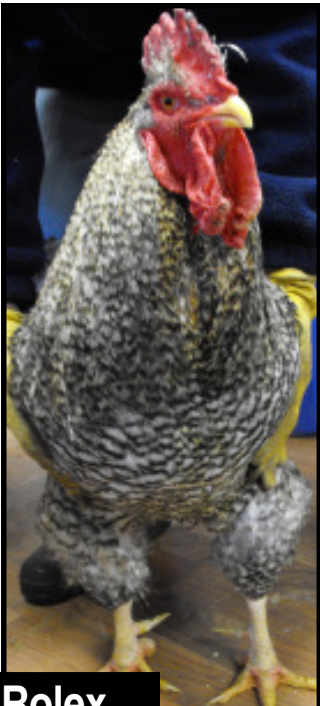
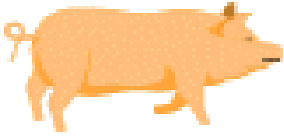


Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

APRIL 2010

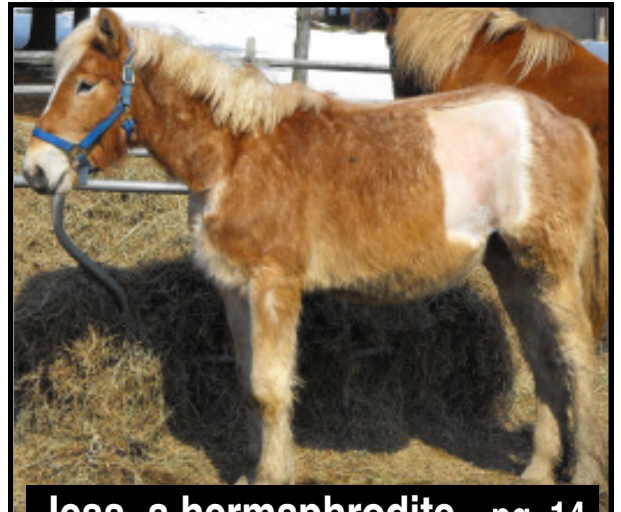
Newsletter



**Rolex
The
Rooster
Needs A
Home -
pg. 12**



**Bunnies Available
For Adoption - pg. 6**



Jess, a hermaphrodite - pg. 14



Buddy The Horse - pg. 9



The Rescue Of Stinky George - pg. 3

letter from the director

**Dear Friends
Of Happy Trails,**

Spring is here, and we looking at a whirlwind of activity for Happy Trails this coming year. In the midst of all the animal rescue that we handle, we are busy planning special events and activities to celebrate our big 10 year anniversary this year — we hope you'll write some of the dates on your calendar and plan to join us!

Happy Trails handled quite a few animal cruelty cases this winter, and we took in amazing numbers of animals and provided them with medical care, warm shelter, proper nutrition and lots of TLC, all thanks to your generosity and support. For some of these guys whose court cases are over or who have been signed over to the sanctuary, it's time now to find them kind, caring and compassionate homes.

April is going to be "Adopt-A-Farm Animal" month, and we will be sending out special fliers by email so that folks can help us spread the word about various animals who are available for adoption. If you can help us pass along these fliers, please sign up to receive electronic emails through our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org — the power of networking is incredible when it comes to



*helping us
find homes
for these
gentle and
trusting
creatures.*

Our newsletters are becoming quite popular, and with each edition, we are going through more and more copies. The expense ads up quickly. We would like to keep our newsletters available to everyone. Even if you're not in a position to donate to the care of the rescued animals, maybe you would consider sending in \$2 or \$3 to help us offset the cost of our newsletters if you enjoy reading them.

I truly appreciate the support of each and every person who makes our animal rescue work and educational efforts possible! Many, many thanks!

Annette Fisher

Annette Fisher
Executive Director

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

Two Questions

**1) Do you like reading
the Happy Trails news-
letters? If you said yes...**

**2) ...do you have \$2 or
\$3 to spare?**

The cost of printing our newsletters certainly adds up, and the demand for the newsletters is increasing. Even if you are not in a position to donate to the care of the rescued animals, but you do enjoy reading our newsletters, maybe you would drop two or three dollars in an envelope to help us cover the cost of printing our newsletters. We would greatly appreciate it — every little bit helps!

*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 ~*



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

Rescuing Stinky George

In December 2009, Happy Trails received a strange call from a business in Poland, Ohio. A stray black goat had shown up in the area surrounding a strip mall, and decided that it would make its home next to the building of a wholesale pharmacy.

The employees began to leave the little guy food, and cautioned each other to drive slower through the parking lot to avoid hitting their new resident.

Though he was happy for the food, the small, black goat did not trust people. **The good folks who worked at the business were concerned for his safety and well-being.** He had no shelter from the freezing rains or the heavy, wet flakes of snow. There was no dry area where he could lay down.

Could Happy Trails please help them safely catch the homeless goat?

Rounding up stray farm animals that aren't crazy about people is always a fun time...not. I'm certain that we picked the coldest day of the year to hitch up the trailer. Cheri Rider, Rob Willard, and myself, arrived in Poland and drove past a heavily populated shopping area.

Where in heaven's name did a stray goat come from in this neck of the woods?



A more detailed version of the story of Stinky George can be found on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org. Here George hangs out in his favorite cat cage..we can't really explain this either...

We hopped out of the nice warm truck and into the frigid arctic winds that were blowing stinging, icy snowflakes into our faces. I had been playfully whining during the entire ride about the cold and the crappy weather.

Cheri and Rob surveyed the scene. *Where should we start to look for the goat?* Behind the building there appeared to be acres upon acres of woods. Surely we would never find this thing. They were talking about splitting up and searching various areas of the vast wooded area. This did not sound the least bit enjoyable to me, as I pulled my stocking hat completely down over my frozen nose. As they contemplated a plan, I danced around trying to get rid of the chill and trying to see through the holes in the knit pattern in my hat. Tears

from the searing cold were filling my eyes.

An icy blast hit us hard and I continued to dramatically moan and groan, and in my pretend misery, I walked over to the corner of the building that was right in front of us. Rob and Cheri continued to debate about venturing into the vast open area behind the building. Surely in this corner of the building smack next to me there would be less wind and virtually no area to really have to search. I jokingly blurted out, **"Uh, I'll pick this area to search."** With that said, I boldly set foot into their very nicely manicured beds of shrubbery next to the building.

Whoosh! Fast as lightning,

Continued on page 18

Celebrate 2010 With Us!

It's Happy Trails 10th Year Anniversary!

Sunday, June 27th — 12pm - 5pm
**10th Anniversary
Farm Tour!**

Check out our progress over the last 10 years, and tour our facilities that have expanded and improved!

Tour: Take a relaxing, leisurely and educational self-guided tour (map provided!) of the sanctuary while visiting the rescued animals and learning about the services and programs of Happy Trails. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, to help you meet the rescued animals, and to help your sanctuary experience be rewarding and enjoyable!



Animal-Friendly Anniversary Cake and Goodies:

Compassionate anniversary desserts and beverages are included in admission price.

Parking: Since Happy Trails truly has no parking available at the sanctuary itself, parking will be available in several Portage County public parking lots near downtown Ravenna. A map will be provided on the website at www.happytrailsfarm.org and an

address given in future newsletters. A bus shuttle will run continuously from the parking area to the sanctuary — about a six minute ride.

Admission: \$10 per person; \$5 for kids ages 6 to 12; ages 5 and under are free

Displays/Literature: See great displays of photos from our humble beginnings and what the facilities looked like before Happy Trails evolved. Other animal education and informational displays will be available throughout the sanctuary.



Kachina says, "Please come visit me at the Happy Trails Farm Tour on Sunday, June 27th!"

page 4

Saturday, Aug. 28th
**Blessing Of
The Animals
At Happy Trails**
see details on page 17

Saturday, Nov. 20th
**Compassionate
Thanksgiving**
see details on page 17



"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)

JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION BY

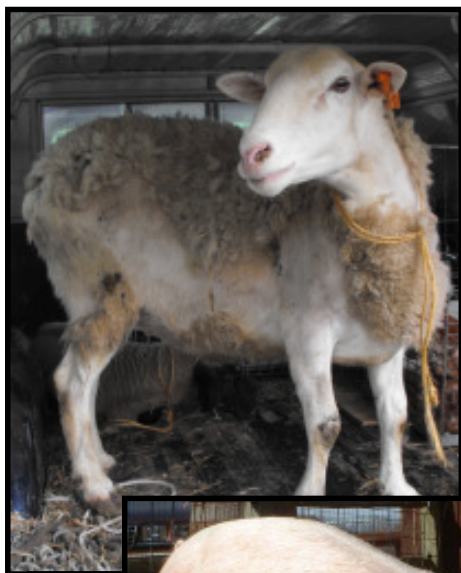
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

Speaker: Annette Fisher, Executive Director

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30pm
at the Akron Public Library
60 South High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326

“Animal Cruelty Investigations In Ohio — Up Close And Personal”

Examine two court cases from investigation through trial

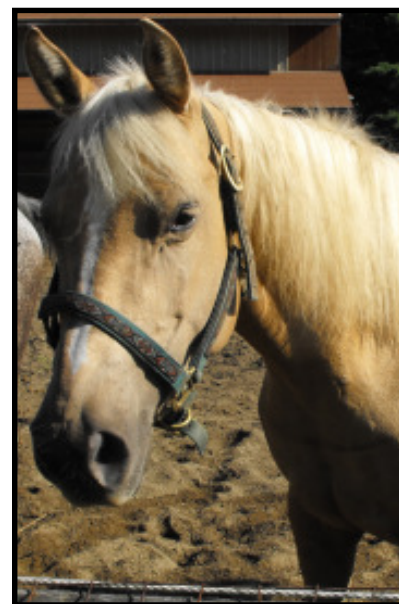


Journey through two animal cruelty investigations side-by-side — the Lind’s Livestock Abuse Case and the Deerfield Horse Abuse Case.

- **Explore these animal abuse case studies** all the way through the court proceedings and trials.

- **What are Ohio’s cruelty laws?** Learn about Ohio’s Revised Code.

- **What is Happy Trails role** in animal cruelty cases and what challenges are faced?



Meet representatives from Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary
Literature • Displays • Information

www.happytrailsfarm.org • 330-296-5914

35 Bunnies, A Pregnant Nearly-30-Year-Old Pony, And A Friendly Calf Arrived At Happy Trails...

“Happy Trails does not take in domestic animals such as dogs, cats or rabbits...” goes the saying on our answering machine.

Well, try telling 35 bunnies that when you’re on the scene of a cruelty call, and they’re looking out at our from their pathetic little cages which held no bedding and no water, and were sitting out in the middle of a yard in a snowstorm.

Portage County Humane Officer, Jennifer Sanderson, and I visited a location in Portage County which revealed a small three-sided shelter that had caved in and lay in a pile of rubbish on the frozen ground. In addition to the 35 rabbits, there was a small calf and a nearly 30 year old pony.

The pony stood before us with a big rope hanging from her neck that had been dragged through the freezing muck. Heavy ice balls hung from the ends of the rope. “That makes it easier to catch her,” we were told. The same heavy ice balls hung from the fur around her back ankles.

“She’s pregnant,” the owner announced. I immediately hoped to God he was wrong. She was underweight and in pretty sad shape. As we watched, she drug her heavy ice-encrusted rope around her neck wherever she went. “How do you know she’s pregnant?” I inquired. “I got a stallion and brought him here,” was the reply. I looked around but didn’t see any other horses. At least not yet.

We waded through a swampy, icy little gully and walked around the back of another shack-like building. With the way the fencing was set up, we had to completely walk around the entire structure to get to the open front. “Here’s where the pony can get into *if* she wants to,” we were told. I walk into the small area littered with snow-covered debris and looked straight up at the bright-blue late-afternoon sky. There was no roof.

Jen was in front of me as we walked toward the second half of the open structure. Suddenly she stopped abruptly and I heard her gasp. I turned to see an absolutely horrified look on her face. “Dear God, what is *that*?” The owner stood back and casually said, “Oh, that was the stallion. He died about three days ago.” I stepped around the corner of the open doorway to see a full-sized, emaciated, frozen, dead horse lying across a pile of junk up against the wall of the

Continued on page 16



You can see more pictures and more of the story on the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.



Celebrate Mother's Day With The Gift Of Life!

A Mother's Day Tea!



Sponsor a rescued animal in honor of Mom...

(or special aunt, sister, friend, etc.)

**...and have the option to bring her
to Happy Trails on Mother's Day
and meet her sponsored animal!**



What Does Mom Get For Her Sponsorship?

- Each Mother's Day Sponsorship Package includes a color photo of the sponsored animal and fun-facts about that particular animal. An information sheet is also included with the sponsorship packet and describes how your kind donation is used toward the animal's care. It will detail items such as feed, bedding, shelter, medical, and any other costs associated with the special needs of that particular animal.

How Can I Bring Mom To The Mother's Day Tea?

- Mom can meet her sponsored animal on Mother's Day, May 9th, along with three other guests, at the Mother's Day Tea!
- Tea, lemonade and cookies will be served!
- At the Tea, Mom will receive a special laminated book mark with a photo of her sponsored animals, tied with a pretty pink ribbon.
- Mother's Day Tea Cost: \$20 for up to four people

**For more details, call Sharon Barnard
at 330-573-1450.**

**Deadline For Mother's Day
Sponsorships Is April 30th**

FARM ANIMAL MOTHER'S DAY SPONSORSHIP

____ I would like to sponsor a rescued animal for
Mother's Day as a gift for:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

This Mother's Day Animal Sponsorship is a gift from:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

____ I am including an additional \$20 to attend the
Mother's Day Tea and have a private ½ hour visit with
our sponsored animal! (Up to four guests included!)

☐ Draft Horse: \$75

☐ Goat: \$40

☐ Horse (regular): \$50

☐ Pot Belly Pig: \$35

☐ Farm Pig: \$40

☐ Goose or Duck: \$30

☐ Sheep \$40

☐ Chickens: \$20

Enclosed is a total of: \$ _____

**Make checks payable and send to: Happy Trails,
5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266**

Barn Fire Brings Out Friends

Story By Jason Wolboldt

Years ago, when I learned of the tremendous amount of neglect and cruelty done to animals, farm animals in particular, I had two dreams. One was that I wanted to take in animals and provide them a home where they could truly be happy. That dream came true when I bought a home with a large 1 ½ acre lot and a beautiful barn, and I adopted several goats that I fell in love with from Happy Trails.

On Friday, February 5th, in the middle of a snowstorm, there was a fire, and every flame bursting out of the barn was a flame to that dream. The goats were out of the barn and more than anything I was thankful for that. But the snow was coming down hard and they were soaked and at risk of getting sick. On top of that, all their hay was being burned with the barn. And they were scared. I knew of nobody nearby that would help me to get them warm and fed, especially in such bad weather...

The other dream I had was to be part of an organization that cared about not only the animals generally accepted as pets, but *all* animals no matter what use common society deems them to have. What I never dreamed of was the amount of dedication, compassion, and true friendship I would find at this

organization: Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary.

When I called Sharon Barnard, Rob Willard, and Annette and Russ Fisher the night of the fire, the first thing they all said was "How can I help?" I explained the situation and in the middle of a snowstorm predicted to accumulate over a foot of snow in one night, they drove forty miles on dangerous roads to bring hay, straw, blankets, and hugs. We moved the goats to another shelter on my property, patted them dry with towels, provided them hay, and gave them comfort. By the end of the night, the fire department had saved most of the barn and the goats were safe, warm and happy.

All throughout the next day, I received an outpouring of phone calls and emails from people at Happy Trails, some people whom I had never met before, offering compassion and help in whatever form they could provide. Not only do these people share my passion for helping animals, but also deep down, we genuinely care for each other. It brought me to tears because I had never experienced such a sense of family in my life.

When I come to Happy Trails, I see the animals being cared for. I see the joy the other volunteers take in spending time with the animals, in working to make their lives better, in joking with each other, and I think there is something very "right" going on with the people here. When I experienced what I did the weekend of the fire, It reinforced that thought with titanium alloy. I think anyone who volunteers at Happy Trails and truly grasps the spirit that surrounds it, comes to realize that this is the spirit in which we belong and that we are connected in this spirit no matter who or what species you are.



Many Thanks!

• **To all the amazing college students who run the CARES** (Case Animal Rights And Ethics Society) Program at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, and who made our animal cruelty and case studies presentation at the university possible on Sunday, February 28th — what a fantastic example of young adults making a difference in the world! We love you guys and keep up the good work! Make sure to check them out at <http://casecares.blogspot.com/>

• **To Dr. Lori Bieber, South Russell Vet Clinic, and their clients** for their generosity and support of our animal rescue programs at Happy Trails!

We like to at least name a few folks to thank and acknowledge in our newsletters. We sure wish though, that we had room to list everyone who donates and supports the sanctuary!

Supporters Of Happy Trails

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printing needs!*

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Jim Fentules — Owner

South Russell Vet Clinic

Dr. Lori Bieber

5210 #C Chillicothe Rd.
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

440-338-6320

Buddy The Horse

On Friday, January 22, 2010, Happy Trails picked up a 19 year old Quarter horse by the name of Buddy from a property in Bellville (Richland County), Ohio. The Ohio SPCA and the county humane officer requested Happy Trails assistance in this particular case.

Buddy had been underweight for quite some time, and back in December, his sheath began to hang down and became swollen, a very delicate and painful situation for a gelding. This is a condition that we have seen often enough at Happy Trails. If a gelding is suffering from malnutrition, he often does not have the strength or muscle-tone needed to retract. Gravity takes over, swelling takes place, and because the penis is then unprotected, it can develop a hematoma, become infected, or can swell to an excruciating size.

In Buddy's case, it had been a very long time since he was able to retract. In the middle of single-digit temperatures, his penis had been exposed to the elements. It became swollen and painful. The humane officer involved in the case required that a veterinarian be called in to examine the horse. The vet (this was verified) suggested that the owner apply DMSO to the already painful appendage. This was definitely not a good call, as DMSO is something that needs to be used with extreme caution, and is not normally applied to sensitive areas such as this. The owner followed these instructions, and Buddy's sheath, which had already become swollen to the size of a bowling ball, now broke out in large, open, burning sores. The family could not afford further treatment, and agreed with the humane officer to surrender the horse to Happy Trails.

Happy Trails picked up Buddy that Friday and headed immediately to OSU in Columbus. He arrived there within an hour and a half of being picked up. During the vet exam they discovered that he had a large portion of scar tissue covering the front of his penis. Buddy was in sad shape — he was severely underweight, he had an eye that he could not see out of that had started to recede back into his head, he was arthritic, and his genitals hurt.

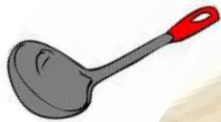
The vet suggested a penile amputation. We normally do not put older horses through major surgeries and didn't have a gut feeling that this was the route to go. He already had enough to deal with, considering that he suffered from malnutrition and was blind in one eye, so we asked if there was anything else that

Continued on page 19



Read Buddy's entire story and see more photos on the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.





Happy Trails New Animal-Friendly Cookbook

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

**If you happen to 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 your recipes through the website

at www.happytrailsfarm.org.



Please include your name and contact number (just for us) incase we have any questions!
We are requesting a \$3 donation per recipe to help us offset the initial printing costs.

Deadline for receiving recipes is May1, 2010.

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!

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www.ohiohumane.com**

Tribute to Mr. Bill

Way back when, when Happy Trails was just a blip on the radar screen, we organized a rescue of nine horses from the Mt. Hope auction to help bring awareness of all the horses that are sold weekly to the meat buyers. Happy Trails was pretty new. We had few contacts and very little connections.

Somehow or other, we found ourselves introduced by phone to animal rescue worker, Sarah Aitken, who offered to set up our horse trailers and haulers for this rescue. Little did we know, we would meet some folks who would become our friends for life and permanent volunteers with Happy Trails.

Phyllis and Jake Leonhardt were



some of Sarah's friends who arrived at Mt. Hope to help us haul horses to safety on that day of new beginnings back in 2002. It was the beginning of a second chance at life for nine lucky horses, the beginning of a growth spurt for Happy Trails that never ended, *and* the beginning of new-found friendships all the way around.

Though they planned only to help haul horses, Phyllis and Jake found themselves agreeing to foster an old

Standardbred gelding, who they named Mr. Bill.

Mr. Bill was ancient — over 30 years old according to his tattoo registration records. But he was full of life and love, and he brought both of these things into the Leonhardt family.

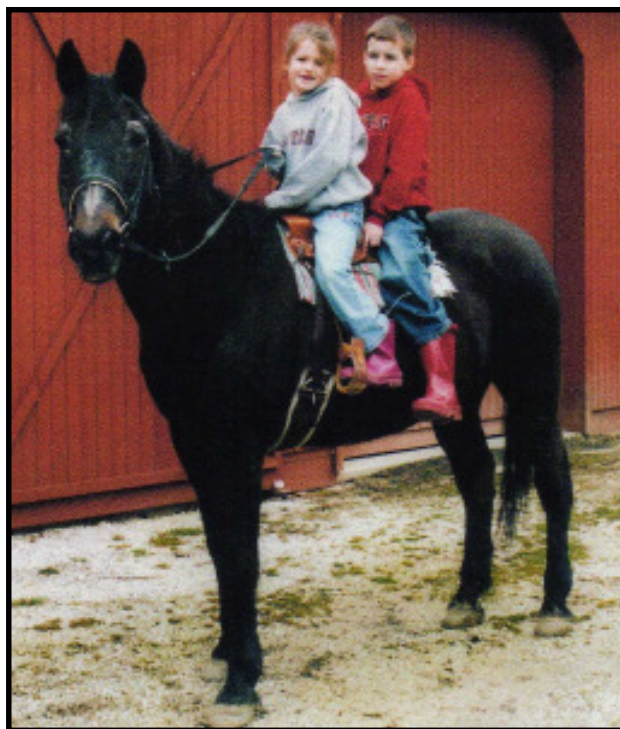
Mr. Bill loved to go on rides throughout the calm and peaceful woods surrounding his new home. He was quiet and safe, and even the smallest of grandkids could ride him. He enjoyed the attention of his new family, and somehow or other he blended into their herd of Morgans.

Whenever we connected with Phyllis and Jake, we would always carefully inquire as to how Mr. Bill was doing. We would always receive the same response of, "He's doing great!"

In the big picture of the story of Mr. Bill, my theory once again seems to hold true. I have a theory that we aren't really here to rescue the animals, but rather they are here to rescue us, to teach us lessons and to bring meaning to our lives.

We truly didn't rescue Mr. Bill from the meat buyers hands on that fateful day. His presence at the auction and the fact that he ended up on our rescue trailers was no accident. **He ended up exactly where he was supposed to be — with a family where he was able to bring a incredible joy and happiness into their lives.** He brought people together and helped us form lasting friendships, and he meant a great deal to many people.

On February 18, at nearly 40 years old, Mr. Bill's earthly body finally ran out of enough energy to keep him going, and he was no longer able to stand up on his own. Phyllis and Jake make the tough decision to



help him cross the Rainbow Bridge.

Mr. Bill will be sadly missed, though the pleasant memories will rise above the sadness, and we will all remember him for how he enriched our lives in so many ways.

Before I leave you with this final thought, let me make it perfectly clear that people who love Morgan horses absolutely swear by their beloved breed. *And I kid you not*, I have heard this come from both Phyllis and Jake... **"Mr. Bill was *thee* best horse we've ever had!"**

Visit Our Friends At Pegasus Farm
Therapeutic Equine Riding Center



7490 Edison Street NE • Hartville, Oh 44632

330-935-2300

www.pegasusfarm.org

Listen to the Pegasus interview on
"Animal Talk" at www.happytrailsfarm.org

Feathered Friends Need Homes: Roosters, Hens, Ducks & Geese!

Feathered friends such as chickens, ducks and geese make excellent family farm pets! And right now, there are plenty of them in need of

adoptive homes!

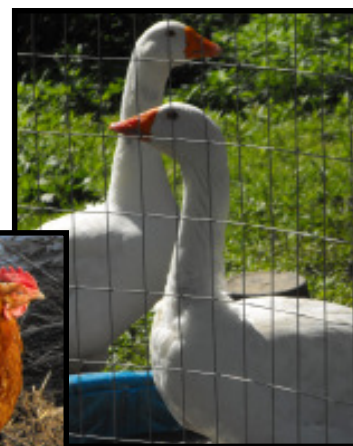
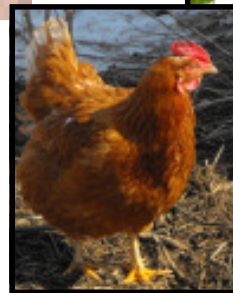
We *REALLY* need kind and caring homes for

roosters — sadly this is one type of animal that is often abandoned. We have several families of geese who will be kept together in a group, and

there are multiple pairs of ducks who would like to be adopted as couples so they can keep their mates. There are even several guinea fowl seeking a home.

All feathered friends are required to have a predator-safe environment and appropriate fencing. Ducks and geese require access to water, even if it's a kiddie pool!

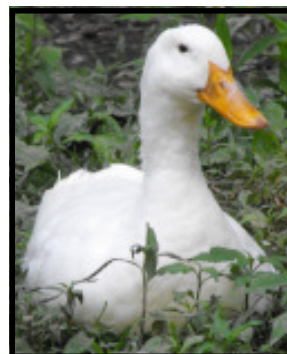
Feathered animals are some of the most educational and entertaining creatures



ever! **The chickens are fun to**

watch when they sunbathe and take dirt baths, and the ducks and geese splash around like crazy when they have their kiddie pools filled with clean water!

To adopt some feathered friends, call Cheri at 330-301-1552.



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Something New! Something Fun! **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!

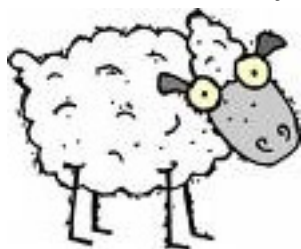
- You can host a barn party for

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 donated from the list or 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.**

Listen To "Animal Talk" Happy Trails Radio Program

Saturdays . 9:30am - 10:00am

Sundays ... 10:00am - 10:30am

Streaming:

Listen through the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org

Local Station: WSOM-600AM

Archives:

Missed a show? Listen any time, over morning coffee or during lunch, through the radio archives section of the website — www.hapytrailsfarm.org.

Guests/Topics:

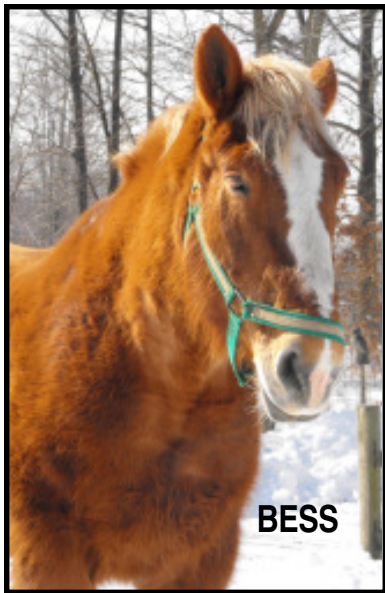
Catch special guests such as Karen Minton from HSUS with the new ballot initiative; Julie Fisher from Christ Episcopal Church with animals in Christianity; Helen Carpenter with Southeast Llama Rescue; Doris Straka and communicating with animals; and many more great interviews!

Bess And Jess — A Rather Bizarre Story Indeed!

(This is the short version — check out the longer story on-line at www.happytrailsfarm.org.)

Two Belgian draft horses recently came in through our Amish Horse Retirement Program.

Bess, the 17 year old mother, had major trauma giving birth, and her owner was retiring because she could no longer be used as a brood mare. He did not want to send her through the sale, and cared very much about her health and her future. Bess is already trained to drive and ride, and she also worked plowing the field. Her family would ride her bareback just to give her exercise while she took some time off while she was pregnant. She is healthy and sound other than not being able to breed, and we wouldn't adopt her into a breeding program anyway. Bess is available for adoption and is a simply fantastic horse, and would be great for some light trail work! She gets along excellent with other



horses and is gentle with people. Her adoption fee is \$450.

Jess, her yearling baby, was born a hermaphrodite — a baby who had both boy and girl “parts”. A visit to OSU resulted in laparoscopic surgery to remove his testicles from his abdomen. He has recovered very nicely, and other than having his plumbing physically located a bit differently than most, the vets now consider him a

gelding. He is normal in every other way, and is growing up to be quite the handsome and energetic young man, just like any other year old draft baby! Jess is now available for adoption, and is growing like a weed! He deserves a family who will love him and accept him as he is. What is “normal” to us, is not quite “normal” to him. His adoption fee is \$150.



Here you can see the large shaved area where the incisions were made for the laparoscopic surgery. There is an identical shaved area on his other side as well.

Both horses have been wormed, had their Coggins test, hooves trimmed, were thoroughly vet checked, and Bess had her teeth floated.

Jess' surgery at OSU and related expenses cost Happy Trails \$1,350. The vet's explained that leaving the testicles in the abdomen could result in tumors and unsafe stallion-like behavior as Jess grew up. It was the equivalent of a geld surgery, but more complicated because of his parts being in different areas than was normal. We felt strongly, however, about giving this young horse a chance to have a good quality of life. Some people may want to view him as a freak of nature. I believe Jess is here with us to help teach people that not all of us are exactly alike, and that we need to learn to accept each other for our differences. Just like we are hoping that someone will accept Jess into their family for simply being who he is. And just like some people — his body may not be quite like the other horses, but his spirit is the same and he just wants to be treated with kindness and respect. It seems so little to ask.

If you can help out with the vet expenses for Jess, your kind tax-deductible donation can be marked “Jess” and sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. We truly appreciate your support — your donations are the only thing that makes our animal rescue and rehabilitation work possible!

For adoption information on either horse, give us a call at 330-296-5914.

Seeking The Support Of Our Ohio Community

Please read the letter below, and if you know of any person or business that might be interested in helping us out with the funding for this necessary piece of equipment, please copy the letter and pass it along! We appreciate your help!

Dear Friend Of Happy Trails,

We *LOVE* serving the residents and the animals of Ohio, and providing our rescue and rehab services and our educational and outreach programs *at no cost*. Happy Trails operates on all private donations.

As so often happens, things break at inconvenient times, and the old skid steer that has served us well for many years has finally reached a point beyond where it is reasonable to sink any more money into repairs. A check-up revealed that repairs would cost half as much as the machine itself is worth — *not a smart investment on the part of Happy Trails.*

We were faced with the reality that we cannot function, attend to animal care, or operate the sanctuary without a skidsteer to handle our daily chores of cleaning out horse stalls, moving big round bales of hay, delivering straw to the various animal shelters, toting massive water tanks to the horse paddocks out back, or moving supplies to the appropriate barns.

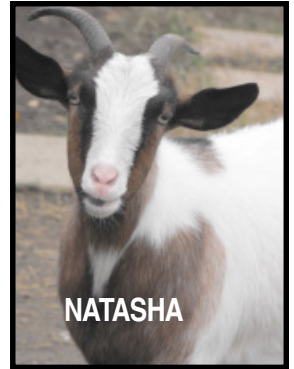
We secured a loan to purchase a newer (*but still not brand new*) skid steer. **We are turning to the businesses in our Ohio community to request your help with this unexpected expense.** We would greatly appreciate your consideration of sponsoring a tax-deductible donation of one month's payment toward the

purchase of this piece of necessary equipment for Happy Trails.

Our monthly payment is \$290.75. **Your donation of one month's payment will help Happy Trails continue to provide excellent care and rehabilitation services for rescued animals like Mac**



and Natasha! Mac is a Clydesdale draft horse that arrived at Happy Trails 700 lbs. underweight. Natasha, the goat, was found abandoned on the side of the road when she was only a day and a half old, and she fit into the palm of our hand. She is now one of Happy Trail's rescued animals that visits the elderly residents of Northeast Ohio's nursing homes.



Not every animal abuse case that we deal with becomes a high-profile media story, but each precious animal in every single abuse, neglect or abandonment case deserves a chance to recover and to experience a safe, healthy, and comfortable life.

With one month's payment toward the purchase of the skidsteer, your donation will help us to: clean out 12 horse stalls every other day for a month; strip out the old bedding in the pot belly and farm pig shelters four times; haul three 800 lb.

round bales of hay to the horse paddocks out back; take 24 bales of straw bedding to the feathered friends, goats and sheep barn; move heavy load after load of blankets and sleeping bags to the piggy blanket storage area; distribute about 30 bags of grain weekly to the various shelter areas at the sanctuary, and assist with the hundreds of other tasks that the skidsteer accomplishes for us daily.

Thank you very much for considering our request!
On behalf of Mac, Natasha and all the rescued animals at Happy Trails, we truly appreciate your support.

With kindness and compassion for all animals,

Annette Fisher, Executive Director

Tax-deductible donations toward the skid steer payments can be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266.



35 Bunnies...

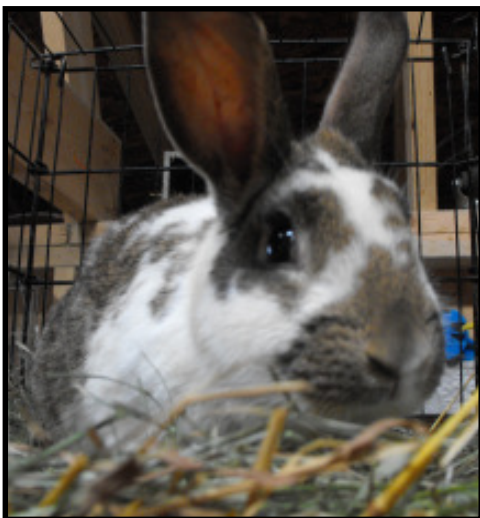
Continued from page 6

structure. His hip bones and ribs all clearly stuck out. It was one of those sights you will never forget.

We walked with the owner back up to the front of the property where 35 bunnies, many in open-air cages, sat in misery. There was no bedding and no signs of water.

The decision was made to remove all the animals from this property.

Happy Trails rescue workers went into action and made a place at the sanctuary to welcome the pregnant pony and the hungry calf. Normally we do not take in bunnies. The answering machine's message continued to play over and over in the back of my head, *"Happy Trails does not take in domestic animals such as dogs, cats or rabbits..."* That night the Happy Trails rescue workers also made comfortable emergency



arrangements for 35 bunnies.

Dr. Randy Alger gave a thorough check-up to the pony and the calf. Both were very underweight.

Sadly, he confirmed that the

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pony was at least four months pregnant. To make matters worse, he determined that she was at least in her mid-twenties. So, we now had an *old*, pregnant, underweight pony.

The bunnies...well, there was lots of bunnies. The kind folks at Barberton Vet Clinic helped us get everyone spayed and neutered at a discount, six rabbits at a time.

All the animals were signed over to Happy Trails, and we can now adopt them to caring, loving homes. **Through networking, I am sure that we will find the perfect homes for the animals from this rescue!**

The old pony, with the help of the vets at OSU, was assisted with losing the baby. If she was to carry it to term in her condition and at her age, she would probably not have made it through the birth. She has recovered and is in need of a home.

If you have a love for cows, maybe the adorable little calf that we named Gallagher would be just the perfect addition to your farm pet family! He enjoys attention, getting hugs and smooches, and is the perfect animal to educate people on the incredible personality of cows!

As for the bunnies...

- Many thanks to the Cleveland APL for helping us out by taking in seven bunnies to start with. Those guys are now all adopted, and they're planning on taking in even more!
- Many thanks to the Portage APL for their donation that paid to have eight of the bunnies spayed and neutered!
- Many thanks to everyone who helped sponsor the spay/neuter costs of the bunnies!



Many of the bunnies are currently in foster care, and are in need of permanent and loving *indoor* homes — no more sitting alone outside in wire cages or dumped in someone's cold, drafty barn! There are plenty of both boys *and* girls to pick from, all of them spayed or neutered. We have beautiful black and white or brown and white bunnies who have incredible markings. We have gray and white bunnies who look very proper and distinguished! We have solid white bunnies who will go with any home decor! Then there are tan bunnies and bunnies that are mixed shades of brown. Some are laid back, some are energetic, some are simply mellow, and some are very curious and inquisitive. Choose a bunny that fits your personality! Bunnies need space for plenty of exercise and environmental stimulation. Bunny behavior experts will be available to talk to you about proper care of bunnies and to go over their special needs. You may have questions like, *how do I litter-train my bunny, or how often do I need to trim its nails?* We have folks who can help you out with these types of questions!

For more information on adopting any of the animals from this rescue, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

Saturday, Aug. 28th Blessing Of The Animals At Happy Trails



What: Join us for a beautiful, unique multi-denominational Blessing Of The Animals Ceremony to bless the rescued animals of Happy Trails and to celebrate ten years of animal rescue for the sanctuary!

Where: Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

When: Saturday, August 28th

Parking: Due to limited parking facilities, parking will again be at the public Portage County lots on Chestnut Street near downtown Ravenna. A shuttle will be available.

Bring A Photo Of Your Pet! You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet, whether he or she is living or deceased, to be blessed also. Please do not bring any animals to this event out of respect for the safety and health of the animals at the sanctuary.

Details: The day's schedule is still being worked out. Details will be announced on the website and in upcoming newsletters! But make sure to put this on your calendar!

Saturday, Nov. 20th Happy Trails 2010 Compassionate Thanksgiving

Spread compassion for all animals, and experience a Thanksgiving Dinner with an incredibly delicious menu of cruelty-free food items — appetizers, main course, salads and side dishes, casseroles and desserts!



Wild Bill, a rescued turkey resident at Happy Trails, hopes you will set aside Saturday, November 20th to join us for the biggest animal-friendly Thanksgiving Dinner in the area!

Join us for an animal-friendly Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner on Saturday, November 20th!

When: Saturday, Nov. 20th
1:00 appetizers; 2:00 dinner

Where: Masonic Temple,
2307 Sackett Ave., Cuyahoga
Falls, Ohio 44223

Tickets: \$15 per person, \$7.50
ages 6 to 12; 5 and under is free

Delicious Food: All vegan
menu — vegan means dishes made
without the use of dairy or meat.
Incredible buffet with a wide variety
of foods to choose from, including
soy-based meat alternatives!

Special Presentation: A short
but heartwarming animal presenta-
tion to encourage and inspire
everyone during the holidays!

**Pledge To Donate Your
Favorite Dessert!** Share your
favorite vegan desserts at the
Thanksgiving Dinner! Send in
the form on the right or call Mindy
Tusko at 330-612-5652.

MY PLEDGE TO DONATE DESSERTS!

I like to bake and want to get
involved with the Compassionate
Thanksgiving! I'd like to help create a
dessert table that's out of this world!

Please have someone contact
me with details!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Send pledge to: Happy Trails,
Attn: Mindy Tusko, 5623 New Milford Rd.,
Ravenna, Ohio 44266



Stinky George

Continued from page 3

out from behind the bush directly in front of me ran the goat! “There he goes,” I yelled excitedly. “*That was the goat!*” Rob and Cheri took off in chase around the other side of the building. We all met up in a back parking lot, where the goat had easily distanced us and hit the woods at full speed. *Phooey.*

“**That was brilliant,**” Rob said dryly. “You just scared the goat away.”

“I was just joking around! How was I to know that the goat was in there?” I couldn’t believe what had just happened!

We would have never chosen that corner of the building to look for the goat on purpose — it was one of those freak accident things.

Though we did a quick search of the wooded area near our trailer before giving up completely, it was pretty obvious that the goat was not going to come back any time soon just to humor us.

SECOND ATTEMPT

On Monday, February 8th, our second goat rescue attempt was successful! Almost too easy.

We had just experienced a major snowstorm in the last several days, and the snow was in massive snow drifts around the building.

This time we pulled the truck around to the back of the building. As soon as we walked across the parking lot, we could easily smell un-neutered male goat. *Yuck!*

If you have never smelled that before, it is quit a unique and offensive smell.

As we walked closer, the smell got increasingly stronger.

We had unloaded a role of fencing from the truck to help coral the goat. A path had been shoveled through the nicely manicured landscaping so that the goat could reach the safety and comfort of the area where someone had constructed a small wooden lean-to for him. A helpful employee offered the goat grain to keep him occupied. “Did you guys name the goat?” I asked. “**One of the workers here named him George,**” came the reply. Under my breath I whispered, Stinky George.

Rob had crept quietly down the short path and squatted down under some tree limbs. George was sure that something not good was about to happen. We could see George eyeballing the quickest way out of Dodge. I slowly waded through thigh-high snow to help block the opening. Finally, I too came face-to-face with George. “**Lord have mercy does he smell!**” I wanted to hold my nose shut. George surveyed the situation. He looked at Rob, then back at me. He looked at Rob, then back at me. I moved very slowly toward him with arms outstretched. I had a strong desire to spray perfume on the goat. *Good grief was he ever stinky.*

Then George made his move. Life a professional line backer he faked left, then right, then dove straight forward toward Rob and tried to run between Rob and the tree. Rob dove sideways, and the goat slipped through his arms. But wait! **He had caught a leg!** Rob’s glasses were all askew and he was holding on to the stinky goat’s leg for all he was worth.

I hurried over and put my arms around the goat’s head and shoulders and mistakenly claimed, “I got him - you can let go!” Rob let go,

and with a strong jerk, stinky George knocked me over sideways and we both fell into another massive snow drift. I didn’t let go however — there was no way I was letting go and having to attempt to catch this goat a third time. This was it, and I held on for dear life.

But dear God the smell! And now it was right in my face!

After Rob was convinced that me and the goat weren’t going anywhere, he headed to the parking lot to bring the truck around!

So there I lay in the snow, holding onto stinky George, afraid to move. Though Rob wasn’t gone long, it seemed like forever. He finally pulled up in the truck. “*Take your time,*” I told him sarcastically.

Finally the ripe-smelling animal was safely in the trailer, good-byes were exchanged with the worried folks at the business, and we were off. But the damage had been done.

I took my gloves off, smelled them, and threw them on the floor. Yee gads. We were freezing, and the heater in the truck started to warm things up. “Oh this is nasty — roll down your window!” The open window brought us more of George’s wafting fragrance up from the back of the trailer. “Quick, roll ‘em back up! Roll em’ back up!” It was a no-win situation.

George arrived safely at Happy Trails, thanks to the kind-hearted folks who offered him food and shelter during the most bitter weeks of winter. They had hearts filled with compassion, *even if George was just a stinky homeless goat.*

If you would like to help out with George’s vet bill and daily care, tax-deductible donations can be made in George’s name and sent to:

Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.



Buddy

Continued from page 9

could be done other than consider surgery or euthanasia.

“You could try daily massage therapy,” came the vet’s reply.

Seriously? If the massage therapy worked and we could get the swelling to go down, he would be able to retract. The chances weren’t great, but it was an alternative to a painful and very expensive operation.

In the case of malnutrition, often with a proper re-feeding program, a dropped penis will eventually recover and retract if the situation wasn’t too far along. This was definitely not going to be the case for

Buddy. His condition had been going on for such a long time that it was currently at a crucial point where the swelling was not subsiding quickly enough on its own, and permanent damage was an immediate concern. The staff at OSU fashioned a “sling” of sorts from a dog muzzle to help hold the penis up toward his body to help keep it from freezing. Since this all was happening on a Friday, the good folks at OSU agreed to keep Buddy at the hospital over the weekend to observe him and see what type of therapy he could tolerate. This would give us a few days to figure out what to do with Buddy!

This was a unique problem for

us — just when we thought we’d seen and heard it all, we now had to find a cooperative foster home that would be willing to deal with daily massage therapy for a horse that needed a rather painful and delicate area massaged. If the massage therapy worked and the swelling was eliminated, Buddy would then be able to retract, be

much more comfortable, and have a good quality of life. I knew for sure we could help him gain the weight he needed and help him move past his aches and pains of the past. Some joint supplements and a long over-due hoof trim would help him to be



Buddy is now available for adoption to a family who can understand a special-needs horse!

more comfortable, and proper nutrition would go a long way to help him feel better. *But where in the world would we find a foster home willing to massage the horse’s genitals several times a day to break up the scar tissue and to promote healthy blood flow to speedup healing?*

As miracles often come out of the blue for Happy Trails, a truly wonderful, caring foster home appeared for the sad and miserable horse. The couple (who will remain nameless to protect their foster home status) even took the time to drive down to Columbus to OSU to meet with the vet on Monday, January 25th, to make sure that they would do everything properly

for him and to learn about his condition.

I have to say that our foster homes are truly like gold — and many of them are absolutely priceless! This foster family is one such example. Our animal rescue work would not be remotely possible if it weren’t for the caring, compassionate people who assist us with rehab and recovery of these neglected animals.

And it also wouldn’t be possible without the generous donations we receive which help pay for our impressive veterinary expenses.

Buddy’s total vet bill at OSU came to \$488.17.

That didn’t include our gas to haul him to the hospital and then to his foster home, or the expense of his daily grain, hay, dewormers and hoof trims.

If you are able to help with Buddy’s care and expenses, tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Happy Trails (c/o Buddy)
5623 New Milford Rd.
Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

Donations can also be made on-line through PayPal on our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.

It’s sometimes tough to write about delicate matters such as what Buddy is experiencing, but it is a very real medical issue which can cause an incredible amount of pain and suffering for the animal involved.

On behalf of Buddy, we thank you for helping us to cover his medical expenses — this way we will be able to help the next horse that comes through our rescue program in need of kindness, compassion and vet care!



5623 New Milford Road • Ravenna, Ohio 44266

(330) 296-5914

www.happytrailsfarm.org

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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.
☐ My donation is in memory of my beloved pet _____ (name),
a _____ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge

☐ Please add me to your mailing list. ☐ Please send me a tax-deductible receipt.

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 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!*



Seely Booth was found abandoned on the
city streets. With no safe place to call home,
he was rescued and brought to Happy Trails.