectrin



Special Project

• Black-Top Driveways And Walkways

It would make pushing visitors in wheelchairs much easier if we could push them across smooth surfaces as opposed to the gravel paths and driveways that we have now. It would also make it easier for plowing snow in the winter, pushing wheelbarrows, and for the elderly visitors who may have a hard time walking on the gravel.

Needing Trailers

• Happy Trails could really use several good-condition horse, stock and flatbed trailers.

Right now we borrow other people's trailers. Different trailers come in handy for different rescues and various tasks. A stock trailer would



make picking up a group of smaller farm animals easier since you can remove dividers from a stock trailer.



A flat bed would be ideal for hauling hay and farm equipment and picking up larger donated items. Additional horse trailers would be helpful since not all rescued horses like to load in the same type of trailer. If you have a trailer that is in good condition and you would like to donate it to Happy Trails, it would be a tax-deductible donation.

Thank You For Your Support!
Donation Form On
Back Cover

Collecting Horse Tack

With Spring just around the corner, are you contemplating getting your horsey some new tack?

Well don't just toss out your old stuff!

Happy Trails collects horse tack and related horse supplies on a regular basis. Any items that may be duplicates or are not able to be used at the sanctuary, are boxed up



"...my treasures do not clink or glitter....they gleam in the sun and neigh in the night....."
~unknown~

and taken to auction, where we have been fortunate enough to get top dollar for these items.

The proceeds from this on-going fundraiser are applied toward our equine rescue expenses. Tack donations can be dropped off at the sanctuary on Saturdays or Sundays from 1pm to 4pm.

You can collect tack items from your horsey friends and bring it all in one trip! Items that we collect include: halters • bridles • saddle pads • horse blankets • lead ropes • lunge lines • girths • trailer ties • cinches • grooming supplies • water buckets • feed buckets • sweat scrapers • medicine boots • leg wraps • shipping boots • webbed gate guards • muck tubs • pitch forks • stall picks • feed scoops

Visit our website at
www.happytrailsfarm.org

Saddle Raffle

To help offset our rather impressive equine horse medical bills, owner of Lone Pine Farm Tack, Mary Verhoff, has donated a beautiful new Western saddle to be used as a raffle item! Even if you are not a "horse person" and were to win the saddle, you could always donate it to a therapeutic riding facility or to another equine rescue organization, knowing that your raffle money went to a very worthy cause!



Beautiful brand new saddle donated by Lone Pine Farm Tack, Mary Verhoff, Owner.
Located at
13154 Marlboro Ave. NE,
Alliance, Ohio 44601.
330-935-2537
<http://stores.ebay.com/Lone-Pine-Farm-Tack>

"Trail 16" Synthetic Saddle from Weaver Leather

15 inch seat • Black • Fiber-Flex tree QH bars • 6-1/2" gulle • Over the tree rigging • Lined w/thick fleece Complete with a 1-3/4" nylon off-billet and latigo 32" felt lined cinch • Seat is padded with a synthetic rough-out material to help keep you in your seat

Our goal with this raffle is to raise \$3,000!

If 30 Happy Trails friends are able to sell 20 raffle chances at \$5 each, we can easily reach our goal!

Can you be please be one of our 30 friends?

Please print and share copies of the coupon. Help your friends fill out the coupon, and you can send groups of raffle donations to Happy Trails (Make sure we receive them by the drawing date of Mar. 28th.) Winner will be notified by phone and email. Winner will be announced on the Happy Trails website on Sunday, March 28th.

Drawing To Be Held On Sunday, Mar. 28th!

Just in time to get you riding in style this spring!

Questions? Call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

Name _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$5 per chance).

Please enter my name _____ time(s) in the saddle raffle drawing.

Mail donation & coupon to:
Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

"Animal Talk"

Thanks to our many dedicated listeners who are enjoying the new Happy Trails radio program called "Animal Talk", which



began back in November. Our topics cover a wide variety of animal-related issues and include everything from stories about Happy Trails animal rescues, educational programs, proper care for your farm animals and horses, animal cruelty issues, and adopting animals, to Ohio's animal cruelty laws and how people can get involved in their own communities to help identify and prevent animal abuse.

When There are different shows on both **Saturdays** from 9:30am to 10:00am, and on **Sundays** from 10:00am to 10:30am.

As the station worked through a few technical glitches for the first so many weeks, we believe the show is now airing on time or at least pretty close to the times they are scheduled to run. Thanks to everyone who listens to "Animal Talk" for your patience and for your dedication as we got things underway.

You Can Either Tune-In To
WSOMAM-600, or catch us

Streaming

Through the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org if you're not in the listening area. **Internet streaming makes "Animal Talk" available to listeners WORLDWIDE!**

Catch Topics Of Interest That Have Already Aired Through Our Archives

Did you want to hear an interview about search and rescue dogs, or maybe wanted to learn more about Wild 4-Ever and their wild animal conservation projects worldwide? You can catch all previous segments of our



Northeast Ohio Trail Riders Association N.E.O.T.R.A.

NEOTRA is an associate member of the Ohio Horseman's Council.

The mission of the club is to assist West Branch State Park in maintaining and improving the 20 miles of bridle trails at the park.

Club Meetings: third Wednesday of every month, 7pm, at the Charlestown Township Hall, 6863 Rock-Spring Rd., Ravenna, Ohio in conjunction with the Portage County Chapter of the OHC.
(There are no meetings in June, July August or December.)

Questions? Call David Kennedy at 330-872-7953

Catch the Happy Trails "Animal Talk" radio program interview with David Kennedy at
http://happytrailsfarm.org/show_listing.php.

ELLIS CONSTRUCTION

330-207-2887

**Foundation Repairs And
Water proofing**

*Thank you for patronizing the work
of Greg Ellis of The Bison Ranch,
home of Sedona The Buffalo.*

show through our website archives at
http://happytrailsfarm.org/show_listing.php, and look down the right side of the screen to choose a show.

Examples Of Previous Shows

- Talking about Ohio's animal cruelty laws with humane officers Jennifer Sanderson and Christian Courtwright.
- Interview with Executive Chef Scott Jones of Vegi-Terranean, and how to cook with compassion
- Talking with animal behavior specialist, Ken McCourt.
- Interesting animal-related trivia regarding factory farms and environmental issues with Jennifer Kaden from Mercy for Animals.
- The Great Buffalo Rescue with the rescue workers who made it happen.
- And many more great animal topics!

Cumberland Rescue

Most animal abuse cases that we work with here at Happy Trails don't make it into the newspapers or onto television news stations. Maybe they are too small of a story to warrant media coverage. But to us, every single animal abuse case is, and should be, shared with the public.

This is one such case — the Cumberland (Noble County), Ohio, rescue. Happy Trails assists law en-

forcement from counties all over Ohio, and we encourage all counties to work together regarding animal abuse cases.

The Noble County sheriff's department investigated a complaint at a prop-

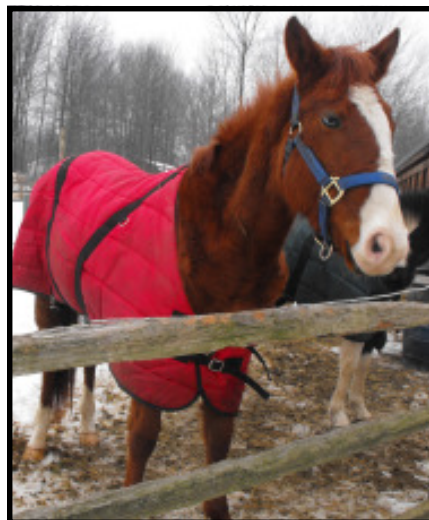


When they first arrived at Happy Trails, they were inseparable. Their bloated bellies were full of worms, and you could easily feel every rib and hip bones underneath their thin winter coats.

erty in Cumberland, and arrived to find a young, dead horse, two emaciated yearling fillies, and a young stallion. On Thursday, December 17th, 2009, Frog Pond Draft Horse Rescue was kind enough to take in the stallion, and Happy Trails took in the two young fillies. They were a sad pair of babies. It would not have been much longer before the weaker one, a beautiful black and white paint, would have joined her friend who has just crossed the Rainbow Bridge, if they weren't removed when they were.

They were both extremely lethargic, way too calm for babies. They had no spirit left, and when they were turned out in our outdoor arena, they simply stood still and concentrated on eating their hay. Their behavior was definitely not typical baby behavior.

Just this past week, they finally felt strong enough to kick up their heels and take off bucking and playing in the arena like babies are supposed to. I shed a tear or two as I watched them come back to life.



Catori is slightly bigger than Ayashe, and she is sweet and easy to work with.

white filly was named Ayashe (pronounced eye-osh-ee), a Cheyenne Native American name meaning little one. The chestnut filly with one blue eye was named Catori (pronounced Cuh-tor-ee), a Hopi Native American name meaning "spirit", for of the two babies, she had the most spirit left in her.

Both are between a year to a year and a half old, and due to malnutrition, their growth has probably been stunted. They are both sweet and gentle to work with, and we are confident that we will find them caring, loving homes. They can be adopted out separately, and their meager adoption fee will be \$150 each. **For adoption information, contact Happy Trails at 330-**

296-5914.

With some time and training and patience, these babies are going to grow up to be the love of someone's life — I can't say enough nice things about the girls!



Ayashe was more fragile, but she continues to grow stronger every day! We had to purchase horse blankets for these ladies because we didn't have any small enough for them.

"The closed mind, if closed long enough, can be opened by nothing short of dynamite."

Gerald White Johnson (1890–1980)
journalist, editor, essayist, historian,
biographer, and novelist.

2010 Board Of Directors

Executive Director: Annette Fisher

President: Sheila Vandergriff

Vice-President: Russ Fisher

Treasurer: Eileen Roloff

Secretary: Cheri Rider

General Board Positions:

Sharon Barnard

Hope Brustein

Special Advisors:

Dr. Randy Alger, DVM

Dr. Gary Riggs, DVM

Keep Collecting Aluminum Cans!

You can now drop them off in the wooden boxes in front of the new Happy Trails office at any time as long as they are in bags! You would be amazed at how many projects our can-recycle program helps to fund! Many thanks to all of our can-collectors, and an extra thank-you goes out to everyone who takes the time to crush them too!



Road Rally!

Hosted by
SUV 4
Adventure
4-Wheel
Drive Club



When:

Saturday, February 27th, starts at 1:00pm

Where: Starting point is Edinburg Town Hall

To Benefit: Happy Trails and the Center Of Hope/Christian Cup-board

Entry Fee: \$5 with 3 items of non-perishable food; \$10 without food

Prizes: Will be awarded

- Any vehicle welcome
- 4-wheel drive not necessary

For Information, Contact:

Dave at 330-296-1818 or

Leon at 330-296-2651; or email
SUV4Adventure@yahoo.com

2009-2010

COMMUNITY
CASH
BACK
PROGRAM

ACME
Fresh Market

Acme Receipt Program Draws To A Close!

Keep your Acme receipts coming up until February 20th, 2010, when the Acme Community Cash Back Program will be over again until next year. Receipts must be received at Happy Trails on or before March 4th. Thanks to everyone who has sent in envelopes stuffed with Acme receipts!

DENTAL SERVICES FOR HAPPY TRAILS
DONATED BY VALLEY EQUINE DENTISTRY



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Equine
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Phone: 440-356-9550

E-mail: info@valleyequinedentistry.com

Website: www.valleyequinedentistry.com

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Why Valley Equine Dentistry?

- Qualified veterinary care
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- Treatment tailored to your horse

Calendar Of Events

This year, 2010, marks a big milestone for Happy Trails, and we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary! There will be some special activities going on this year, and details regarding our special events will be posted on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.

Here are a few of the special activities that you will definitely want to mark on your calendar!

- **Happy Trails 10th Anniversary Party** — Sunday, June 27th, to be held at the sanctuary
- **Happy Trails Compassionate Thanksgiving** — Saturday, November 20th, at Cuyahoga Falls Masonic Temple (appetizers at 1:00, dinner at 2:00)
- **Blessing Of The Animals** — Saturday, October 4th
- **Deck The Stalls** — Date To Be Announced

Host A Happy Trails Barn Party!



It's like having a special-occasion party, but it's for the animals!

- As the host or hostess, you can choose the day and time, and we provide you with invitations to send out to friends, family, neighbors and co-workers, to attend the "Barn Party" at your home!
- You can host a barn party for any special occasion, such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. In lieu of personal gifts, guests would bring gifts for the rescued farm animals!
- A wish list is provided that will help the rescue efforts of Happy Trails, and guests can bring items to donate from the list or they can bring a monetary donation.
- Sanctuary representatives are available to attend the party and set up a table of literature, photo displays, newsletters and other give-a-way items for your guests.
- Our representatives are on hand to answer questions and talk about the animal rescue work of Happy Trails.
- During mild weather, animals may be available to attend also!
- **To host a Barn Party, or for more information, call Mindy Tusko at 330-612-5652.**

Rainbow Bridge

(This poem is being printed by special request.)

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to

Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends

so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...



Deerfield Horse Abuse Case Update

On Monday, November 30th, the sentencing hearing for the owner of the horses in the Deerfield horse abuse case took place in Portage County Municipal Court.

The case involved the removal of 15 horribly neglected horses from a location in Deerfield, Ohio, on Monday, April 21, 2009. The Portage Animal Protective League requested the assistance of Happy Trails in providing shelter and medical care for these horses that were suffering from malnutrition, excessive hoof growth, horrific skin conditions, and lack of proper care and maintenance.

At a pre-trial, the owner of the horses plead guilty to animal abuse and agreed to a PSI (pre sentence investigation) in lieu of a trial. In this situation, the judge alone is solely responsible for declaring the sentence.

In the courtroom on Nov. 30th, Judge Barbara Oswick acknowledged the role of Happy Trails in the rescue, and thanked the sanctuary for stepping up to the plate and providing a safe haven, medical care and rehabilitation for these horses.

Judge Oswick offered a detailed and lengthy explanation of how she arrived at the sentence. She had to take into consideration all parties involved, including the horses themselves, the community, the horse's owner, the work of the sanctuary and the Portage APL, and the fact that the defendant had custody of two special-needs grandchildren and that they played a big part of her decision in sentencing.

Judge Oswick declared the sentence as follows:

- The owner was to find homes for the remaining horses that she currently owned (the owner had already complied with this order).

- The owner is no longer permitted to own any animals, including farm animals, horses or domestic animals. She is permitted to keep the several

dogs and cats that she currently has, but is not permitted to replace them when they pass on. The one cat that is not spayed was required to be spayed.

- Jail time of 180 days was reduced to 30 days in jail, then 90 days on house arrest, and then 2 years probation.

- A required psychiatric and psychological evaluation and counseling was ordered.

- Restitution of \$23,000 to Happy Trails, to be paid in a monthly payment to be determined by her probation officer. (Note: Realistically, this money never materializes.)

I believe that Judge Oswick's verdict was fair and just, and it had to be very difficult for her to balance all the factors in the case, including the fact that children were involved. I think she did an incredible job.

Often people only speak up and complain when they feel that an injustice has been served or they are upset with a verdict. PLEASE let's do just the opposite here! **I would like to encourage everyone to speak out and send a quick, pleasant thank you note to Judge Oswick for addressing animal abuse in Portage County in a serious manner and for the fair and just sentence that she declared. And please encourage your friends to do the same!** Judge Oswick is a shining example for other judges regarding sentencing and handling of animal cruelty cases. **Let the courts know that people are watching the outcome of animal abuse cases, and that we appreciate seeing justice served!**

Please send a polite note to:

Judge Barbara Oswick
Portage County Courts
Municipal Division
203 West Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

There are still several horses from this case that are available for adoption. They have completely recovered and are in need of permanent homes.



Brandy (left) and Sierra (right) are two big, beautiful Appaloosa mares. Both ladies need experienced handlers and have tons of potential. Adoption Fee: \$350 each.



April is a year and a half old filly who had surgery to repair an umbilical hernia. She recovered wonderfully, and is now growing up to be the fine young lady that she was meant to be! She is seeking a home where she will get tons of daily attention and will have an owner who wants to spend a great deal of time with her. She is very social and loves people! Adoption Fee: \$150

Your Kindness And Caring Make Our
Animal Rescue Efforts Possible!

**Donation Form On
Back Cover**

Dare to Dream Big

We tend to do that here at Happy Trails!

Disappointments and setbacks are simply a bump in the road when you have your sights set on making a difference and you have big dreams and goals.

One of our many ambitious goals is to have a much larger tract of land where Happy Trails will be able to house the majority of the rescued animals at one facility. The second part of that big dream is to have a nursing home on the outskirts of the sanctuary, to allow seniors the opportunity to visit with and interact daily with the farm animals in a safe environment. Our current Farm Animal Visitation Program allows us to bring farm animal ambassadors into nursing homes to visit the elderly, and the rewards are priceless on all accounts. Animals are great therapy — petting them can lower your blood pressure, reminiscing about them can bring back fond memories, and being around them every day is sure to keep you young at heart and to lift your spirits! To us, this is an obvious combination of a sanctuary that rescues animals, and then in turn the animals ‘rescue’ the people.

I see this big dream coming to pass, since our needs are always met and our desires always arrive at the right time. Happy Trails has been truly blessed like that. When you are doing the right thing, people tend to come together for a higher good, and just maybe you can see a way that you can be instrumental in making this vision come to pass for Happy



Odessa the goat and Happy Trails Board Member, Sharon Barnard, visit with the residents of Pebble Creek Nursing Home. Wouldn't it be incredible to have a nursing home right at the sanctuary?

Trails. Perhaps you have a large tract of land to donate, or perhaps you have the contacts and experience needed to help create the attached nursing home. I invite you to be a part of this dream. I see Happy Trails reaching out and expanding our outreach to many more areas of Ohio, to create satellite locations for adoptions, to create more educational programs, and to help create an even bigger awareness of our connection to the animals and our environment. If you see ways that you can be a part of our bigger dream, contact the sanctuary at 330-296-5914.

*The thinking person must
oppose all cruel customs
no matter how deeply
rooted in tradition and
surrounded by a halo.
When we have a choice,
we must avoid bringing
torment and injury into
the life of another
~ Albert Schweitzer ~*

Thanks!

There is never enough room to thank all the kind people and enthusiastic organizations who support the rescue efforts of Happy Trails, but we always like to mention a few!

Many thanks to:

- **Dance Image**, the kids, the instructors and the parents, for their creativity and energy that they put forth into their recitals and performances on behalf of Happy Trails!
- **Almost Home**, a boys organization in Bay Village, that took a tour of the sanctuary and then stayed and did a community service project! What a fantastic organization!
- **Western Reserve Farm Co-op Of Ravenna** for the very large donation of grain.
- **SUV 4 Adventure 4-Wheel Drive Club** for hosting the road rally to benefit Happy Trails and the Center of Hope/Christian Cupboard.
- Our die-hard manual-labor volunteers who have put in the most volunteer hours: **Alex Hale, Leah Franchi, Jason Wolboldt** and **Rob Willard**
- Board members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for many years: **Cheri Rider** and **Sharon Barnard**
- **All of our foster homes and volunteer haulers**, who can't be individually named in order to protect their privacy during court cases, and all of our emergency crew rescue workers who show up at a moment's notice to prepare stalls and cages for new arrivals
- **Chuck and Nancy Conring, Ilona Urban, and Mindy Tusko**, our behind-the-scenes volunteers

Help Feed The Rescued Animals Year-Round With Pettigrew Feed!

The Happy Trails Giving Tree that was proudly displayed at Pettigrew Feed over the holidays was met with rave reviews, and an overwhelming number of folks participated by either choosing an ornament from the tree or by simply calling in an order for grain for the rescued animals. *We were simply amazed and humbled at the number of people who stepped forward to give gifts of grain for the hungry animals!*

Due to the popularity of this program, the good folks at Pettigrew's are working with us to provide this service year round, and will continue to take phone orders for bags of feed for the rescue animals at Happy Trails.

Order can be made by calling Pettigrew Feed at 330-325-1500 or 1-866-40-FEEDS and placing your purchase on a credit card. They keep a running tally of the bags of feed that are purchased, and Happy Trails is able to pick up our donations weekly!

With a full line of grain for all types of animals and a large selection of hardware and farm supplies, we'd like to encourage folks to stop by and visit Pettigrew Feed. We highly recommend their friendly service, family atmosphere and quality feeds!

Great people, great products, great prices!

www.pettigrew-online.com

PETTIGREW FEED & HARDWARE

6773 Tallmadge Road • Edinburg Center
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

TELEPHONE	1-866-40-FEEDS
330-325-1500	1-866-403-3337

Add-A-Nickel Plating Service, Inc.

Many thanks to Delores Norsic, owner of Add-A-Nickel Plating, who is storing our stock trailer at her shop.

All Types Of Plating • Abrasive Shot Blasting
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Also indoor storage available for cars, trucks, boats, snowmobiles, etc. Fee: \$55/month

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Walton Hills, OH 44146	Fax: 440-232-0487

addanickel@aol.com

Nutrena Feed Tags = \$\$\$ For Happy Trails!

By Rob Willard

That's right – saving Nutrena brand feed tags will help us save money! Nutrena has graciously allowed us to be a part of their program to help non-profit organizations such as ours! For every feed tag saved we receive **10 – 50 cents each!** The savings will really add up if we have your help in saving the tags. You can either mail them to Happy Trails or you can drop them in the box at Pettigrew Feed in Edinburg. The box will be labeled on their counter, just stick them in the box while you are buying your feed and we will pick them up!

Do you feed Nutrena Safe-Choice to your horses? If so you can help us save even more money! Just tell the folks at Pettigrew's while they are ringing up the sale that you want it sold under Happy Trail's account. Your purchase will go towards our credit for number of bags purchased and we get **\$1 per bag purchased!**

These simple steps will really help reduce the ever growing cost of feed that we purchase weekly! **Thank you for your help!**

Hear our prayer ... for animals that are overworked, underfed, and cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death.... And for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.

~ Albert Schweitzer ~

Try an animal-friendly restaurant, with absolutely incredible appetizers, entrees, and desserts!



VegiTerranean is a unique, welcoming and stylish blend of restaurant - bar - coffee house - bakery with an incredible mouth-watering menu. It is an upscale restaurant that creates amazing cuisine with no meat or other animal-related products. At VegiTerranean, no meat is served at all, and substitutes such as soy, tofu, and gardein (a garden protein made out of soy and wheat) are used creatively and with an Italian twist.

VegiTerranean is both a vegan and a kosher restaurant.

What can you expect from their incredible menu? Appetizers; soups; salads; pasta dishes; pizzas; scrumptious entrees such as Gardein chicken picatta, and Mediterranean stuffed tomatoes with grilled vegetables; to-die-for desserts such as giant chocolate/raspberry cupcakes; and don't forget there's a full bar of beer, wine and mixed drinks.

**For reservations call
(330) 374-5550**

www.thevegiterranean.com

**VegiTerranean is located at
21 Furnace Street, Akron**

**In the Northside Lofts,
Just North of downtown Akron**

Featured Recipe

Vegan Cheesy Lasagna

From vegweb.com (<http://vegweb.com/index.php?topic=8013.0>)

Ingredients (use vegan versions)

2-3 jars of favorite spaghetti sauce
1-16 oz bag of spinach leaves
2-3 jars of tomato sauce
1/2 lb. carrots
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 cloves minced garlic
1/4 cup canned low-sodium veggie broth
1 lb. herbed tofu
8 oz. vegan cream cheese
2 Tbs. lemon juice
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
12 lasagna noodles, cooked
1/4 cup nutritional yeast, optional

Directions:

Slice carrots and steam, set aside. Add olive oil to a large skillet, place over medium-high heat until hot. Add parsley and garlic, saute for 1 minute. Add carrots and veggie broth; simmer uncovered for 5 min. Add herbed tofu, vegan cream cheese, and lemon juice; stir well. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until fake cheesy stuff starts to melt. Stir in nutmeg (you could possibly add about 1/4 C.

nutritional yeast at this step, just to make it a little bit more cheesy!). Remove from heat; keep warm.

Place 3 lasagna noodles in bottom of 11x7 baking dish. Spread carrot mixture over top, place 3 noodles on top of that and spread tomato sauce and spinach on top of those, repeat process until all noodles are used up... top with spaghetti sauce. Cover and bake 15 min. at 375 degrees. Uncover and bake an additional 20-30 min. until it is thoroughly heated... use your own judgment. Usually lasagna takes about 45 minutes to cook thoroughly. ***It is superb... your non-vegan friends will be wowed!***



This adorable 10 year old chocolate-colored donkey named Godiva needs a home!

She was one of the farm animals removed along with the buffalo!

Adoption Fee: \$200.

For adoption information, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

The Great Bison Rescue *(Continued)*

the Noble County Sheriff's Department was extremely helpful in arranging for hay and water to be left in a smaller pen with the gate open in hopes that the bison could be lured in the feedlot by her hunger. Detective Mackie also was able to get a load of gravel dumped on the driveway to give our rescue rigs traction to make it up the very steep hill. It would cost us about \$100 total — well worth the hay and gravel to make our jobs easier! Amazingly enough, he called me the next day to let me know that our big buffalo indeed entered the smaller pen and was waiting for us to pick her up! I knew it still wasn't going to be easy. Safety for everyone involved was a big concern here.

I began calling everywhere for help. No other sanctuaries wanted to help with the bison. Out of a sense of urgency and not wanting her to starve to death, I began contacting bison farms. Greg Ellis who owned and operated The Bison Ranch, was located only about 20 minutes away from Happy Trails. I can only imagine what Greg thought when I left my distressed message. It included the fact that though we needed help to rescue the bison, we also wanted to find her a place to live in peace and comfort and not be butchered or eaten. He agreed to help *and* agreed to allow her to live out her life as one of their permanent residents. *Seriously?* We were relieved, not having a long list of kind and generous people wanting to help *or* to home the large, dangerous animal.

So the great bison rescue was set up for Thursday, January 14th. Happy Trails volunteers would meet The Bison Ranch crew in Caldwell, and work together to get the giant beast loaded carefully into a trailer and on her way to safety. The entire time I was thinking that this was truly a strange mix of people coming together for the good of an animal — a sanctuary that encourages folks to adopt a vegetarian diet, and a business that sells bison meat but was willing to allow her to be a permanent resident. The universe works in mysterious ways, and it was bringing us all together for the ultimate good of a living creature who would otherwise have starved to death this winter on the side of the mountain, with no food, no water, and no other buffalo as her companions.

That Thursday morning, Happy Trails volunteers, Kevin Bragg and Sarah Aitken, and freelance reporter, Julie Smeiles, loaded into the Happy Trails pick up truck. I drove. Two and a half hours later we arrived in Caldwell to see the Bison Ranch folks with their trailer already backed up and in place next to the feedlot.

"She's a jumper!" was the first thing we heard! Great. The buffalo had effortlessly leaped over the fence and was now in the pasture up front near the road. Not a good place for the bison to be. It was then we met Ed Goldner, Bob Lindquist and Andrew Wurcho, our buffalo rescue team.

Eventually we were able to lure the bison back into the feedlot. Standing on the outside of the fence and leaning over the top rail, getting ready to go in the paddock with the buffalo, Bob lit up a cigarette. "You never know if this will be my last," he joked. Everyone joked. Making light of a dangerous situation is often the way most rescue people get through the



task at hand. We all joked quite a bit that day.

Bob went in first to test the waters, slowly waving an arm here or there to gauge her reactions. Ed joined in the herding. It was quickly clear they would need more people and some visual barriers to deter her. I say visual barriers because there was no physical barrier that was going to stop a stampeding buffalo.

The feedlot was strewn with debris — parts of old fencing, splintered pieces of wood, and odd shapes of metal roofing, all frozen into the snow. This made running to herd the buffalo dangerous. A time-out was called and the guys worked on moving as much of the material as they could from the frozen ground.

Ed, Bob and Kevin decided to try holding up giant pieces of plastic called visqueen between them. What a great visual barrier! They walked slowly toward the cow, and as she eyed the entire situation you could see her mind working. She would take a few steps away from them, and then whirl around in circles. Ed and Bob kept talking softly to her — "It's OK girl. Go into the chute. Go get your grain." Lies! It was all lies! How dare they say such things! She was sure there would be no grain! She whirled and spun and with head-down, charged the center of the visqueen. As the guys let go, it went flying up in the air over her head. Phooey. Though this method was attempted twice more, she was on to their silly plan and easily blew threw the plastic with ease. She outsmarted them. They needed a new plan.

We collected all the metal fence gates that we could find on the property. Sarah joined the crew inside the pen, while I continued to work the side of the fence where the bison kept thinking about jumping over. I have to confess that it's rather intimidating to have a very large buffalo running at you with gusto while it's considering jumping over the fence that separates you from her. Waving my arms and running back and forth seemed pretty lame, but if it worked, she would stay in the pen. If it didn't work, I would be flat as a pancake when she cleared the fence.

By now, hours had went by from when we first started working with the big girl. OK, one more try. Slowly the moving gate panels, they penned in the cow closer to the trailer. Her tail went up. Not a good sign. Head went down. Yikes! Everyone stopped and froze. She calmed down, and this game played out for a little while. But she finally decided she had just

had enough of this game. She began to spin, and we all knew what comes next. There was a lot of waving and jumping as she would run toward someone. You could see her eyeball the people. You could feel the tension in the air. The folks in the feedlot were now very close to the frustrated bison, with nothing to protect them from her wrath. She was done. Very done. She decided that the game was up, and she spun one last time, and ran at full speed directly into the squeeze chute and didn't even stop. She landed with a clatter of front hooves in the trailer. Unbelievable! Bob sprinted at Olympic speed behind her and slammed the trailer door shut. For a moment there was dead silence. No-one could believe what we had just witnessed. Then a cheer went up from everyone! You could feel the mixed emotions — joy, relief, a sense of accomplishment, and the pride in a rescue well done! The buffalo was safe. The people were safe. All was well in the world!

Of course we all got up close and stared in amazement at her in the trailer and tried to reassure her that she was going someplace safe and where she would have buffalo friends. During the ride back to The Bison Ranch, we named our furry girl Sedona!

At The Bison Ranch, Greg Ellis greeted us with his giant buffalo residents in the background. The truck backed up to the gate, and the permanent residents gathered round. When the gate of the trailer opened, Sedona came flying out at full speed and smack into the middle of four much bigger, curious buffalo. Excited, they all took off trotting across the field, eager to get to know their new friend.

The second her hooves hit safe ground, I had tears in my eyes. She now had friends and family. She seemed happy and content the second that she saw everyone. We all stood and watched for a very long time, watching the dynamics of the herd. There was no signs of aggression — only curiosity and friendship.

One of my very favorite pictures of the entire rescue shows the Happy Trails rescue truck sitting underneath the big sign of The Bison Ranch in front of their retail store. The photo drips of irony, an animal sanctuary truck sitting in front of a store that sells buffalo meat. But it also is a very real and very encouraging example of people who come from all different mindsets regarding animals, reaching out to each other and working together. Sedona didn't survive her ordeal on the side of the foothill for no apparent reason — she survived her ordeal to allow us the opportunity to show the world that people who are in different places in their journey through life can come together and work in harmony for a higher good.

We would really appreciate it if you would help us thank the folks at The Bison Ranch for their help, their friendship, their cooperation, and for putting their safety on the line to help us capture a hungry and neglected animal. You can send a note of thanks to: The Bison Ranch, 5880 Salem-Warren Road, North Jackson, Ohio 44451; or you can give them a quick call to say "Thanks for your help guys!" at 330-538-0760. And *many* thanks to our fearless Happy Trails crew, too!



(left to right) Kevin Bragg, Ed Goldner, Andrew Wurcho, Sarah Aitken, Bob Lindquist, and (bottom center) Sarah's Search and Rescue puppy in training, Chica



Buckeye In Recovery

(Continued from page 4)

bounce right back, that was not to happen. His recovery process was excruciatingly slow. That's when his secondary issue was brought to light.

Buckeye had an old ankle injury to his front right leg that needed addressed. Apparently it was causing him a great deal of pain, and could have been part of the reason that he was not eating as well as he should at times. Now that he had spent six weeks at OSU and we were \$4,000 into his recovery, he would need leg surgery.

Sometimes we have some really difficult decision to make as a rescue group. If a horse is older or debilitated, it often makes our decision easier — not less painful, but more cut and dry. We don't normally put that amount of money into hospital care for horses — it's simply not realistic. For us as a rescue group to do so. But we had decided that five year old Buckeye needed a chance at a life where someone would actually show him that they loved him and would care for him — a life where he would never again know hunger, cold or pain.

When he first arrived at Happy Trails, there were big chunks of skin missing from his poor, frail body. Patches of fur were gone, and there were large and painful bite marks, most likely from other bigger or more aggressive horses. He had open sores, and his hip and rib bones protruded painfully through his thin skin. We had brought him so far with the help of the vets at OSU. He was kept on IV's, was monitored, tested, prodded and probed, and he was finally gaining some weight. Now this issue with his ankle. Now what?

We discussed the situation and agonized about it with our board of directors, our volunteers, and other fellow rescue workers. Should we spend the additional money? Should we put it instead into another horse or two? But Buckeye wasn't very old, and he had his whole life in front of him. What if we put the money into him and his surgery didn't go very well? All these were thoughts that kept going through our minds.

As most court cases go, this horse was not signed over to Happy Trails yet. No-one would have blamed us if we euthanized



Happy Trails volunteer, Debbie McCourt, also visited Buckeye in the hospital in Columbus and let him know that he had an entire fan club at Happy Trails that was rooting for him to recover!

this horse. It's not like anyone else was stepping up to the plate to put any money out for his care. And many times the court may order restitution, but the odds of us ever seeing any of that money is usually slim to none if we're all being honest here. That's simply the way our court

system works with animal abuse cases. It's not quite the way we'd like to see things go either. Here in Ohio, a humane society can ask for a bond to be ordered to cover the cost of the care of dogs or cats who are removed from a situation of abuse. Horses and other livestock are not included in that law, so the rescue group bears the brunt of the cost of care. No wonder most animal rescue groups only take in owner surrenders and don't deal with court cases — no-one ever wants to pay them back for their time, trouble and expenses.

So back to, *just what were we to do with Buckeye?* We decided that we were this far along with his recovery, that we had to see this through. We couldn't let him down yet another time in his



Buckeye (Continued from page 18)

short life.

After ankle surgery, Buckeye had a cast placed on his leg. Pain management was a bit of a challenge, but with recent acupuncture therapy, he is doing remarkably well and appears to be on the road to a successful recovery! We are thrilled for this handsome, very sweet young horse.

Throughout his entire ordeal, Buckeye has been nothing but cooperative. He bravely allowed the staff to take blood, to give shots, to shave fur, to take numerous temperatures, to remove bone from his hip for the ankle surgery, to inflict pain in order to provide healing, and throughout every day, he bravely allowed the people in his world to do what they needed to do in order to help him with his healing process. Not once did he even consider biting or kicking. *Not once.* A horse with that wonderful of a personality and outlook on life *truly* deserves to live.

So, \$6,700 later, with the expenses still not all tallied, we feel that if we had to do it all over again for Buckeye, we would again indeed. All animals and people come into our lives for a reason, so Buckeye must have a very important job to do. Buckeye's case in court is yet to unfold. Will the person who was responsible for his care be found guilty of neglect? What will the judge decide? Buckeye was only one of eleven horses that were removed from the property. Each of these horses and the other animals have their own story to tell also.

We are hoping that in the next three to four weeks, Buckeye will be strong enough to make the two-hour trailer ride home. And we are honored to call ourselves his new *home* — at least for now until the court case is over. We have assured him that in the long run, when we are legally permitted to do so, we will find him *the best* permanent home ever! A home where he will be cared for, spoiled rotten, and loved for simply being the gentle spirit that he is. *And we will!*

We welcome and deeply appreciate any and all help with Buckeye's medical costs. As I had mentioned, we don't do this for every horse. Sometimes you run across a young, gentle horse that needs a break — someone to care enough to make up for all the unfairness and pain and suffering that they received before arriving at Happy Trails.

Donations marked "For Buckeye" can be mailed to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or a donation may be made through PayPal on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.

We will do our very best to post updates about this case on the Happy Trails website also, so be sure to check the web for the latest information.

Misc. Stuff

New FaceBook Page:

Check out Happy Trails new Facebook page!
Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Happy-Trails-Farm-Animal-Sanctuary-Inc/146324292032>

Farm Animal Visitation Program:

Beginning in May, the Happy Trails Farm Animal Visitation Program will once again bring joy to the faces of young and old alike when we take goats, chickens, ducks and pot belly pigs to visit area nursing homes and handicapped facilities. To schedule a farm animal visit, contact Cheri Rider at 330-301-1552.

New Vegan Cookbook:

Happy Trails is in the process of creating our very own vegan cookbook!

If you would have some incredibly delicious animal-friendly recipes to share, please send them to us at Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or email them through the website at www.happytrailsfarm.org. Deadline for receiving recipes is April 1, 2010.

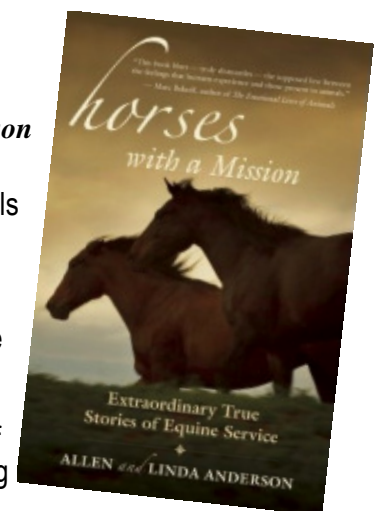
Recommended Reading

Horses With A Mission:

Extraordinary True Stories Of Equine Service

By Allen and Linda Anderson

Included in this book is the story of Rocky, a Happy Trails rescued Percheron draft horse, who arrived at the sanctuary at only 10 months old through our Amish Horse Retirement Program. Read Rocky's story along with 20 other dramatic true stories of courageous, loyal and loving horses.



Horses With A Mission is available at Amazon.com, Borders.com, bn.com, and other chain, online, and independent bookstores nationwide.



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a _____ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge

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**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 www.happytrailsfarm.org to register!

Please help spread caring and compassion for all animals
with your kind donation, and help us save the life
of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today!

Save A Life, Spread Compassion!

*Happy Trails rescue programs
are funded by your thoughtful
and generous donations.*

*Many thanks for your
support and kindness!*



*Kachina gets her special shoes put on by a
team of veterinarians and vet students at
OSU in Columbus every six weeks.*