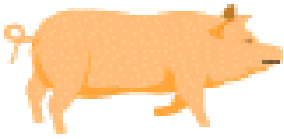


# *Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary*

## **MARCH 2011**

### *Newsletter*



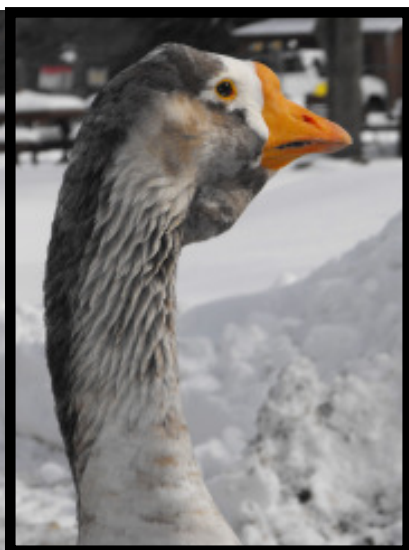
**The Year Of The Draft Horse**



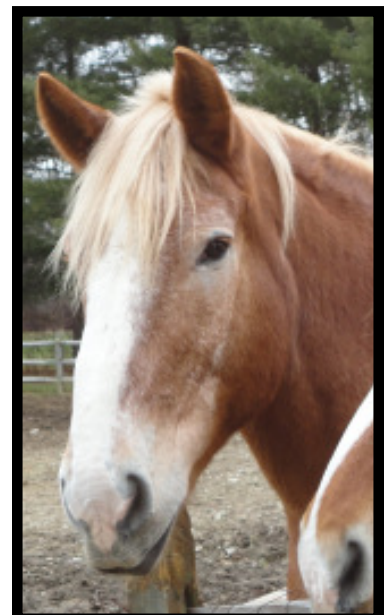
**Appollonia Comes  
To Happy Trails**



**Ayashe Gets  
Adopted**



**Welcome  
To Francis  
The Goose**



**Tribute To Tony**

## letter from the director

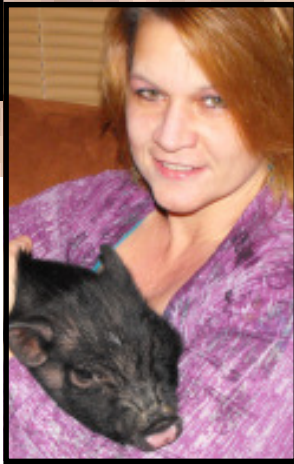
### Dear Friends Of Happy Trails,

2011 is going to be a year of growth and change for Happy Trails. We are taking a breath and addressing some necessary evils. It's funny how you really need something, but that need creeps up on you and you don't even realize it. Or maybe we realize that need but we're too busy to deal with it!

This year we will be addressing some rather important issues: the need for a public restroom to replace the outhouse; establishing written policies and procedures for everything (I hate paperwork); and addressing a few growing pains (the need for paid positions but not having quite enough funding).

Though the projects and issues in front of us seem monumental at times, they are nothing compared to what we've already achieved. I hold on to that thought when it starts to feel overwhelming.

Happy Trails has grown in leaps and bounds and has achieved far more than many non-profit organizations our size. Operating on an all volunteer staff we created community outreach programs, established an emergency rescue crew, provided educational presentations to schools, have an adoption program, have a recovery and rehab program, host fundraisers, and so



much more. I am constantly amazed at things the volunteers at Happy Trails

achieve on a daily basis.

So with all the challenges that lie ahead for us this coming year, I am going forward with confidence knowing that together we will be able to accomplish anything we set out to do. Thanks for making things happen!

With kindness and compassion for all animals,

Annette Fisher  
Executive Director

*"In the end, whether  
or not we are eternal  
is irrelevant to the course  
of our lives.*

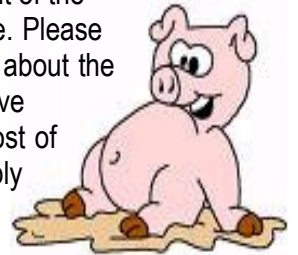
*If the earth is a better place  
because I walked upon it,  
that's enough for me.*

*I will be eternal if  
my presence here  
enriches life in  
a way that continues  
on beyond my  
physical existence."*

~I.M. Trunk~

## Pig Blankets Really Needed

We REALLY are in need of thick, heavy blankets, sleeping bags or comforters for the rescued pot belly piggies. Blankets can be dropped off in the wooden containers in front of the office at any time. Please spread the word about the blankets. We have gone through most of our blanket supply this past winter!



## Working On A Restroom

Plans are coming along to install a small public restroom to replace our solitary outhouse. This is a big project for us, with the cost estimated to be approximately \$17,000 even with donated materials and donated professional labor. This is a necessary evil for the sanctuary, so if you have ever enjoyed a visit to Happy Trails and wished we had something other than an outhouse for you to use, please consider making an extra special gift toward this project. We would *indeed* be grateful. A donation form is on the back cover. Simply write "restroom" on it if you'd like your donation to be used for this special project.



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

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



# The Year Of The Draft Horse....

**They're big. They're beautiful. They're gentle giants. They are breathtaking. They are comical. They are incredibly smart.**

*They are the draft horses that come through the Happy Trails rescue program.*

Due to the sheer number of draft horses that need to retire from Amish Farms and are in danger of being sent through the local meat auctions, we are declaring 2011 **The Year Of The Draft Horse!**

Thousands of incredible draft horses go through Ohio's meat auctions every year. Sad but true. We would love to be able to re-home even more draft horses than ever this year through our Amish Horse Retirement Program — *with your help of course!*

As we went into winter, when not a lot of folks were adopting more outdoor animals and creating more work for themselves, these three drafts were not among those chosen last Fall to have a home of their own. We still have three of these magnificent creatures in our adoption program.

**Bess** is a late teens/early twenties Belgian mare. Sweet and gentle, she knows how to drive and has been ridden bareback. She's no spring chicken but she's healthy and happy and has lots of love to give the right family.

Meet **Jess**, Bess's daughter. Jess is now going on two years old and soon will be ready to train. She is definitely unique in that she is a hermaphrodite, having been born with boy and girl 'parts.' Chromosome testing has labeled her a mare, and the vet declared that she has no restrictions and is healthy and sound.

Fifteen year old **Butch Whitefeather** had received numerous inquiries but no-one has yet to follow through. Butch has eye surgery at OSU last year to stop the deterioration of his sight. The operation was successful and though he has limited vision in one eye, he is confident and content. Butch can be ridden in an arena where he is comfortable. With gentle encouragement and steady retraining, he may graduate to easy trail work.

*We LOVE the draft horses. We bet you will too!*

**Think big. Think draft horse adoption! Spread the word.**

**BESS**



**JESS**



**BUTCH  
WHITEFEATHER**



**For adoption information on these or future draft horses that will surely be coming into the Amish Horse Retirement Program this year, please contact us at 330-296-5914.**

# Find-It-Free Committee

*Saving money for the sanctuary!*

Happy Trails always strives to be good stewards of our funds, and in order to help our resources stretch even further during these tough economic times, we are establishing a "Find It Free" Committee!

This is going to be an email-based group of individuals who are willing to help us network and spread the word about very specific needs of the sanctuary. Basically they see if they can help us find items that we really need that can be donated instead of purchased.

As a non-profit organization that relies on private donations to survive, every little thing that can be donated to the sanctuary will enable us to use our monetary funds for other demands.

## How can committee members help us "Find It Free"?

- Pass along our weekly email updates to friends, family and co-workers, and then ask them in turn to forward them to others
- Check out Free Cycle, Craig's List, or a host of other websites with free listings
- Posting a flier in your office, school or other community locations
- Approach businesses in your area that might specialize in the item we are searching for. We will provide a letter of inquiry with each update.

**Join the Happy Trails "Find It Free" Committee by going to the Happy Trails website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org) and sign up today!**

page 4

## Mom Runs For The Animals!

"My name is Monica Nowac, and I live in Cleveland Heights. I am on a journey to run a marathon in all 50 states and along the way I am



picking various charities to raise funds for. I am a full time working mom to a 2 year old named Harper. I went vegetarian in 2010 and am taking my family along on that

ride! I blog at Mom in Training ([trainingtotri.blogspot.com](http://trainingtotri.blogspot.com)) about my life, running, triathlons and lots of food! **People can donate on my website - [firstgiving.com/monicaonthego](http://firstgiving.com/monicaonthego).** I am actually doing 3-4 marathons this year, but just picked one to dedicate my webpage to the Oct 9th Bank of America Chicago marathon. I am also doing a marathon in South Bend, In. and Erie, Pa. before the end of the year. My goal is to raise \$2,000, with a secret back pocket goal of \$5,000."

**Monica has graciously included Happy Trails in a big way in her fund-raising plans. You go girl!**

## Sanctuary Tours Start In May

*Your Tour Fee Helps Us To Provide Feed And Care For The Animals!*

**Visitors can schedule a guided sanctuary tour from May 15<sup>th</sup> through October 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Personal guided tours last about 1½ hours and are available only by appointment on Sundays.

Tour guides lead you to each animal area of the sanctuary and help you pet the animals safely, learn about their history, and provide education about animal care and animal-related abuse and neglect issues.

- **Sundays:** tours at 11am, 12:30am, 2pm and 3pm
- Weekdays by appointment if a tour guide is available. Call a week ahead of time.

Tour groups may have up to 6 people maximum per tour guide. Larger groups will be divided up into smaller groups of 6 each but may schedule at the same time.

- **Tour Fees:** \$7 Adults; \$5 kids ages 6 to 12; ages 5 and under free

**To Schedule A Tour Call 330-296-5914**



# Save The Date Events!

*Make sure to mark the following dates on your calendars to join us for some fun “stuff” this year!*



## Happy Trails Antiques Road Show

Bring your favorite antique item to one of several locations in April! For a \$5 minimum donation per item, learn its history and appraisal value from professional antique experts. All proceeds benefit Happy Trails.

### PORTAGE COUNTY LOCATION

Sat., April 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 3pm

Elks Club of Kent

2265 Erie Street, Kent, Ohio 44240  
(More locations TBA on website)

## NEW! Animal Ethics & Education Seminars

Starting Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011



Happy Trails and Wild 4-Ever are co-sponsoring a series of **free monthly animal ethics and educational seminars** to be held at the **Akron Public Library**.

Topics For Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm:

1) **Wild 4-Ever:** How YOU can get involved in local *and* global conservation projects

Speaker: Dr. Gary Riggs, DVM

2) **Coyotes Among Us?** Update on the Metro Parks Coyote Project

*This is going to be an incredible don't-miss presentation.*



## Walk On The Wild Side

Sat., June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

A 5-K run, a dog walk (pet walk), pet costume contest, conservation fun walk, and Conservation

Expo to be held at Silver Creek Metro Park in Norton.

Support Happy Trails *and* our friends in wildlife rescue by planning to join us for this FUN event! Happy Trails is honored to participate in this dog walk and 5-K run sponsored by Wild 4-Ever. The Expo will include exhibits and animals from local conservation groups and animal rescue organizations.

**Proceeds will benefit *all* the animal sanctuary groups participating!**

Be sure to check out the Happy Trails website for a complete list of “Save The Date” announcements!  
[www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)



## Wildlife Baby Shower

Sun., May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm

*To be held at Exploration Gateway in Stark County, hosted by Stark Parks and Sanders Wildlife Center.*

Be sure to join the Happy Trails crew (we'll be there!) and show your support for orphaned baby wildlife this spring! This is definitely a learning experience for the entire family!



## 2011 Compassionate Thanksgiving

Sat., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>,  
at Stow American Legion Hall!

As this event grows, our location is growing with us! This year the Happy Trails Compassionate Thanksgiving will be held at Acker-Moore Memorial Post 4738-American Legion Hall Post 175 at 3733 Fishcreek Rd., Stow, OH.

Join other compassionate folks who would like to celebrate a compassionate Thanksgiving with a buffet-style dinner that is traditional yet animal-friendly (vegan). **Be sure to “save the date” on your calendar!**

## Follow Up: Ayashe & Jen



### *So what types of homes do we find for the rescued horses?*

There's not usually enough room to do a lot of follow-up stories, but this is one we need to share.

A three year old black and white paint pony arrived at Happy Trails on December 17, 2009. She was weak, cold and dehydrated. One of her young herd mates had already died from starvation and exposure. Another pony friend, a chestnut mare, stood watch over her in the freshly bedded stall we had prepared at Happy Trails. The little mare was in sad shape, and we were not convinced she would make it. Her head hung down to the floor, and she couldn't even eat the hay we placed in front of her.

Since she was the smaller of the two rescued horses, we named her Ayashe, a Cheyenne Native American name meaning 'little one.' She seemed so precious and fragile.

But like most miracles that we

are blessed to witness, this little lady made a complete recovery during the following year.

Jennifer Weber inquired about adopting beautiful Ayashe and came out to see her. It was love at first sight. Bandit, Jen's terribly handsome leopard appy, was in need of a pasture mate, and Ayashe was going to be the perfect friend for him!

Sadly Jennifer experienced a barn fire several years ago. I asked Jen to write down a few thoughts about her experience with adopting a rescued horse. I wasn't really prepared to read what she wrote, so of course I sat and cried as her words described the importance of horses in her life. "It's been a long road for all of us. After the barn fire, I never thought I'd heal... These two (Bandit and Ayashe) have mended my heart and soul. I tell

them (because you know animals hear us!) that our song is "*God bless the broken road that led me straight to you.*" I grabbed a Kleenex.

*And how has Ayashe settled in?* "I love these guys so much they bring me to tears sometimes! Ayashe and I really have gotten a very strong bond. It's cool because Bandit is a jealous guy and likes all my attention, but not when I'm with Ayashe. Its like he knows she needs the TLC and doesn't mind at all !"

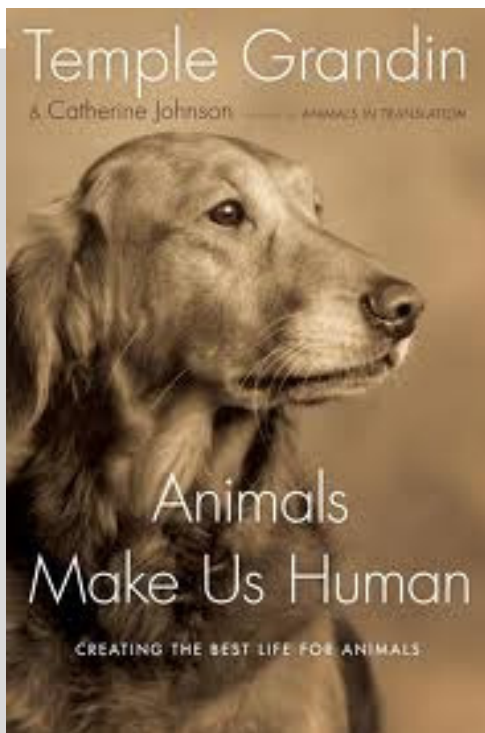
We look for homes who will love the animals for who they are and the companionship they provide. We have no doubt that we (and Ayashe) found that home in Jen. Like a proud mom, Jen tells us, "Oh do I *love* these two! Ayashe is doing AWESOME! She is the boss of the two, but Bandit doesn't seem to care. He goes with the flow, and she loves to follow him. I could not ask for two better horses! She and Bandit together make my heart smile!"

So yet another rescued horse lives happily ever after. ***Thanks, Jen, for giving Ayashe such a fantastic permanent home!***

*"Every thing or living being that exists in this world, be it trees, flowers, birds, grasses, rocks, soil of the earth, or human beings, has its unique manner of existence - its essence, its spirit that makes it what it is. That is what is meant by connectedness."*

*-- Larry P. Aitken,  
CHIPPEWA TRIBE*





Temple Grandin (born August 29, 1947) is an American doctor of animal science and professor at Colorado State University, bestselling author, and consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. As a person with high-functioning autism, Grandin is also widely noted for her work in autism advocacy and is the inventor of the hug machine designed to calm hypersensitive persons.

Grandin is listed in the 2010 Time 100 list of the 100 most influential people in the world in the category "Heroes."

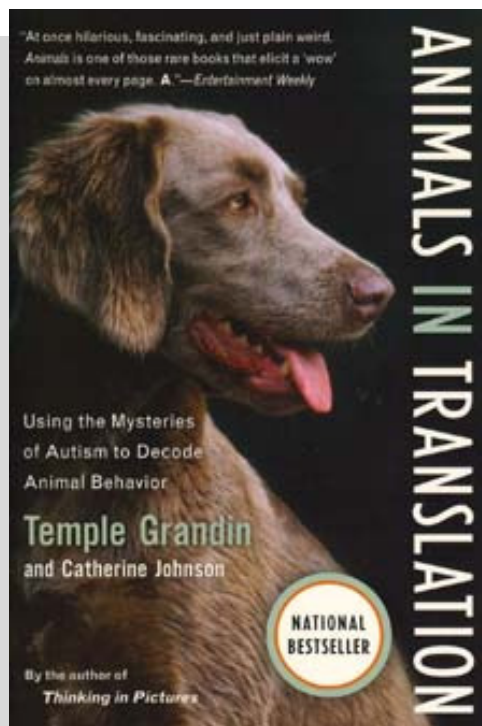
Temple Grandin is also the hero to many farm animals. She has tirelessly worked on their behalf to encourage and inspire ranchers and farmers to treat the animals with respect, patience, and care. She has done extensive research and is an advisor for many farmed animal facilities and slaughter houses.

Here are some quotes from her books that bring the big picture home for everyone who thinks that all animals in our food production system are treated well:

*"Unpublished data collected on chicken and pig truck loading crews*

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING

### Temple Grandin's "Animals Make Us Human" and "Animals In Translation"



*showed that after about six hours of work, people became fatigued and injuries and death losses increased."*

*"I have observed that some people enjoy abusing animals."*

*"The most important thing an effective manager needs to do to stay on top of his own behavior is to guard against desensitization to the animals' fear and pain."*

*"You have to handle pigs gently because they're more excitable than cows."*

*"I visited one dreadful plant during the night shift. The workers had about a hundred pigs piled up and flipping over. Electric prods were being thrown into the squealing pile-up like harpoons, retrieved with an attached wire, and thrown in again."*

*"The industry isn't to the point yet where it can ban prods altogether, because if you do you'll get employ-*

*ees taking a two-by-four with a nail in it or steel gate latch rods to beat the animals onto a truck.*

*"The workers were picking the chickens up by one wing and flipping them over, snapping the fragile ones in two. We even saw workers running live chickens over with a fork lift."*

*"...the chickens were in unbelievably hideous shape, just hideous."*

*Regarding laying hens: "The hens are worth so little that many farmers do not bother to send them to a slaughter plant. They kill them at the farm with methods that range from atrocious to barely acceptable. Some of the farms were just throwing the hens...into the dumpster alive. Others get rid of their spent hens by sucking them up in a vacuum truck that is used to clean sewers."*

**For an eye opener about animals in our food production system and what happens to the animals that you choose to put on your plate, please read both of these books. Learn about animal behavior as well as what has come to be acceptable industry practices.**



## Tribute To Tony — *The Passing Of An Icon*



In 2004, Happy Trails volunteers took up a collection to purchase two draft horses that were being retired and who would be sent through the local meat auction if a buyer was not found. We decided to purchase Tony and Red as Happy Trails ambassadors and let them live out their lives at the sanctuary. They would go to community events with us and let visitors and volunteers pet them and groom them and sit on their massive backs. They represented our Amish Horse Retirement Program.

With a terribly heavy heart we had to make the call to help Tony cross the Rainbow Bridge the day before New Year's Eve. The night before he started to colic, and we had the vet come out immediately. Tony stabilized during the night, but the next morning his condition continued to quickly deteriorate until it was clear that we were going to lose him. Not wanting him to suffer, we helped him pass into the world of the spirit. I cut pieces of his mane and tail to braid into small memorials for Tony's human friends who were going to be devastated at the news. It was a small gesture and a respectful way to remind us of the lessons that Tony taught us.



We are grateful to Jack Geideman for bringing a backhoe to help bury Tony at Heaven's Trail, Happy Trails Pet Cemetery. Tony had such a huge following of fans that we needed a place where volunteers and visitors could pay their respects to the gentle creature. *Thanks Tony, for being a part of my life and for being a part of everyone's life at Happy Trails!*

**There is a very long and beautiful tribute to Tony on the Happy Trails website, complete with happy pictures of his life. Please visit his tribute at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org) or go directly to <http://happytrailsfarm.org/artman/uploads/tonythehorsetribute.pdf>.**

## Welcome To Francis The Goose



**Ignorance is not often bliss. At least when there are animals involved and they are on the receiving end of the ignorance.**

White domestic geese such as the Toulouse breed, and domestic ducks such as the white Pekin breed, cannot fly. Their Creator didn't design them that way. They are not aerodynamic. That cannot fly even short distances. Instead, you might see them run along the ground flapping their wings, either to get away from a predator or simply because they are enjoying their day.

I recently accompanied an Ohio humane officer to a facility where an assortment of geese and ducks, both wild and domestic, were contained in a totally enclosed fenced-in pond. Of course the wild Canada geese and the Mallard ducks could obviously fly away if they chose too, but the domestic ducks and geese, unless they were to find a small opening in the fence, were in this area permanently. There was no man-made shelter for them to seek protection from the winter cold, and one goose in particular had both wings



# Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteering

There are many, many volunteer opportunities with Happy Trails. To learn about all the ways you can get involved, call the sanctuary at 330-296-5914. Here's a few ideas!

## Pick Up Produce

Several local businesses have agreed to donate expired produce to Happy Trails on a daily basis.



This will should help cut down on our grain expenses for at least one meal a day for the pigs and goats. If you live in the area and wouldn't mind helping pick up produce once

or more during the week, please call us at 330-296-5914.

## Office Worker s

Not crazy about shoveling poo? Sign up to volunteer in the office. Meet and greet visitors, help check in donations, or keep the office tidy. Stay clean and help the sanctuary! What a concept!

## Attention Seniors!

Stay active this spring by volunteering with Happy Trails! Volunteer as a tour guide, transport small animals in cages to the vet, help out with computer projects, welcome visitors!

## Horse Classes



## "Just For Fun" Horse Classes For People Who Like Horses But Don't Know Anything About Them!

**LEVEL 1:** Learn the basics about horses and their behavior; how they are wired; learn the parts of the horse and the importance of healthy hooves, coat and teeth; how to safely brush and groom a horse; how to put a halter on; how to tie a quick release knot for safety; some classroom work, lots of learning-time with the rescued horses.

### Level 1 Classes:

Saturday, March 26th, 11am - 1pm  
Saturday, April 9th, 11am - 1pm

**LEVEL 2:** Goes into more detail about horse care; learn about basic breeds and what they are known for; how to lead a horse safely; how to make them stand, walk, turn and back-up on a lead line; the importance of proper hoof care.

### Level 2 Classes:

Saturday, April 23, 11am - 1pm  
Saturday, May 28th, 11am - 1pm

**Cost: \$35 per class**  
**(classes are 2 hour sessions)**

*Class sizes are limited. Pre-registration is required. Available for ages 15 and over. Call 330-296-5914.*

## Big Wish List Items: *Our Heads In The Clouds!*

### • Generator(s):

for those times when all the electric goes out and there's no way to keep the heat lamps going in the middle of winter and no electricity in the barns to feed the animals at night

### • Paved walkways and driveways:

For when the nursing homes bring out elderly visitors in wheelchairs, or when a mom with a baby stroller arrives

for a tour; to make snow removal easier and less costly than having to replace gravel every spring because of the plows

### • More property:

To keep the New Milford property as a triage unit for animal emergencies and a place to use for rehabilitation and isolation, but to have a much larger tract of land donated to expand the sanctuary and our educational facilities

# Apparent Epidemic Of Pot Belly Pigs Needing Homes

## Truffles And The Cuteness Meter



A call came in from the Polaris area near Columbus. A stray baby pot belly pig was discovered in someone's front yard and then turned over to a local vet. The eight week old youngster was coated in manure, covered with fleas, and you could count every rib on her tiny little body. The kind-hearted vet nursed the piglet back to health for several weeks, but then needed to find her a home. Could Happy Trails help? Well, not really. The sanctuary isn't set up for indoor baby animals who need heated

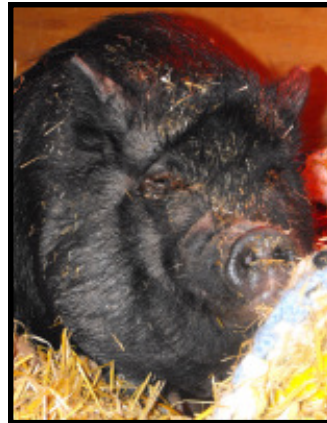
homes in the middle of winter. However, I personally had been thinking of adopting an indoor piggy as part of our family. So off I went to Columbus to meet Dr. Anliker and Truffles. I immediately fell in love with the precious little girl, and she came home with me to Ravenna that very same day.

Truffles has added much joy to our life. She is quite the little comedian, is completely house broken (she goes potty outside like a big girl), walks on a leash or a harness, and pretty much took control of the household as we expected she would. She was somewhat shy, but had come a long way during her rehab with Dr. Anliker. Here at home she continues to shed her shyness and now boldly crawls up into our laps to be held and takes a flying leap onto our couch to snuggle up to watch a good tv program with

us (er, I mean, sleep through a good TV program).

I plan to have Truffles participate in the Farm Animal Visitation Program and visit the elderly in nursing homes if she will enjoy that. Many thanks to her rescuers and Dr. Anliker for taking such great care of the baby!

## Appollonia, A Stray Piggy From Holmes County



A call came in from the Holmes County Huamne Society. A stray pot belly pig had wondered into someone's yard last fall, and there had been no luck finding the owner. The pig was moved to a foster home until help could be found. Could Happy Trails help out with this stray piggy? Since she was an outdoor pig,

we were able to make room for her at the inn. We named the pretty girl Appollonia, a beautiful name for a beautiful pig! Apple is sweet and kind and enjoys attention and the company of her other new pig friends in Piggerton Estates. Appollonia is available for adoption. Call us to learn about the care of outdoor piggy pets!

## List Of Indoor Piggies

Happy Trails currently has a list of approximately 15 indoor pigs who are in need of new homes. Pigs like



Dozer (left) who is from the Cleveland area. Pigs can make great pets for the right home. To learn more about adopting an indoor (or even an outdoor) piggy, call Sharon at 330-573-1450.



## Meet The Guy Who Walks His Goats At Silver Creek Metro Park

We're proud to claim Jason Wolbolt as "one of ours." Jason is a dedicated, hard-working Happy Trails volunteer. Of his five pet goats, four were adopted from Happy Trails and one he rescued on his own.

Over the past year, Jason has trained several of his goats to walk politely on a lead line, and he frequents the various Metro Park hiking trails. The goats love it. The other people on the trails love it. And Jason loves providing a home for these animals who have all suffered from abuse or neglect at some point in their lives.

There are quite a few people out there who swear by their pet

goats and wouldn't ever consider not having goats as family pets.

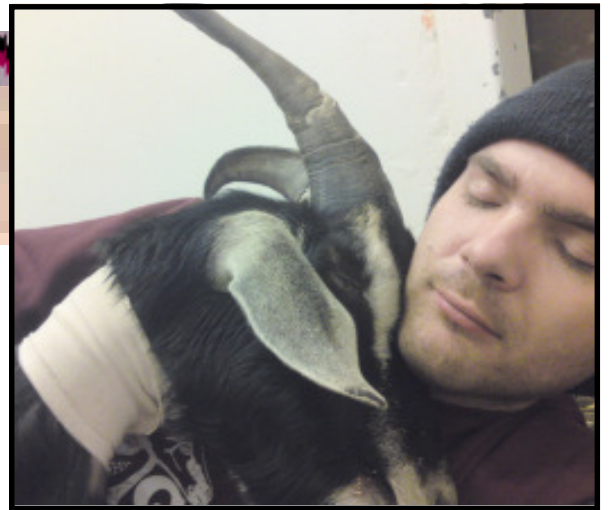
Everyone is drawn to a different type of animal. Perhaps you are a "dog person" or a "horse person".

Who am I to talk? I personally am a "pig person" with a brand new pot



belly piggy now living in my house. But that's the beauty of finding the right family for the right animal. We find people like Jason.

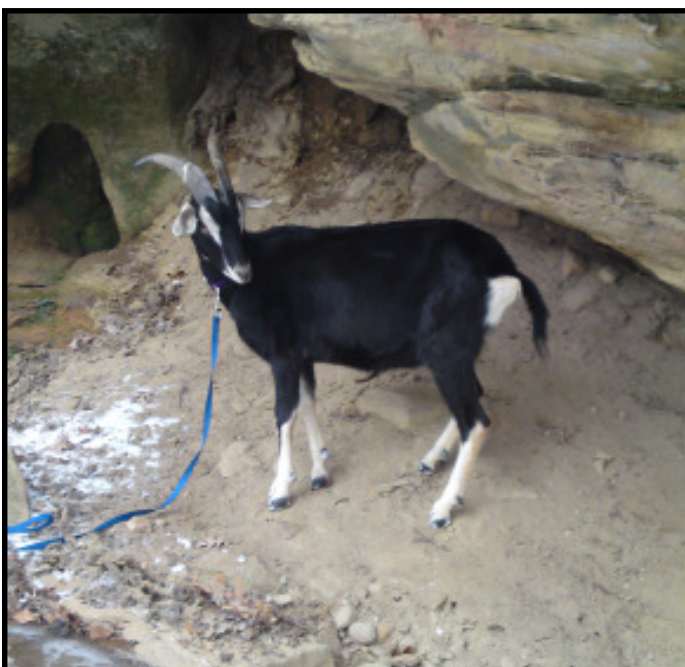
When Aelwyn, Jason's main walking goat, starting rapidly losing weight, vet care immediately came into play. After several visits from the local vet and a few visits to OSU in Columbus, Aelwyn ended up spending several weeks at the hospital. The weight for this

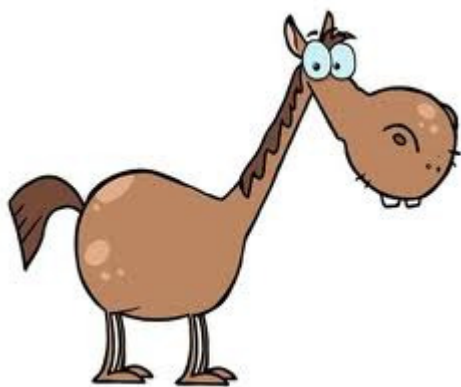


normally 97 lb. goat plummeted to a mere 65 lbs. Jason faithfully visited his furry family member at the hospital as often as he could make the drive, sometimes nearly every day. Animals aren't any different than people with regards to the fact that feeling cared for and loved helps us heal quicker. And Aelwyn was no exception. He would gratefully rest his head on his favorite buddy, Jason, during their special hospital visits. Having been successfully treated for a resistant strain of worms, Aelwyn is now on his way to a complete recovery. As of this writing he is now weighing in at over 75 lbs!

With high hopes, Jason and Aelwyn plan to be back taking walks at the Metro Parks this Spring! So if you are out hiking and you see a crowd of people and an animal with horns, chances are you will get the chance to meet Jason and Aelwyn in person.

Goats make *incredible* pets! If you are interested in adopting a rescued goat, or would like to talk to Jason about how wonderful goats are, leave him a message at Happy Trails at 330-296-5914!





## ***We're Not Horsin' Around! We Need More Foster Homes!***

In order to continue to help as many abuse cases as possible, Happy Trails is searching for additional horse foster homes and emergency foster homes for other farm animals.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster home, please contact us at 330-296-5194.

## **Collecting Horse Blankets And Used Tack**

Gently used horse-related items can be dropped off at the sanctuary. Please call ahead so a volunteer can meet you and unload. There is not always someone at the sanctuary since we do not have set hours at this time. 330-296-5914.



## **Join Our Special Committees**

Are you a "people-person" and enjoy planning special events? Join our fundraising committees and help plan the big 2011 Gala Dinner or the Compassionate Thanksgiving! To sign up, call us at 330-296-5914.

## **Newsletter Updates!**

You can sign up to read the Happy Trails newsletter on-line as soon as it hits the website and not have to wait for the printed copies to be mailed. To sign up, simply go to [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org).

You will begin to see some changes in the Happy Trails newsletter. We hope you like them! We continually strive to improve and grow. Though the number of pages is slowly diminishing, the frequency which you receive the newsletter will be increasing!

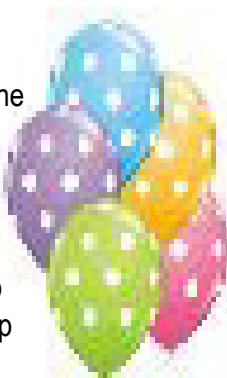
## **Monthly Animal Sponsorships And Gift Sponsorships For Birthdays And Special Occasions**

One of the programs that makes the biggest impact on our ability to care for the rescued animals is our animal sponsorship and gift sponsorship programs.

If you would like to become a monthly sponsor for a rescued animal, Sharon Barnard can help you do just that! Call her at 330-573-1450.

Or, if you need to find a unique present for a birthday, graduation, anniversary, wedding, or other special occasion for hard-to-buy-for family member, friend or co-worker, consider giving the gift of life with an animal sponsorship! The gift recipient will be invited to visit their sponsored animal in person and get to spend time with them and follow their progress.

To sponsor an animal as a gift, please Sharon at 330-573-1450.



## **Supporting Our Friends In Animal Rescue**

### **Medina County SPCA Rescues Over 100 Dogs**

Recently our friends at the Medina County SPCA rescued over 100 dogs. The sheer number of animals involved in this rescue would be overwhelming for any organization. They can use donations of food, toys, newspapers, blankets, play pens, cages, foster homes and adoptive homes, and of course, monetary donations. Donations can be dropped off at the Medina County SPCA Animal Care Facility, 245 S. Medina St., Medina, Ohio 44258, from 12-4 on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., and Sat.

### **HorseNet Horse Rescue In Maryland Hosts Pow Wow Fundraiser In May**

#### ***Want an excuse for a road trip?***

Experience the 4th Annual Healing Pow Wow to benefit the rescued horses at HorseNet Horse Rescue, to be held at the Mt. Airy Carnival Grounds, 1003 Twin Arch Rd., Mt. Airy, Md 21771, on May 14th & 15th. Adults \$6; Children ages 6 to 12 \$3; Children under 6 admitted free. For more information visit their website at [www.hnhr.org](http://www.hnhr.org) or call Elle at 443-478-0670.

HorseNet accepted a blind horse into their rescue program for Happy Trails. We encourage everyone to join them for a weekend of Native American music and dancing. Crafters will displaying authentic Native American jewelry, crafts, herbs, drums and flutes.





## What Did *You* Do On New Year's Morning?

On New Year's morning, the Happy Trails rescue crew packed up to assist a local humane society with the transport of rescued animals. Sadly the humane officer discovered a dead horse and two dead pigs. We assisted with transporting the three live goats and two chickens to safety.

Necropsies showed that the stomachs of the horse and the pigs were empty except for pieces of wood, indicating that they had tried to eat part of their stalls. These animals had been locked in the barn for several months.

As we helped round up the goats and load the chickens, I couldn't help but wonder what it would feel like to both freeze and starve to death at the same time. My heart broke for these animals. What a hideous, horrific way to die.

It greatly saddens me that people can be so callous to incredible suffering. But unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. This is the reason that Happy Trails exists — to bring to light the suffering, neglect and abuse that farm animals and horses experience on a daily basis. Animal abuse and neglect is truly not limited to dogs and cats, but rather is alive and well in many aspects of animal ownership — animals used for fighting; animals in our food production system; animals owned by hoarders; animals such as horses used for social status. *So at Happy Trails we started out New Year's Day doing what we do best — assisting Ohio's county humane societies.*

## Thank You!

There are always more folks to thank than what we can fit into our newsletter, but we always like to try to mention a few! ***Thank you to:***

- **The kind folks at Western Reserve** of Ravenna for donating a portion of the proceeds from Photos With Santa to Happy Trails! We very much appreciate your thoughtfulness!
- **Everyone who donated mineral oil for Toshi the piggy!** That helps us out immensely and we are grateful for the cases of mineral oil. We are humbled by the donations that came in for this precious piggy who relies on this in his food for his very life!
- **The stores who participated in the Holiday Giving Tree Program:** Geauga Feed & Supply, Pettigrew Feed & Hardware, and Western Reserve Farm Co-op Of Ravenna.
- **Everyone who remembered the rescued animals over the holidays,** and to all those who spon-

sored an animal as a gift for a friend or loved on — thank you for giving the gift of life!

• **All the families who made very thoughtful donations to the sanctuary in memory of a loved one who has passed away.** What a beautiful tribute to their memory, and we are humbled to receive such as honor of accepting donations to celebrate their life!

• **Pet lovers who have made donations in honor of their very special pet who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge.** What better way to respect the life of an animal than to help save the life of another!

**We are eternally grateful to each and everyone one of you who has helped out in some way, whether it has been a donation of your time and talents, or whether it was a monetary donation or a donation of supplies. Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

**Donation form on back cover. We appreciate your support!**

*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 ~**

## Stuff, stuff and more stuff...

GoodSearch

### Good Search...

**...helps Happy Trails earn money!** By using GoodSearch as your search engine of choice, and by purchasing products through GoodShop, you can help earn money for the animals. For information on how this works, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/happy-trails-farm-animal-sanctuary.aspx> and find out how you can click your way to a great fundraiser for Happy Trails.

### 52 Horses Were Bound For Slaughter...

...when their owner recently passed away. Happy Trails received literally *hundreds* of emails and phone calls about this situation. We were informed that all horses were placed with either individual homes or rescue groups.

It appeared as though a mass panic ran through the animal world. The outpouring of concern for these animals shows the amazing level of compassion that is out there. People were highly upset about the fact that 52 horses could end up at the meat auction. *And rightfully so!*

We truly appreciate everyone's care and concern and are amazed

at the outpouring of compassion for these animals. However, while everyone was busy worrying about these 52 horses, between 250 and 300 other horses ran

through the Sugarcreek meat auction that weekend, and no-one was panicking about them. In fact, this happens *every* weekend, at horse auctions across Ohio. We'd like to gently remind folks that there are plenty of horses already in rescue groups in need of your passion and help. On behalf of horse rescue organizations, we offered a commentary regarding this situation on-line at <http://happytrailsfarm.org/artman/uploads/websitehorsecommentary.pdf>. Please check it out.

### 8 Thoroughbreds Owner Found Guilty...

...when she entered a no-contest plea to animal cruelty charges in Bedford Municipal Court. Out of eight Thoroughbreds who were accepted into the Happy Trails rescue program from a situation of severe neglect and starvation, we have had to make the difficult and heartbreaking call to euthanize four of these horses. The sentencing hearing is coming up on March 11th. We'll post the final sentence on our website, but better yet, you may want to witness Ohio's court system in person. If you can, plan to attend the sentencing hearing at Bedford Municipal Court on Friday, March 11th at 1:30pm. Show your support for all those who have died.



### Featured Animal, Remington!



Two year old Palomino and white paint gelding, Remington is a huggy, affectionate, puppy-kind-of-a-horse. He is a big-pony size. Rem would be most happy as a big pet or a companion for another lucky horse (he loves all horses equally!). This adorable youngster has an undetermined slight lameness in his front quarters on occasion. With a little coaching he would probably be great at lead-line rides for kids. He is mellow and just happy to be there and ready to be eye-candy for your pasture! Adoption Fee: \$200.

For more adoption info, call 330-296-5914.

***"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)



*Continued from page 8*

sticking out at a funny angle. We have seen this condition many times during our rescues of feathered friends. It's called "angel wings".

Angel wings is a man-made condition created when a duck or goose is young. An incorrect diet with an imbalance of protein is usually the main culprit for this crippling condition where the ends of the wings actually torque and twist as they continue to grow. All animals we encounter with this condition go directly to Barberton Veterinary Clinic to see Dr. Gary Riggs, DVM, director and founder of North Coast Bird & Exotic Specialty Hospital. Dr. Riggs is Board Certified in Avian Practice.

Is the condition of angel wings painful for the animal? "Most definitely," is the answer from Dr. Riggs. "As that joint turns and grows, and the bigger feathers emerge, that's a lot of weight to put on those joints. There's a lot of arthritis." Then there is the fact that with the wings sticking out at these crazy angles, other birds pull on these feathers and they easily get stuck in things like fencing or bumped into when the birds move as a flock.

Perhaps the owners of the shopping facility thought that they were being kind to the little goose with the funny wings when they dumped him over the fence into the enclosed pond. After all, there were other geese and ducks swimming there and they looked perfectly fine. His wings stuck out at a strange angle to his body which was fodder for pecking and pulling by the other water fowl who lived there. When we met Francis, his wings were tattered and the feathers were shredded. He could watch the Canada geese and the mallard ducks fly in and out over the fence, but as he was a domestic goose and could not fly he was destined to stay where he had been dumped.

"He's been here for at least three years now." I guess that some people think that just because an animal somehow survives a neglect situation for a period of time that somehow makes it ok.

Francis was removed from this facility to receive treatment and a partial wing amputation to remove the painful ends of the angel wings under the expertise

of Dr. Riggs. One of our volunteers gave him the name Francis in honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals. It seems to fit him perfectly.

The entire procedure for both wings is normally a \$650 surgery. We are grateful that in this instance we were given a discount and our cost was \$325. Francis now resides at the sanctuary where he recovered after surgery. He is in the process of meeting new geese friends. He has the luxury of looking for worms, taking a swim if he so desires, or waddle into a shelter with heat lamps if he feels chilled. All with his newly formed wings which will no longer stick out at funny angles.

### **EASTER HOLIDAY CATASTROPHES**

People dumping animals on private ponds starting about mid-June has become an epidemic after Easter.

Sadly Francis' story will be repeated hundreds if not thousands of times as people get goslings, chicks or bunnies for Easter and then dump them when they become too big to care for or are no longer "cute". So much cruelty and suffering can be born from ignorance. The sheer number of calls that we receive when ponds freeze over in the winter and domestic ducks and geese have no source of food or shelter is staggering. Let's encourage our friends *not* to purchase the cute little ducklings and goslings at Easter in the first place unless they truly intend on taking care of them for their entire life. I personally have had pet geese and ducks live anywhere from 8 years to 13 years.

### **EDUCATION**

Happy Trail's mission includes education about the plight of all animals when they are not cared for properly.

Teaching people to take responsibility for the animals in their care will go a long way to eliminate unnecessary suffering for those animals.

If you have domestic ducks and geese as pets, make sure to provide them with a shelter big enough to comfortably house the number of feathered friends that you have. Don't mistakenly think that a large group will all stuff themselves into a tiny shelter, for that goes against their nature. Make sure that they

have access to clean fresh water 24 hours a day. And make sure that they have a bowl constantly filled with a healthy, commercial duck/goose pellet (NOT just corn), such as Big 4 so that they can eat free choice. Don't make them exist on the moldy bread from your refrigerator. Bread is really difficult for ducks to digest. Make sure they have a healthy, well-balanced diet, and plenty of yard space for exercise.



The bigger, the better.

### **DONATING TOWARD FRANCIS' SURGERY**

Back to Francis. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to help with the cost of Francis' surgery, donations can be made either through PayPal on the Happy Trails website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org), or can be sent to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

### **FRANCIS JOINS THE FARM ANIMAL VISITATION & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Francis now has a bright and pain-free future. He will now go on to help us spread compassion and knowledge as he becomes part of our educational and visitation programs. It is our hope that he will open minds and hearts with his story. He plans to bring smiles to the elderly in nursing homes and to teach grade school children how to properly care for animals.

**See Francis' extended story on the Happy Trails website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org).**



5623 New Milford Road • Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**(330) 296-5914**

[www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://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](http://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!***

