

# *Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary* **ANNUAL APPEAL**



*Dear Friend Of Happy Trails,*

Once a year, Happy Trails reaches out and very humbly asks you to help us spread kindness and compassion throughout our communities with our annual appeal letter. I hope that you find our animal rescue programs and our educational and outreach programs to be uplifting and inspirational!

**Happy Trails is continuing to celebrate our big tenth year anniversary, while we also continue to work non-stop taking in animal abuse cases from across Ohio,** providing these animals with rehabilitation, recovery and adoption programs, while following their abuse cases and testifying in court and encouraging our judicial system to stand up against animal abuse in all its ugly forms.

**Our work in Ohio is becoming well-recognized** and appreciated by many people who want to see Ohio rise up from our current standing of being #45 out of 50 states with regards to our poor animal protection laws.

*Happy Trails is definitely unique.*

**In addition to our farm animal and equine rescue programs, we have also established the Amish Horse Retirement Program, which addresses the plight of**



*Sandradee arrived at Happy Trails as a starvation case. She is now healthy, happy and available for adoption.*



*During the first year of her life, Kachina would go to Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Columbus every six weeks for an examination while her ankles and legs grew stronger. Acrylic extensions were formed for her crippled hooves. She came to Happy Trails as the youngest member of our Amish Horse Retirement Program.*

**retiring buggy and plow horses that are used by Ohio's two largest Amish communities.** We offer rehab and placement for those horses who can no longer serve their families and would otherwise be headed to the local slaughterhouse auction. We also created the Amish Horse Health Seminars (*which were very well received*) to help promote a standard of care for these very hard working horses.

**Our Farm Animal Visitation Program is like no other.** We keep selected friendly rescued animals at the sanctuary to visit nursing homes and facilities for people with disabilities. Natasha and Odessa the goats are the perfect height for folks in wheelchairs to reach out and pet; Sebastian and Bravo, two former cockfighting roosters, love to be held and admired, and seniors simply adore feeling the softness of their feathers. It is truly heartwarming to watch

a smile light

up the face of a person with disabilities as they run their hands bent with arthritis through the soft fur of Natasha or hold onto the textured horns of Odessa.

**The number of animal abuse cases that we handle certainly take their toll** — on our volunteers emotionally, on the amount of space we have available to help with new requests, *and* on our limited finances.

**We always want to be good stewards of our funds, and make wise and careful decisions how our dollars are spent.** We feel that addressing the needs of the animals in our care is our top priority, and our recent vet bills have been adding up at an impressive rate. We do not normally do heroics nor do we have the delusion that we can fix every animal from every abuse case that is presented to us. We do, however, opt to provide the best care that we possibly can to give each and every animal a good



*Odessa is one of several permanent Happy Trails residents who bring joy and smiles to wheelchair-bound residents of nursing homes and handicapped facilities. She takes pride in a job well done, and shows her gratitude for the healing in her life by bringing comfort and companionship, which equals healing, to others.*

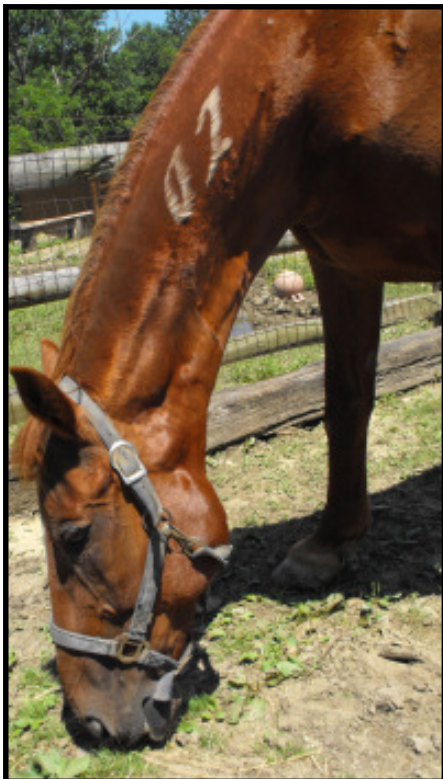


quality of life and every reasonable chance to not only survive, but to thrive! We believe in treating body, mind and spirit! Many scars that these animals carry are the ones we cannot physically see.

**We are turning to you, our friends, supporters and caring individuals during our annual appeal to join Happy Trails with this mission of bringing about kindness and compassion for *all* animals.** Thank you for standing up for those who do not have a voice and for bringing back a sense of community — a sense that we are all connected and responsible for those creatures who completely and totally rely on us for their well being, comfort and safety.

### ***How do we spend our funds?***

Here are just a few examples of some of our medical expenses:



*It took some time for him to get his spirit back, but Hiroki is on the road to recovery. Imagine being thrown away because you were the wrong color.*

#### **◆VETERINARY COSTS**

##### **Hiroki — \$407**

This handsome senior citizen was surrendered to Happy Trails through the Amish Horse Retirement Program because “he was the wrong color” and his owner had quit feeding him. We named this gentle horse Hiroki, a Japanese name which means abundant joy and energy, both of which he truly and desperately was in need of. Hiroki received his initial vet exam, but then we discovered an infected puncture wound that required additional vet attention and antibiotics. His debilitated body condition made his progress rather slow, but he now has a spark in his eye and a spring in his step!

**Remington and Mikey — \$2,400** A sweet little Palomino and white paint youngster came to Happy Trails as a malnutrition case from Mahoning County. Due to his lack of nutrition early on, he has a condition known as cryptorchid (one testicle had not dropped and it wasn’t realistic that it ever would). To discourage irresponsible breeding, Happy



*All life is precious, no matter how small. Ask Pookey, who as a hatchling, was definitely a survivor. Against all odds, she not only survived, she thrived!*



*Godiva was left to starve on the side of a mountain in Ross County. With no food, water or shelter, she was rescued.*

Trails makes sure that all male horses are gelded before they can be adopted. Little year-and-a-half old Remi had this cryptorchid surgery performed at Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital (OSU) in Columbus. The cost was \$1,200. Mikey, a handsome little gray and white paint colt also arrived suffering from malnutrition, and going down the same path as Remi, he too cost Happy Trails a \$1,200 cryptorchid surgery.

**Pot Belly Pig Group** — \$3,500 Every spring, a vet crew from Barberton Veterinary Clinic comes to the sanctuary and puts a group of pot belly pigs under anesthesia so that they can receive their Spring vaccinations, deworming, hoof trimming, eye and ear canal cleaning, tusk trimming, and a thorough health exam. This past spring we were able to fit in 10 pigs during this visit, resulting in this vet expense. A fall visit is now scheduled to address the health issues of other pigs.

Another \$3,500 expense is pending.

**Yamka** — \$950 A beautiful female pot belly pig that was named Yamka was rushed to Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital in Copley. She had become immobile and wasn't running around playing like her usual happy self. Radiographs showed that an old injury from much earlier in her life resulted in fused vertebrae in her neck. Next to this area she now has another disc injury. After several days of hospitalization, Yamka was back at the sanctuary and on eight weeks of rest and medication. Her spinal cord did fuse and heal, and she once again is running about and playing like her old self!



*Pretty Queen is a senior pot belly pig who is on joint medication to ease the arthritic discomfort in her shoulder. She is rather dramatic, but that's why we love her!*



*Odessa had to have surgery to remove a badly infected eye. It was very much worth the expense, and now she gives back to her community through the Farm Animal Visitation Program. She now sees the world as beautiful and kind through her one good eye.*

These examples don't even begin to delve into medical expenses recently acquired, but they do give an idea of the types of medical and veterinary care needed

to help with rehab and general care of the rescued animals.



## ◆GENERAL HORSE CARE EXPENSES

**Farrier Costs** — \$875 every six weeks...There are approximately 35 horses in the Happy Trails rescue program at any given time. They each have their hooves trimmed every six weeks by our blacksmith, at \$25 per horse.

**Teeth Floating** — \$4,550 Horses chew with a side-to-side motion, and they normally need their teeth floated (that's the medical term that means filed by a vet or equine dentist) about once a year, at approximately \$130 per horse with about 35 horses in our rescue program.

**Deworming** — \$1,680 Using a rotational paste dewormer every eight weeks is normally recommended by our equine vets. A tube of dewormer costs an average of \$8 per tube every 8 weeks, times approximately 35 horses .

**Hay** — \$16,425 At the sanctuary itself, we go through about 10 square bales per day, at an average cost of \$3 per bale. This does not include the hay that we have to supply to our foster homes, which would bring us to a conservative estimate of 15 bales per day all year round.

**Straw** — \$10,460 At \$3.50 per bale, we use about 30 bales of straw for bedding each week.

**Grain** — \$20,800 Happy Trails spends approximately \$400 per week on grain for the animals, using about 35 to 40 50lb. bags.

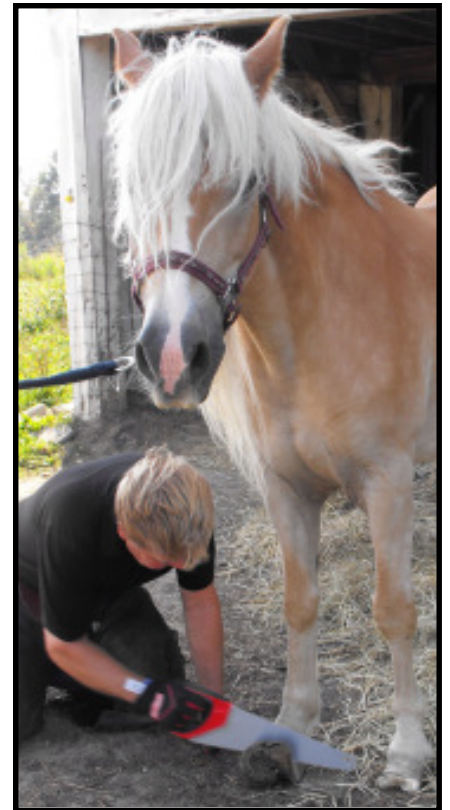
## ◆RECENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

We are constantly attempting to improve the level of care, the safety factor, and the time that it takes our volunteers to feed the animals by improving our facilities. Often we address needs and issues as they arise. Here again are only a few examples of facility improvements that we made that were crucial to the safety and care of the rescued animals.

### Feathered Friends Areas

Creating new flight cages due to the need to keep the rescued feathered friends safe from predators (especially raccoons!).

**Flight Cage #1** — \$800.....This “flight cage” is a large, completely fenced and protected outdoor area where the ducks, chickens and geese



*Sometimes hoof specialists have to saw off the ends of the hooves from a badly neglected horse. These hooves have grown out into what is known as “elf-shoes”.*



*When transporting animals like Thelma to their new homes, gas and travel expenses sure do add up. Thelma was adopted by a wonderful family in Virginia after she recovered from a situation of severe neglect.*



*Ducks like Sonny who are slow or arthritic were in danger from area predators such as raccoons and other wildlife. The new flight cages offer them protection as well as large yards and a swimming pool.*

can still enjoy the great outdoors during evening hours when their safety is most at risk, and the large sliding gate is opened during the day so that they can continue to enjoy the green grassy yard. It was just completed by all volunteer help. This first area currently houses the group of feathered friends that came in with broken legs, arthritis, neurological issues, and broken wings. They may be either in recovery or are seniors dealing with arthritis, but they still have a good quality of life and enjoy every day visiting with their friends and playing in their blue plastic swimming pools.

**Flight Cage #2 — \$900.....**This second flight cage is slightly larger than the first cage. This area

will also house rescued ducks, chickens and geese, but will concentrate on a larger number of feathered friends who have already gone through rehab and are more active and healthy.

### **Goat Area**

Several of the rescued goats decided that our fencing was not up to par and they decided to put large holes in the metal wiring using their horns and methodically destroyed their fencing. We had to re-construct this section of fencing using wooden planks to reinforce it's effectiveness. Cost for repairs totalled \$175.



*Both fly cages are attached to safe shelters, complete with heat lamps for the winter. The feathered friends can choose to hang out in the yard or snuggle up at night in a warm bed of thick straw.*

### **Draft Horse Area**

The draft horses live in what we like to call our “out back.” This is an area of woods at the far end of the property where they have about five fenced-in acres to roam at their leisure. The fencing currently consists of white electro-braid fencing. Due to falling limbs and trees, occasional high winds, and an active deer population the fencing sometimes needs repaired. We cap off the tops of our metal stakes with plastic end covers, and repair broken electric fence rope or get new connectors to make it all work together. This year supplies for our “out back” fence repair costs are at \$735.



## ◆ PENDING IMPROVEMENTS

### Restroom Facilities

Happy Trails currently has one small outhouse that our guests, volunteers and other visitors use as our restroom facility. We are hoping to raise enough funds to install one building as a heated restroom that will be large enough to accommodate the wheelchairs and also to provide a clean, sanitary area where our volunteers can wash-up after a long, hard day of manual labor. This restroom facility would have running water and flush toilets as opposed to our current singular solitary outhouse. This building would have both a men's and a women's restroom as well as two shower stalls. After many animal rescues, our volunteers have been covered in everything imaginable due to holding, carrying or restraining a hurt or injured animal. The cost for creating this structure, complete with running water, water heater, concrete flooring, bathroom stalls, toilets, sinks, and all the supplies needed for construction, will cost us approximately \$17,475.



*Red (left) and Tony are two of the draft horses that enjoy the wooded area of the sanctuary as their daily turn-out.*



*George the pig visits with his guests as they enjoy a warm, sunny day under a shade tree in the yard at Happy Trails. It would be great to have a restroom that is wheelchair accessible for our visitors.*

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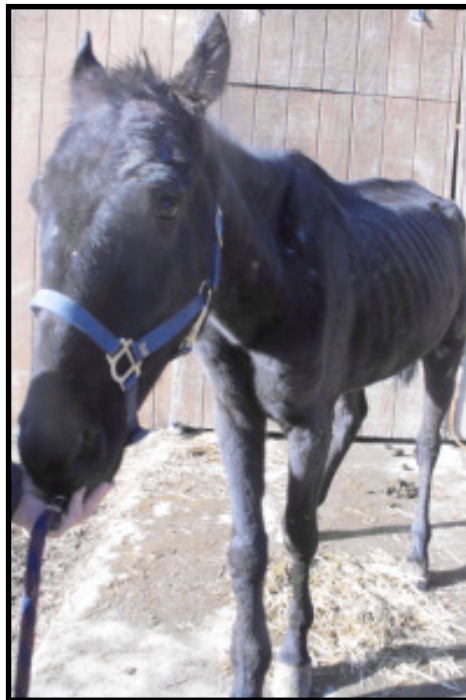
There are many, many very *basic* expenses that occur when dealing with rescued animals and animal abuse situations. The care that we provide is very *basic*, and we try to provide everyone with the necessities of proper nutrition, excellent vet care, appropriate medications, clean water, and the thing that we give them the most and that costs the least — TLC, tender loving care, which includes our time, our respect, and our understanding that they can feel pain and experience suffering.

**We believe that we are very considerate and respectful of the funds that are donated to Happy Trails. We use**

**our resources wisely so that we can help the highest number of cruelty situations and make the biggest differences possible.**

If you request your kind donation to go toward a specific type of animal or a certain category of expense, we will certainly honor and respect your request.

Happy Trails operates mainly on private donations. Our accomplishments, achievements, animal rescue and outreach programs, court successes, and adoption programs would not be possible without your support. Happy Trails is a “community organization”, existing solely due to the interest and care of people who wish to be the change they want to see in the world. It’s a group of people working together to alleviate the suffering of animals. While doing that work, we find friendships



*We watch miracles happen daily at Happy Trails. Buckeye's complete recovery is one of them. After being nearly starved to death and undergoing leg surgery, five year old Buckeye is now happy and healthy and ready to be adopted!*



and opportunities to extend kindness and compassion to each other.

**I wish to thank each and every one of you who has supported the work of Happy Trails in the past, and sincerely hope that you will continue to be an integral part of this caring community of people.**

**I very humbly and very respectfully ask for your support now during our annual appeal.** Please show your support of Happy Trails by sending in a donation. Remember that you are welcome to direct us to use your funds however you wish by simply filling out the donation form in this letter. Though we face many challenges daily regarding operating and funding such a unique and amazing organization, I am very thankful and confident that Happy Trails will



*It is common for cats and dogs to be found as strays. Amazingly enough, farm animals are often found as strays and have been abandoned also. Bill the turkey was one such animal. He has been adopted by a wonderful family who loves him!*





Casper the sheep and four of his friends found refuge at Happy Trails after being removed from a hideous cruelty situation at a livestock farm. The owner was found guilty of animal cruelty.

continue to be blessed with the funds needed to make our work possible and to make our future bright.

*With kindness and compassion for all animals,*

*Annette Fisher*

Annette

Hens like Joan Rivers (right) enjoy sunbathing and taking dirt baths, a natural and fun, relaxing thing for chickens to do once they arrive at Happy Trails.



**DONATION COUPON  
ON INSIDE BACK  
COVER**

**Your donation is tax deductible.**

## **List Of General Operating And Misc. Expenses**

- ♦ Vet/medical expenses
- ♦ Feed/hay/nutrition
- ♦ Bedding/straw/sawdust
- ♦ Hauling and transport of animals
- ♦ Fencing/stuctural repairs and facility up-keep
- ♦ Vehicle maintenance/repair
- ♦ Newsletter printing costs
- ♦ Port-O-John clean-up/regularly sanitize
- ♦ Trash removal
- ♦ Insurance
- ♦ Electric utilities
- ♦ Printing/advertising costs (for animal adoptions, promotional fliers, special events, etc.)
- ♦ Computer repair, updates, programs and maintenance
- ♦ Part-time administrative position
- ♦ Logo apparel



5623 New Milford Road • Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**(330) 296-5914**

[www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)





**Happy Trails spreads kindness and compassion for all animals, which in turns spreads kindness and compassion throughout our communities and to each other.**

*Our volunteers teach by example.*

Extending kindness and compassion to all living creatures is a way of life, a way to reach out and change the world, a way for you to make a difference, and a way for us to all work together!





# ANNUAL APPEAL DONATION COUPON

## GENERAL NEEDS

☐ I would like my annual appeal donation to be used where it is needed the most.

## ANIMAL NUTRITION & HEALTH CARE

I would like my donation to be used for:

- ☐ grain, hay, straw
- ☐ medications, veterinary and health care expenses such as examinations, radiographs, hoof trimming, teeth floating, deworming

## SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

I would like my donation to be used for:

- ☐ The Farm Animal Visitation Program
- ☐ The Amish Horse Retirement Program
- ☐ Animal Educational Programs (for schools, colleges, and other special interest groups and organizations)

## FACILITY UPKEEP/IMPROVEMENTS

I would like my donation to be used for:

- ☐ Facility upkeep such as repairs on fencing, buildings and shelters, addressomg, safety issues
- ☐ Facility improvements, such as a handicapped-accessible restroom for guests and visitors.

## ANIMAL SPECIFIC

Because I am drawn to them,

I would like my donation to be used for:

- ☐ Horses   ☐ Goats and sheep
- ☐ Pigs   ☐ Feathered friends

*I understand that my contact information is used only for Happy Trails and will not be sold or in any way for soliciations from other organizations. My personal information is kept private and confidential.*

☐ Yes, Annette, I would like to help spread compassion for *all* animals through the rescue, rehab and educational programs of Happy Trails! Enclosed is my donation of

☐\$25   ☐\$35   ☐\$55   ☐\$75

☐\$125   ☐\$250   ☐\_\_\_\_\_other

My donation is being made in memory of my beloved pet \_\_\_\_\_ (name), a \_\_\_\_\_ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

☐ Please send me a tax-deductible receipt .

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

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

**Save A Life,  
Spread Compassion!**

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

***Thank you for your participation in our annual appeal!***

**We are eternally grateful for your support and kindness!**

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc., is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law.



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## ANNUAL APPEAL REQUEST

**Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is made of up compassionate people who want to help spread kindness and healing for all animals and for our communities.**

*You are Happy Trails.*

It is only through your support that our animal rescue, rehab and recovery programs, as well as our community outreach and educational programs, are made possible.

*Together we can make a difference!*

**Animal abuse is often tied in to child abuse, domestic violence, and other criminal behaviors. Help us create a safer environment for ourselves and for our children by addressing animal abuse in our world.**

*We truly appreciate your kind and thoughtful donation for our annual appeal!*

