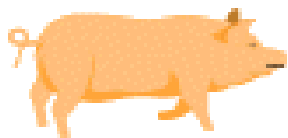


Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

MAY 2011

Newsletter



Animal Ethics Seminar - pg. 5

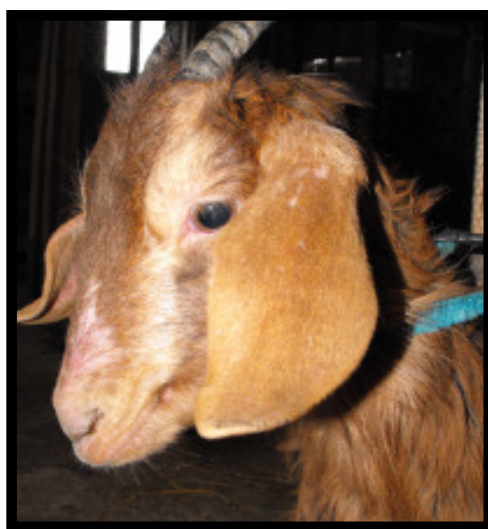
Family Fun Walk Fundraiser - pg. 7



Sponsor day brought people and animals together — pg. 8



Pig gets blanket from little girl's bed — pg. 14



Five goats found in basement of drug house in Cleveland — pg. 3

Schedule a sanctuary tour and visit Marge the turkey - pg. 6



Faces of Happy Trails — pg. 15

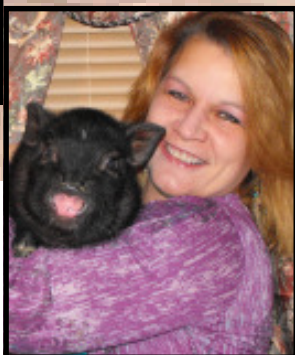
letter from the director

Dear Friends Of Happy Trails,

Coming out of a tough and bitter cold winter, Happy Trails faces some challenges.

During the coldest months of the year, not a lot of folks want to add additional outside work for themselves by adding a new family farm pet to their collection. With warm weather finally here, one of our challenges is to promote animal adoptions so that we can make room at the sanctuary to help the next animal abuse call that comes in. Sharon and Cheri have been keeping busy with approving homes, calling references and checking out adoption applications. If you are considering adopting a new farm pet, you will be actually saving more animals than just the one you are adopting. You would be making room for us to accept the next abused horse or farm animal, so your kindness will extend far beyond the animal you adopt!

Another challenge is Spring repairs. Here in Northeast Ohio the gusty winter winds always take their toll on our shelter roofs and they are always blowing over trees in the woods. Leftover leaves from last Fall create an eyesore, and the mud that accompanies the spring rains make clean-up difficult at best. Especially since we have had a record number of days of rain this Spring, we are playing catch-up with our outside chores.



Nevertheless, we continue to have a good attitude and

keep plugging away one project at a time.

We have been blessed with some simply fantastic new volunteers, and we hope to help you meet our dedicated volunteers (both new and old!) a few at a time in every newsletter.

And don't forget that tour season is officially upon us - check out page 6 to find out how to schedule an educational tour of the sanctuary.

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~

PBS Special Happy Trails Documentary !



NeoTropolis, a Western Reserve Public Media television station, put together a fantastic documentary on Happy Trails.

In case you missed the special when it aired, you can still catch it through the internet at <http://neotropolis.org/2011/04/episode-224-happy-trails-farm-sanctuary/> or visit the Happy

Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.



Visit Happy Trails!
Tour information
on page 6!



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

www.happytrailsfarm.org

Five Goats Discovered In Basement Of Abandoned House

On Thursday, March 3rd, the Cleveland APL requested the assistance of Happy Trails to remove five goats that were discovered in the basement of an abandoned drug house in the Cleveland area. Four young, beautiful females and one male goat made their way into the Happy Trails rescue and recovery program. We are happy to report that after vet care, proper nutrition for the group, deworming, vaccinations, and a neuter surgery for the male, all are doing wonderful!

Luckily they are in the process of being adopted into a home where they can all stay together! Unfortun-

nately all five goats have tested positive for CAE, which is something that may surface or may never surface during their lifetimes. CAE can be a crippling form of arthritis for goats, and if your pet goats are CAE negative, you would not want to introduce a positive goat to your existing herd.

In case you were smitten by these cuties and want to adopt a pet goat, we also have two adorable year-old goats, a brother and a sister, who are waiting to find a home of their own too!

There are many people who have discovered the joy of having goats as family pets, and once you experience just how comical and entertaining goats can be, you'll be sure to enjoy many hours of friendship and companionship with the goats in your family!

To inquire about adopting, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

As with all animals adopted from legitimate rescue organizations, the animals cannot be bred or placed into food production, but rather need to be adopted as part of your furry family!



**Kosuke
(Sun)**



**Mizuki
(Moon)**



**Sora
(Sky)**



**Hoshi
(Star)**



**Chikota
(Energy &
happiness
and good
fortune)**



GALLO NEEDS A HOME!

Meet Gallo, one of our newest residents!

The name, Gallo, means rooster in Italian. Gallo was found as a stray chicken in the city of Kent. A call from the Kent PD secured Gallo a place at Happy Trails and assured him safety. Gallo is available for adoption! To inquire about adopting Gallo or one of the other 18 roosters that reside at Happy Trails, call us at 330-296-5914.

Adoptions

We are thrilled to say that some very lucky animals found truly wonderful adoptive homes!

Congratulations to:

- April the Appaloosa pony
- Frasier & Niles, two handsome goats!
- Dolly the paint pony
- Brewster the rooster & Shuva the hen
- Kramer the Arabian horse
- Rocky the rooster
- Sophie the Standardbred mare
- Becky the duck
- Dakota the horse

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Working Together!

Happy Trails always encourages animal organizations to work together for a common good! We like to lead by example, so this year Happy Trails is teaming up with an assortment of other organizations for the good of the animals!



wild4ever.com

One of those organizations is Wild4Ever. **Together we are presenting a monthly Animal Ethics Series which will be free and open to the public. It will be held once a month at the Akron Public Library, with a wide array of animal-related topics and guest speakers.**

The series kicked off in May with a riveting presentation from Wild4Ever founder and guest speaker, veterinarian Dr. Gary Riggs. The topics covered conservation projects here in Ohio as well as projects across the globe. Marlo Perdicas also gave a fantastic presentation on the Metro Park Coyote Project.

Our next seminar will feature special guest, Sgt. David Hunt from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and will address animal fighting in Ohio. Sergeant Hunt has been with the Sheriff's Office for 29 years. For the past

19 years, he has been assigned to the Special Investigations Unit as a detective, and now supervisor, conducting undercover vice and narcotic investigations. Since 2002, Sgt. Hunt has been the lead for all dog fighting investigations having executed 51 search warrants resulting in 67 felony dog fighting arrests. He has been published in the FBI National Academy Associate and Buckeye Sheriff magazines on the topic of dog fighting. A court recognized expert on dog fighting, Sgt. Hunt testified before the United States Congress in support of H.R. 817 making animal fighting a federal felony. Several organizations have recognized Sgt. Hunt's achievements in combating dog fighting including the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and the U.S.

Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio. Sgt. Hunt has conducted training for law enforcement on the topic of dog fighting in 28 states serving as a consultant and instructor for the Humane Society of the United States. Numerous national media outlets have interviewed Sgt. Hunt on dog fighting including USA Today, New York Times Magazine, CNN, Animal Planet, National Geographic and ESPN to name a few.

This seminar series is great for everyone from high school and college students to law enforcement officers, social workers, animal rescue workers, veterinarians, and anyone who cares about the world in which we live!

We truly hope you'll make time to attend!



FREE!

JUNE 2011

Monthly Animal Ethics & Education Series

Hosted By Wild4Ever & Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary!

JUNE: Presentations By Dog Fighting Expert, Sgt. David Hunt of Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Annette Fisher, Director of Happy Trails

Animal Fighting In Ohio

Where is it in YOUR county?



HSUS estimates
400,000 people
are involved and
250,000 pit bulls
are used.

Wed., June 1st, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Akron Public Library

60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio

Animal fighting exists in every county in Ohio. It is often connected with guns, drugs, gambling, other criminal activities, hideous animal abuse and suffering, and often children are present. This seminar takes an in-depth look at this blood sport, how it affects us, *and how you can help stop it.*



Wild4Ever, a local and global wild-life conservation organization, and Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, a farm animal rescue organization, are co-sponsoring a series of free monthly animal ethics and educational seminars to be held at the Akron Public Library.

www.wild4ever.com • 330-825-2434 • www.happytrailsfarm.org • 330-296-5914

Meet Marge!



Schedule a guided tour of Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary and meet Marge, the turkey, and nearly 100 of her rescued farm animal friends up close and personal!

- **Sundays:** tours at 11am, 12:30am, 2pm and 3:30pm. (May through Oct.)

MUST PRE-REGISTER!

- Weekdays by appointment if a volunteer tour guide is available.

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

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

Guided/educational tours last about 1½ hours.

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

Compassionate Living

Happy Trails is unveiling a new section of our website called “Compassionate Living”, designed to help us make kind and gentle choices in our daily lives.

In this day and age when there is widespread concern about “going green” and saving the environment and becoming aware of our impact upon the earth, the plants and the animals, this new section will provide you with the information needed to make kind and compassionate choices in your daily life.

“Compassionate Living” will provide information on how to live a cruelty-free life and leave minimal impact on our earth. Sections include:

- Lists of products that are not tested on animals and where to buy them.
- Easy and delicious animal-friendly recipes that even those of us who don’t like to cook will enjoy making!
- Information about alternative clothing choices and where to buy them.
- Facts and statistics about practices that pollute our environment, ruin our rivers and poison our planet, such as the destruction of the rain forests, factory farming, the poaching trade, and more.

“Compassionate Living” will be a work-in-progress and you can watch this develop and expand. We’d love your input and ideas. Check it out at www.happytrailsfarm.org, and if you have ideas to share, email Renee Sharpless at renee@happytrailsfarm.org.

*“I like pigs. Dogs look up to us.
Cats look down on us.
Pigs treat us as equals.”*

- Sir Winston Churchill



Support Happy Trails And Join Us As We "Walk On The Wild Side"!

Wild4Ever has made us an offer we can't refuse! For every Happy Trails supporter who participates in our cooperative fundraiser, "Walk On The Wild Side", not only will Wild4Ever donate your \$10 registration fee back to Happy Trails, they will give us a matching donation up to \$1,000!

So bring the family and c'mon out to Silver Creek Park on Saturday, June 11th! Pre-registration is required due to park policies - please go to www.wild4ever.com to register!

9:00 AM Walk on the Wild Side

- \$10 per person in advance. \$20 per family
- Walk – Pheasant Run Trail
- 1 mile Fun Walk with family, friends, and pets if you like.
- Raffle ticket for prizes
- Pet "Wildlife Costume" Contest

9:00 AM – 12:00 Conservation Expo

- Exhibits and live animals to meet and greet! Talk with representatives from regional facilities, wildlife rehabilitators and animal sanctuaries.



Mark Your Calendars For A "Walk On The Wild Side"

Write "Happy Trails" on the registration form (*available at www.wild4ever.com*) and walk with us on June 11th, and your \$10 registration fee will be donated back to Happy Trails!

Not only that, Wild4Ever will match all Happy Trails registration fees up to \$1,000!

It's a WIN-WIN for the animals all the way around!

Pre-Registration Is Required

• \$10 Registration Fee Walk
\$20 registration Fee 5K Run
Pre-registration is required due to park policies. To pre-register, go to www.wild4ever.com.

Attend an event that's fun AND educational for the whole family!

Walk On The Wild Side & Conservation Expo

Walk On The Wild Side
Sat., June 11th, 2011

Silver Creek Park

5000 Hametown Rd., Norton, Ohio 44203

A family fun walk/dog walk (pet walk), pet costume contest, and Conservation Expo.

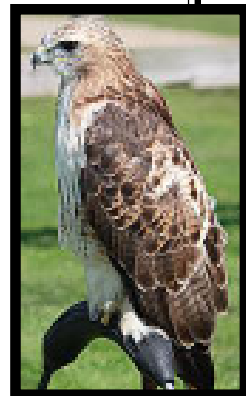
(A 5K run starts at 8am on the Chippewa Trail for all your runners out there!)

Happy Trails is honored to participate in this walk and 5-K run hosted by Wild4Ever. The Expo will include exhibits and animals from local conservation groups and animal sanctuaries from around the area. **Of course the Happy Trails crew will be there with rescued farm animals!**

It will be a great day with fun for all and will benefit local conservation and animal sanctuary groups.

Sign-up early and bring your friends!

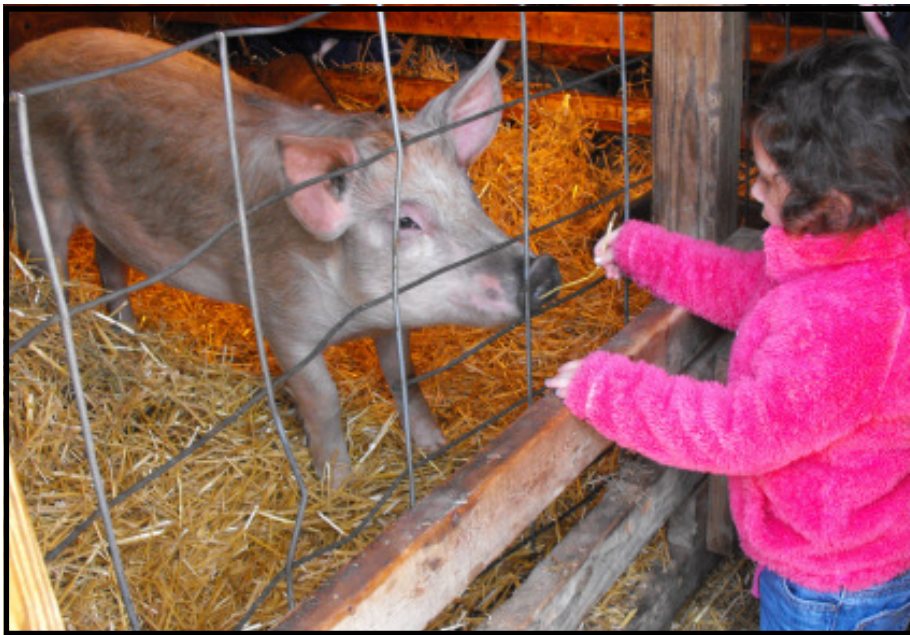
Go to www.wild4ever.com to register today!



Sponsor Day Was Fun!

What's fun about sponsor days, on our part, is that we get to see adults act like kids! It's truly heart warming and inspiring to see people, young and old and every age in between, get excited about seeing their sponsored animal up close and personal!

family member or co-worker, often the gift sponsorship celebrating a special occasion like a birthday, anniversary, wedding or graduation. They have received a very special gift by providing an animal with the gift of life. It's a truly thoughtful and caring gesture that touches the



Some folks sponsor an animal out of their own sense of caring and compassion, and it helps to put a name with a face when they can come to the sanctuary to touch that animal, to see how it is being cared for, to hear its personal rescue story, and to see that it has a bright and safe future. Sponsors learn how their donations are being used, how much that animal eats, how often it needs to receive a visit from the vet, what kind of bedding is used to keep it warm at night, and what are its special needs.

Other people have received a gift sponsorship from a caring friend,
page 8

hearts of the gift recipients in a very special way and connects them to an animal that they might never have had the chance to know.

The weather on sponsor day on Sunday, March 20th, was close to being perfect! People came armed with cameras.

Pigs everywhere were getting hugged and belly-rubs were abundant. Ex-cockfighting roosters were being held and pet, and people were sitting on the ground playing with the loud and happy

geese! Horse sponsors were coming out of the barn completely covered in fur as they brushed and groomed their sponsored horse. People were checking out the cool feel of the horns of their sponsored goats and giving them kisses on their noses. Sponsors were sitting next to the massive farm piggies, in awe of their sheer size and stature, never realizing that if farm pigs were allowed to grow up to be adults, that this is the size they would grow up to be!

Sponsor day is always a fun and rewarding day here at Happy Trails, with lots of smiles, tons of compassion, and the opportunity for folks to learn more about the incredible personalities of the rescued animals. ***Thanks to everyone who has sponsored a rescued animal!***



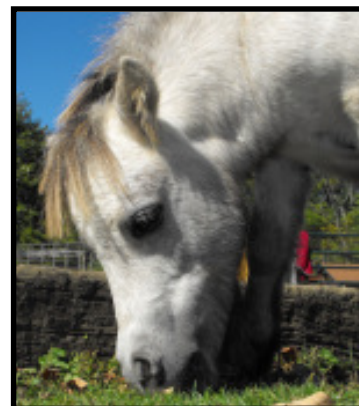
Solving The "What Do We Get Them?" Dilemma!

Dare to be different!

Want to put some fun into your gift-giving this year?

Farm animal sponsorships can be a fun way of giving something very unique to that special or hard-to-buy-for someone for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, retirement celebrations, or any fun gift-giving occasion!

- Select the type of animal that you would like to "give as a gift".
- Fill out this form and mail it as directed or sign up on-line at www.happytrailsfarm.org.
- Questions? Call Sharon Barnard at (330) 573-1450.



Be sure to send in your gift request in plenty time for your gift-recipient to receive their sponsorship package!

GIFT SPONSORSHIP

My Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (home/cell) _____

email address _____

I would like to sponsor a rescued animal as a Christmas gift for:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Special Occasion _____ Date _____

email address _____

I would like to send a gift sponsorship for the following type of animal(s). Please send their name, story, information sheet, and a special invitation to visit them to the person above!

☐ Draft Horse \$75

☐ Goat \$40

☐ Horse or Mini \$50

☐ Pot Belly Pig \$35

☐ Farm Pig \$40

☐ Goose or Duck \$30

☐ Sheep \$40

☐ Chickens \$20

Mail to: Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Oh 44266.

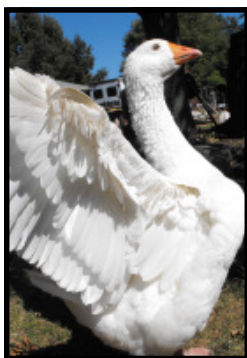


The gift-recipient will receive a gift-sponsorship package, including a full-color photo and fun-facts about the rescued farm animal, and an information sheet outlining the animal's care at Happy Trails. It details items such as feed, bedding, shelter, medical, and other items associated with the special needs of that particular animal.

You and your gift-recipient

will be invited to the sanctuary to attend one of the special "Sponsor's

Days" held at various times during the year to meet your sponsored animal in person!



Tribute to Toshi, Blusher and Fleagle

Losing an animal that has touched your life can be heart-breaking. It's especially tough when you work in animal rescue, since there are often many animals that you've grown very close to and you can't possibly fix every one of them.

During two weeks in April, we lost Blusher the Thoroughbred mare, Toshiaki the farm pig, and my own dear Fleagle, a Basset Hound.

Blusher was one of eight horses that had been signed over to Happy Trails from a severe starvation case in Orange County. Over the past eleven months, we lost five of these precious horses due to health complications most likely linked to starvation. Often a horse's intestines or internal organs may have permanent damage due to malnutrition. Blusher had come so far. She had gained approximately 175 lbs., but was always struggling with internal infections and high liver enzymes, and she regularly experienced bouts of colic. The last and final colic was horrific, with the only reasonable option being euthanasia.

Her spirit left this world Tuesday, April 26th.

Toshiaki the farm pig had arrived at Happy Trails from a hog farm that fed their pigs liquid waste, a practice that is legal here in Ohio. Toshi's rectum had prolapsed, and though that particular issue was addressed, he had complications from this trauma. There was scar tissue inside his intestines, so much so that the mineral oil which was generously poured into his food no longer helped. The prognosis for even surviving surgery was slim to none. On Tuesday, April 19th, we opted to let him go while he was under anesthesia at Metro Animal Hospital.

On Thursday, April 28th, we lost my 17 year old Bassett Hound, Fleagle, to cancer. He had lost a great deal of weight and had quit eating all together during his last days with us.

Each of these animals touched the lives of many, many people at Happy Trails, and they all will be terribly missed. We are grateful for the time that we had with them, to show them love, kindness and compassion. Though we will miss their presence in our lives, they



are finally in the world of the spirit in an existence free of pain. I feel worse for the animals who continue to be abused and neglected, for those who are not protected by our laws, and for those who are suffering as we speak and have no-one to comfort them or speak out for them.

Let us continue to speak out against animal abuse for farm animals such as Blusher and Toshi, and let them receive the protection and kindness we give to our dog friends such as Fleagle.



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How Many Hands Can Pet A Happy Turkey At Once?

Apparently quite a few is the answer! On Saturday, April 30th, 38 teens from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio had chosen Happy Trails as their host for the Spring Youth Gathering this year, thanks to the planning help of Mother Julie Fisher at Christ Episcopal Church in Kent. The goal was to not only help out, but to learn and connect with our animal brethren. Happy Trails representatives met the group the night before the big event to talk about the work of the sanctuary, what to expect on their visit, and to plan out a fun yet productive day.

After a hard day of work, everyone toured the sanctuary and had the opportunity to experience the farm animals up close and personal. The day turned out to be a huge success and our hope is that many new people who were able to connect the farm animals to the food on their plate walked away with a sense of urgency that we need to protect these animals in the food production system and demand better legislation. We were honored to work with such a wonderful group!



The kids made an incredible amount of blankets for the pigs! Thanks so much!

Upcoming Events!

Happy Trails will participate in many community events this year! Here's a few you won't want to miss!

- **Saturday, May 21st**
9am - 4pm
OSU (Ohio State University)
Open House in Columbus

- **Saturday, June 11th**
9am - 12noon
Walk On The Wild Side
5K run, pet walk and expo at Silver Creek Metro Park, Norton
Pre-register at www.wild4ever.com

- **Saturday, Aug 20th —**
Happy Trails Gala Dinner
St. George's Banquet Hall, Fairlawn

- **Saturday, August 27th 7pm**
Deerfield Raceway
Happy Trails night with oval track racing, Rt. 224, Deerfield

- **Sept. 10th & 11th**
Crooked River All Nations Pow Wow
At Keyser Park, Cuyahoga Falls

- **November 5th**
Happy Trails Compassionate Thanksgiving Dinner

"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)



Friend Happy Trails on Facebook!

Be sure to check out our new Facebook page that will keep you updated on the latest Happy Trails news, including public events, adoptions, and volunteer opportunities.



"Like" us to become a fan, and make sure to tell your friends! Our page is full of information about

the sanctuary and lots of pictures as well. We welcome feedback so feel free to ask questions or post comments and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.



Thanks to everyone who saved Acme receipts for us, Happy Trails received a donation check for \$497.00!

You can now take the summer off because we are only permitted to save them during designated months of the year.

We can begin saving them again in the fall beginning September 24th!

Morning Animal Feeder



Meet Kristen Beck!

Happy Trails would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest sanctuary resident, Kristen Beck (no, she wasn't a rescue!). Kristen was recently chosen from about 138 people who sent in resumes for our morning animal feeder staff position. She brought with her a lifetime of experience working with animals and she is also certified in animal triage. Kristen is also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and is in the process of creating her own non-profit wildlife rehab organization. Kristen is doing a fabulous job and we hope she loves working with Happy Trails as much as we love having her work with us! She is truly a wonderful addition to our animal care staff and we are lucky to have her on board! Welcome to Happy Trails, Kristen!

Evening Animal Feeder



Meet Mindy Tusko!

After having worked as a dedicated volunteer with Happy Trails for about three years, Mindy accepted the staff position of becoming an evening animal feeder in January. After working a long day at her day job, Mindy actually looks forward to coming to Happy Trails in the evening. "This is my quiet time," Mindy says. "I just love all the animals and they help me relax and wind down after a long day."

As a volunteer Mindy has organized the Happy Trails Compassionate Thanksgiving event, coordinates our Barn Party fundraisers, helps return phone calls and emails, has fostered pigs, ducks and now goats, handles the Acme Community Cash Back Program, and much more. Truly an animal-lover, we are grateful to have Mindy on our staff!



Handsome Padre Needs A Home

9 year old Padre The Standardbred Needs A Home As A Pasture Buddy!

Padre is sweet and loving and very easy to work with. He is funny and comical and is the barn comedian! He is retired from his career as a race horse, but due to an old ankle issue, he cannot work as a riding horse. **Padre would make a great companion for another horse, or a great family pet!**

Adoption Fee: Waived For An Approved Home

Padre is one about 30+ horses and about 50 other animals available for adoption through Happy Trails. It is only through animal adoptions to kind and caring homes that we are able to make room to help the next animal in need.

Please consider adopting a horse or other farm pet through the Happy Trails Adoption Program.

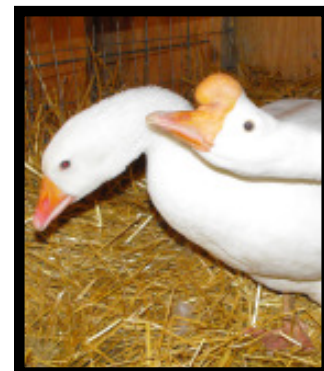
Here's just a few others who are hoping that you'll pick them to be part of your family! (For a complete list, visit our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.)

• **MUNNA:** a black and white female pot belly piggy who is sweet and inquisitive and would love to have a home of her own!

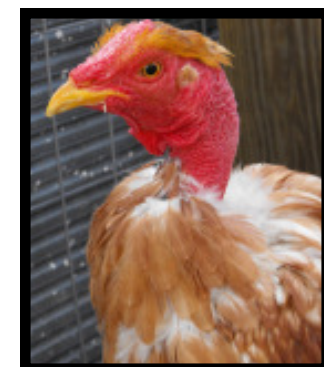


• **SWEET PEA &**

ARISTOTLE: a pair of white domestic geese who would love to live in a fenced-in area in your backyard with a kiddie pool for swimming! These two feathered friends won't let anyone in your yard without you knowing about it!



• **SEBASTIAN:** an ex-cockfighting rooster who is gentle and loving with people. He adores being held and pet, and truly deserves a big yard of his own. His breed is a Turkin.



**For Adoption Information
Call 330-296-5914
www.happytrailsfarm.org**

Wish List

*Saving money for
the sanctuary!*

Here's a few items that we are adding to our wish list. Any items that are donated are a) tax deductible and b) will save the sanctuary funds that can be used toward other necessary expenses.

Please help spread the word, and maybe we'll run across someone who is able to donate the following:

- a large flatbed trailer to haul hay, straw and other supplies
- several storage sheds (a minimum of 8'x8') to store pitch forks, grain and other shelter supplies near each shelter
- Heavy duty water hoses and spray nozzles, any length
- 8½"x11" color copy paper, any pastel or bright colors to print fliers
- manila file folders
- an open stock trailer
- plastic or artificial flowers for the pet cemetery and flower beds
- live flowers or shrubs to beautify the sanctuary this spring
- a 12'x12' cement pad poured where we dump manure
- gas cards



Thank you to everyone who has donated their time and talents, has donated supplies or hay or grain, has sponsored an animal for someone's birthday, or has made a monetary donation. We are truly grateful for each and everyone of you, for you are Happy Trails and everything the organization stands for! Many, many thanks for you support!



Kids Respond In A Big Way Giving Blankets To Piggies!

Michele Bolinger first received a Happy Trails email back at the beginning of March letting everyone know that though winter was still very much alive and well with some single-digit temperatures hanging around here in Northeast Ohio, the sanctuary was dangerously close to being completely out of blankets for the older and arthritic pot belly piggies. So Michele stepped into action and got her community involved by making this request public to her friends and to the president of the Revere Middle School PTA.

When 10 year old Amy Race, a student at Bath Elementary School, heard about Happy Trails running out of blankets for the rescued animals, she simply couldn't stand the thought of a sad, cold piggy shivering in the barn. She had a new, soft, fuzzy, pink ballet blanket on her bed. She pulled off her favorite pink ballet blanket to give to her mom. "I want the animals to have my pink ballet blanket!" she announced. At first mom was skeptical. "That's your favorite blanket. Are you sure you want to give it up?" Amy was sure. "No, the piggies need it more than I do," she explained. Amy was concerned that the pigs were going to be cold.

Amy wasn't the only youngster who understands! **The Oldham sisters decided to each donate their American Girl sleeping bags to help keep the rescued animals**

warm too! These parents of these young ladies should be proud to have kids that are so giving and so caring.

And from Michele's original email, with each email that continued to reach yet another person, another home, another school, another church group, the donations of blankets for the rescued animals began to pour in from everywhere. Michele has

shared many wonderful stories with us of how the news spread and how people got involved — it was a chain reaction of people caring enough to make a difference. So Michele gathered up the amazing number of blankets and stuffed them tightly into her vehicle, and she and her husband Paul drove their treasure of warmth out to Happy Trails.

The blankets are now being put to good use inside the shelters, where in addition to their heat lamps, the piggies are given blankets to help keep them warm at night. Often we don't even have to cover them up! They will burrow through the straw, tunnel underneath their blankets, and end up sleeping under these layers underneath a heat lamp. Given a choice, the piggies choose to be warm and comfortable, much like we do!

Many, many thanks to all the kind-hearted folks from Revere Middle School, Bath Elementary School, the church groups, and other organizations who so generously donated blankets and sleeping bags for the rescue animals. We are truly in awe of your generosity! And for getting the kids involved in their community and for making them aware that there are animals in need — my hat is off to all the parents and folks connected with the schools who are teaching kids kindness and compassion for animals — we will all benefit from this as these children grow up to be the adults who will be making decisions for our communities in the not-all-that-distant future.

And many thanks to Michele for sending out "the email heard 'round the world"! *This is a great example that goes to show all of us what an incredible difference one person can make!*

The Faces Of Happy Trails

Meet some of the folks who **VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND TALENTS** to make Happy Trails the phenomenal organization that it is!



(above) Meet Bentley “Buzz” Hudson, caretaker of “Ol’ Betsy”, our big blue dump truck. Buzz hauls away our manure just as quick as it gets shoveled into the bed of the truck! He keeps our equipment running, shovels horse poo, fixes things that we break during the week, and is our all-around-can’t-do-without guy. God bless him for having adopted Happy Trails as his very own!



(above) Meet Ilona Urban, retired school teacher from the Akron Public School system. She now heads our animal educational curriculum for grades K through 12 and also gives presentations to special interest groups such as Rotary Clubs, The Elks, VFW’s, and many more! And did we mention that she is also a trained and certified Tour Guide?

(below) Meet Joan Leppla, Happy Trails Board Member, Board Secretary, and head of the Happy Trails Reike Group. Joan always finds quiet time to spend with the animals that need some quiet energy and a healing touch. Joan is also a trained and certified Happy Trails Tour Guide!



(left) Meet Julie Fitzwater, die-hard volunteer weekend feeder and animal caretaker, Julie is truly devoted to the animals at Happy Trails. You may even meet Julie when you visit the sanctuary since she is now also a trained and certified Tour Guide!





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