



Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

February 2016

Spreading Kindness and Compassion for *ALL* Animals

**Tyee, once starved, has
recovered and is now
available for adoption.**



**“Although the world is full of suffering,
It is also full of the overcoming of it.”**

- Helen Keller

letter from the director

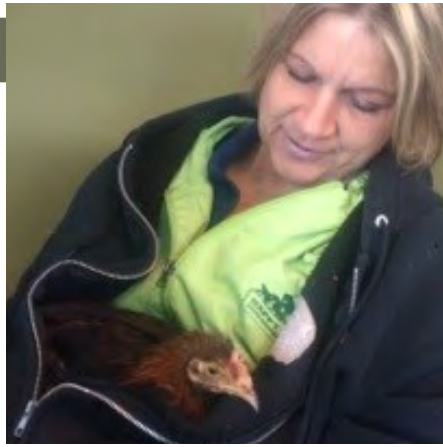
Dear Friends of Happy Trails,

Not very far into the new year we have already handled a number of rescues — two pot belly pigs from two different rescues in Elkhart, Indiana; a hen left on the side of the road in a pet porter; a duck found frozen to the road who had to be chipped out of the ice; two major cockfighting raids, and a new Amish horse retired through the Amish Horse Retirement Program.

So it was one of those long days where at the end of the day your brain is fried and you just want to sit and veg. But there was this little, fragile hen from one of the cock-fighting raids who still needed extra attention. She was emaciated, very weak, and very cold. I simply stuffed her inside my jacket to warm her up. She didn't seem to mind one bit, and would alternate between closing her eyes for a few quick winks to being alert and looking around. And there we sat, she and I, resting and figuring out what needed done next. Our future plans were a bit different, for when I finally put her in a crate under some warm lights, her plan was to eat a bunch of sunflower seeds, as they appeared to be her favorite. My plan was to head back out to the vet clinic to check on the other chickens that had just come in. Her plan was to rest and relax. My plan was to get more work done. I should learn from her.

Everyone was rooting for the small, starving hen to make it, and hoping she would gain enough strength to pull through her ordeal. So far she has.

When we rescue groups of cock fighting roosters, we usually come up with a theme name. One group was named after the Cleveland Indi-



ans; another group was named after rock stars; one of our groups this week was named after U.S. presidents and the hens in the group were named after their wives; and the other group had the theme of Bible names.

So Bethsheba, the small hen in need of warmth, has stolen the hearts of everyone at the sanctuary.

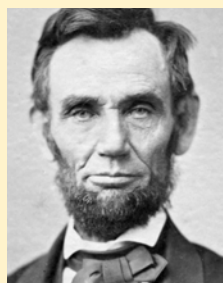
Most of the chickens who arrived seem to appreciate a gentle touch and a friendly voice. I hope that you will help us spread the word about the horrors of animal fighting, and by posting the story on your social media, will be able to help us find homes for some really wonderful feathered friends, like Bethsheba.

Thanks to everyone for sharing your copies of the Happy Trails magazine with others.

Here's looking forward to a busy, successful, prosperous, peaceful and healing new year ahead!

With kindness and compassion
for all animals,

Annette Bragg
Founder/Executive Director



***"I am in favor
of animal rights
as well as
human rights.
That is the way
of a whole hu-
man being."***

- Abraham Lincoln

Is Kyle Really Baaaaaaahhd To the Bone

Does Kyle have your name
written all over him? We're hoping!



Kyle, while quite extraordinarily handsome, intelligent, and debonaire, has an ornery I'll-head-butt-you-into-Pennsylvania streak in his winning personality. Kyle remains hopeful that he will find the right home where he can be...well, be a sheep, and do typical sheep behaviors, like head-butt things, and not get in trouble for it.

If you speak Kyle's language and understand typical sheep behavior, Kyle is quite comical and can be rather endearing in a sheep-ish kind of way.

Kyle had been locked in a horse stall for about two years in Ashtabula County. His wool was pulled painfully around his overgrown hooves and he was covered in urine scald.

Kyle deserves a great home, and we are trying our best to find Kyle the perfect family who will understand him and love him for who he is. Please help us spread the word, and with everyone working together, we are certain to find the perfect family for Kyle. For adoption or sponsor information, email adopt-foster@happytrailsfarm.org.

Happy Trails Assists Mahoning County with Two Cockfighting Raids in One Week

On Tuesday, January 26, US Marshals arrived at a home on Myron Road in Youngstown, Ohio, to serve a warrant for a man they needed to take into custody on domestic violence charges. While at the residence, they discovered 18 cockfighting birds and related items connected to cockfighting. Through the usual chain of command, the US Marshals contacted the local humane society, Animal Charities, who in turn, contacted Happy Trails.

The hand-cuffed man was placed in the back of the police cruiser, but unfortunately he escaped with his handcuffs on and as of this writing, is still on the run.

That evening our rescue crew



picked up the 18 confiscated birds at Animal Charities shelter and transported them back to Happy Trails for care and medical treatment. Most of these birds were emaciated and severely dehydrated. We took video of them drinking entire bowls of water when water was offered to them. Many of the chickens from this group have to gain at least half of their body weight due to severe malnutrition.

Two days later, authorities once again contacted Animal Charities, who again contacted Happy Trails, and we did the same thing all over again. This time the raid was on Lucius Avenue in Youngs-

town, and our rescue crew removed 29 chickens from the residence. Two were bloody from fighting just before authorities arrived.

Cockfighting is a blood sport where at least two roosters are placed in a ring or pit and are forced to fight to the death for the amusement and entertainment of onlookers. It is a cruel and hideous practice and is illegal in the United States, though animal fighting rings are rampant in every county in Ohio. Cockfighting is well known for being connected to other crimes, such as illegal drugs, illegal fire arms, illegal gambling, underage drinking, domestic violence, and more.

Any person who has what it takes to strap razor blades to the legs of animals and enjoy watching them fight and brutally shred each other to the death should have a mental health assessment and follow up treatment. Studies have

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Getting Ready for A Night of Hope and Inspiration — Helping Collect Items!

As we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year, A Night of Hope and Inspiration coming up on April 2nd at Todaro's Party Center, we are collecting some items that just maybe you could help us collect. Here's the scoop:

WINE PULL

\$20 allows you to pull a number and that number corresponds with a surprise (wrapped) bottle of wine. It



could be a basic wine, or it could be a rather expensive brand. Sometimes wine glasses, bottle openers, and other wine items, might be connected to your prize number as well. Donations of wine and wine accessories will help assure a successful wine pull this year. We do ask that all wine donations are vegan. So how can a wine not be vegan you ask? Certain brands filter their wines using animal bones or fish bladders. We always suggest you ask if the wine is vegan.

CHINESE RAFFLE

A Night of Hope and Inspiration always boasts *thee best* raffle items of any Chinese raffle anywhere. We collect fine art such as paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, blown glass and photography. We collect beautiful jewelry, wood working, high end crafts, and home décor. Our raffle items include theme baskets such as pet themes, out-



doors, gardening, kitchen, movies, entertainment, and any other themes you can come up with. We also include entertainment such as tickets to concerts, sports venues, bed and breakfasts, weekend get-aways, museums, and shows.

MYSTERY GRAB BAGS

Here is your chance to re-gift after the holidays. Mystery Grab Bags go like hotcakes, and we bag some awesome gifts in this fun game of chance. For \$5 or \$10 you can pull a number and win the correspond-

ing Mystery Grab Bag — you get a gift every time! You might win something simple like supplies for your office, or you might be a lucky winner and find an \$80 necklace or other expensive

gift. It's a game of chance, but you win something every time. I am guessing everyone has gifts or new or like-new items that you can no longer use, that just might be a treasure to someone else. Those are the items you can donate toward this game. Something interesting, unique, fun, funny, silly, serious, useful or pretty-to-look-at.



ing Lottery Grab Bag — you get a gift every time! You might win something simple like supplies for your office, or you might be a lucky winner and find an \$80 necklace or other expensive gift. It's a game of chance, but you win something every time. I am guessing everyone has gifts or new or like-new items that you can no longer use, that just might be a treasure to someone else. Those are the items you can donate toward this game. Something interesting, unique, fun, funny, silly, serious, useful or pretty-to-look-at.

Some bags surprise the winner with multiple items, making it that much more fun to find out what your mystery gifts are!

Most people have heard of a lottery tree, where lottery tickets are affixed to a "tree" (branch or sticks) of some sort and tickets are sold and the tree of tickets is raffled off. Well, Happy Trails put our own spin on this, and we create the lottery "forest", where we have a table full of lottery trees that you can win. Tickets are sold and the winner receives every single lottery tree in the forest, complete with tons of potential winning lottery tickets. An individual, group, company or organization can sponsor and donate a lottery tree for this part of the fundraiser. You can be creative with what you use for a tree, and maybe collect a lottery ticket from co-workers, other students, or family and friends, and put together your very own lottery tree to be included in the lottery forest.



LOTTERY FOREST

Most people have heard of a lottery tree, where lottery tickets are affixed



GENERAL INFO

We do ask that any items donated for this very special event are respectful of animals, and that products donated do not test on animals or contain animal products. To donate any of these items listed above, call us at 330-296-5914 or email us at info@happytrailsfarm.org. Your donations are tax deductible.

a night of **HOPE** and inspiration
Save the Date for
Saturday, April 2nd, 2016

Todaro's Party Center
1820 Akron-Peninsula Road, Akron

Heavy Vegan Hors d'oeuvres • Cash Bar • Music
Chinese Raffle • Wine Pull • Games • Prizes

VIP Reception Admission 4pm; Doors Open General Admission 5pm

Special Presentation by Founder/Director, Annette Bragg 6:15pm

This presentation includes inspiring stories of how abused and neglected rescue animals positively impact those around them and change people's lives.

\$60 per person general admission

\$100 per person VIP admission

(VIP admission includes VIP Reception 4pm to 5pm with unlimited cocktails and appetizers; swag bags; reserved seating; and more)



Rescuing animals in need is just part of the story. Raising awareness, giving back to the community, and helping people connect with the animals are important aspects of Happy Trail's mission.

This past fall, Happy Trails helped rescue and rehabilitate Vernon, a pot belly pig from Lancaster, PA, whose previous owner violently abused him. Vernon was placed in a loving home, and in spite of the suffering in his former life, has chosen to trust his new people. He now has a caring family, a soft couch, and a big backyard he can call his own. To learn more about Vernon and other stories like his, join us on Saturday, April 2nd, to see how we are giving hope and inspiration to animals and humans alike and to learn how you can be a part of Happy Trails.



"The animal rescue services and outreach programs of Happy Trails are impacting lives, both human and animal, in many amazing, positive ways." Annette Bragg, Founder/Director

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: Please consider partnering with Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary to sponsor "A Night of Hope and Inspiration", a simply amazing event and the sanctuary's biggest fundraiser of the year. For sponsorship information, email info@happytrailsfarm.org or call 330-296-5914.

David the Goat Makes a Full Recovery After Getting His Leg Amputated **AND** His Story Continues to Change Lives

The story of David, a rescued goat who was named after a Vietnam vet, was featured in the last Happy Trails magazine edition. His story touched many people. David had been brutally attacked by a dog, and his owners left him to suffer and refused him medical care. David's ears had been torn off, his hind leg shredded, and he had numerous wounds.

David makes a remarkable recovery at Happy Trails, but during his healing process, the vets at OSU (Ohio State University) in Columbus, medically determined he needed to have his damaged back leg amputated.

After the surgery, David healed beautifully and became even stronger. The way he runs around and takes corners you would never even know he had a handicap. **No-one ever told him not having a leg would slow him down, and it definitely did not.** He makes do with his three limbs and doesn't even give it another thought.

After his story was posted, two incredible things happened.

The first thing was that a wonderful couple, both who happened to be veterinarians, filled out an application to adopt David. Steven Meyer and Marcia Mahle, owners of Turtle Creek Veterinary Clinic in Lebanon, Ohio, already had several goats who

stole their hearts. *"We started with three pygmies in 2001, added two more rescue pygmies, and then in 2007 came our current goat, Jack, a 200 lb. Boer goat. He was rescued from the Little Miami River when he was a baby. He had a plastic bag tied around his head in what had to have been an attempt to drown him. He was caught up against the riverbank, treading water and crying. He had a damaged eye and was placed on a foster farm over the weekend and we were going to remove the eye the following Tuesday. I already had the five pygmies*

and had not planned on taking him, but rather simply donating our services. When he came to our hospital, he had suffered a broken leg at the foster farm (they had other goats, donkeys, etc.) so we proceeded to remove his eye, neuter him, and set his leg," said Marcia. *"That day he became my goat."*

So at David's new home, he has two fenced in acres, partially wooded with a run-in shelter, other goats for friends, two veterinarians for his human companions, and a heated kennel inside the barn where he can continue to be warm and comfy. We could never have written a better ending to David's story.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

So here's the second incredible thing that happened.

Ilona Urban, Happy Trails staff



David has no idea he has a handicap. After getting his badly damaged leg amputated, David loves life, loves people, and gets around like nobody's business. But through his name and his story, he has now connected people in unexpectedly wonderful ways. Many thanks to veterinarians Dr. Steven Meyer and Dr. Marcia Mahle who adopted David. You can check out their clinic's website at turtulecreekah.com.

member, who originally picked up David the goat to transport him to Happy Trails, had named him after her brother, David Lee Urban, who was killed in Vietnam, 47 years ago to the day she picked up David the goat.

The story of David the goat and how he got his name, featured in the last magazine edition, was read by Katie Costello, owner of the Learning Dog Training and Enrichment Center in Hubbard, Ohio. Katie then reached out to Ilona and as a kindred spirit with a family member who served in the same war, shared her own story.

Katie recently lost her father in 2015 to health issues due to exposure to Agent Orange. She shared with Ilona how she felt strongly about the children who, generations later, are still being born in Vietnam with effects from the deadly chemicals, and one of her goals was to raise enough funding to build an orphanage in South Vietnam to help those kids in honor of her father. Right then Ilona decided to help with her project, thus David the goat, his story, and his name's connection to Vietnam brought two people together who are no doubt going to change the lives of many children.

Katie has been connected with Happy Trails for years, having done everything from adopt four big farm pigs from the sanctuary to teaching our Animal Care Giver staff about animal behavior training. Yet, we didn't know of her goals to help others in this way until David the goat and his story brought Katie and Ilona together through a conversation of their connection with the Vietnam War.

I asked Katie to share her story

with all of you. David the goat, and I'm sure Vietnam Vets David Lee Urban, and Tony Matola would be honored if you would read on...

FROM KATIE

I lost my Dad on July 8, 2015. In ways, the world stopped. Everything I had ever known had changed. Someone who had been a part of me since I was born was now gone. My Dad, a husband, a Vietnam Veteran, lover of dogs and old cars, and watcher of the most ridiculous reality TV shows available was no longer here. I vowed on July 8, 2015, that I would go to Vietnam. I wasn't sure what I would do there, or what it

would encompass, but I had to go.

Vietnam took something from my Dad. And I needed to go there to find that piece. To fill in the hole. War changed my Dad. You could see the effects in his reactions, in his avoidance of certain things, and in his emotions. During his

final days his concerns when talking to priests were, "I was in Vietnam. There is no way you were in Vietnam without killing someone....and how does that stand with the commandment 'Thou Shalt Not Kill'?" It broke my heart to hear him say that, and to know all of these years later he was still feeling the effects of that war. Vietnam was something that he never spoke about...until the end. Speaking of his end, this was due to the war too. Lung cancer directly related to Agent Orange. What he did speak of the war even at the end was rare and incomplete thoughts, and only



what needed to be said to make this final part of his journey understandable and okay. Somehow, though, the sheer amount of times he asked the different priests told me that he didn't completely forgive himself.

In December I was reading something and one of my favorite Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes came to mind. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." It made me think of war. It made me think of my Dad. And it made me think of Vietnam. Since my Dad's death I have been reading a lot about Agent Orange and the horrific effects of it.

I met Heather Bowser, someone directly affected by her father's exposure to Agent Orange and Co-founder of COVVHA (Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance). and suddenly my purpose for Vietnam became more clear. COVVHA, a 501c3 was founded to bring the offspring of individuals exposed directly to Agent Orange together. It was created in 2012 to seek support and justice for generational victims of this dioxin. There are many Children of American Vietnam Veterans who have debilitating Birth Defects and rare chronic illnesses that have no prior family history. The US government does not acknowledge these ailments.

Through Heather, I learned that children were still being born in Vi-

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Katie and David's Story

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etnam with disabilities directly related to Agent Orange. It seemed to me that America walked away from Vietnam and everyone moved on the best that they could. But the destruction didn't end in Vietnam. They still feel those effects of the chemicals that killed so many Vietnam Veterans. **There are still 28 "Hot Spots" in Southern Vietnam today.** These areas still contaminate surrounding villages. These were areas where Agent Orange was stored and equipment used to spray it was cleaned.

Looking back at the Vietnam War, no one expected the effects to last 40 plus years. American soldiers didn't want to go Vietnam, they believed they were defending the interests of their country. The Vietnamese soldiers believed the same. They both would have rather been home with their families. They were simply doing their job. **One story that I can't tell without tears in my eyes is how when my Dad was coming home he was told not to wear his uniform.** He could never tell this story without tears in his eyes either. You see, my Dad didn't need to speak in sentences and stories about the war, he spoke volumes during the rare times he did speak of it.

Heather showed me a few videos of trips she had made to Vietnam, and there is a place there created by an American soldier called Friendship Village. <http://www.vietnamfriendship.org/wordpress/> This place, the pictures, the idea, spoke so completely to me. It made sense to me. I had found my purpose. We are going to raise money to build a center that treats people affected by Agent Orange medically, teach them a trade, be a respite house for their parents who care for these children and struggle to work because of their children's disabilities.

Through gardening, teaching to make paper flowers, embroidery, we can give these people a purpose, an opportunity to be someone, someone who can make a difference. And through the medical center we can help to make a really awful situation the best it can be. We can treat the many diseases affected by exposure to Agent Orange. **"Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."** This center, yet to be named, will be built in Pleiku, in honor of my Dad.

Enter the last Happy Trails newsletter, and of course, David the goat. I read with much emotion about how David the goat was named in honor of Ilona Urban's



brother who was killed in Vietnam. This was days after I had decided what I would be doing in Vietnam. I reached out to Ilona, who loves the idea and is on board with helping fundraise for this project. She will never know what her support means to me. She told me the entire story of her brother, while I told the story of my Dad. The first time since his death that I have told the story and said the words. **I could feel the healing begin as we embarked on this journey ...in a common understanding and of course in memory of our loved ones lost.** Some piece of this center will also have David's memory as well.

We will be attempting to raise \$20,000 for that unit, and have fundraisers planned through October. My husband and I will be accompanying Heather to Vietnam in October to begin this journey, and I hope to have a fair amount of the money raised by that time. My goal is to not only build but to maintain this center. The piece my Dad had lost, the piece that was in stark contrast to his outgoing personality and willingness to help anyone who needed help...will once again be whole.

If you feel drawn to this cause and would like to donate in any way, or talk to me more about the project feel free to call or text me at 330-502-8552, email me at

Katie@thelearningdog.com or mail a check made out to COVVHA, 7985 East Liberty Street Hubbard, Ohioand it all started because of a goat!

Upcoming planned fundraisers:

- Donation based dog training classes (all money goes to this project) at The Learning Dog Training and Enrichment Center. Please call 330-534-4990 or watch The Learning Dog's Facebook page for more information on which classes and when they are to be held!
- April 24th at The Yoga Room in Niles, Ohio from 1:00-8:00 pm. Tickets will be sold for this event at

\$50.00. You can come to The Yoga Room anytime between 1:00-8:00 and try up to three different yoga classes, reflexology, and massotherapy. We will also have a Chinese auction and a 50/50 raffle.

- We have a YouCaring page for donations if you go to <https://www.youcaring.com/people-children-born-in-vietnam-effected-by-agent-or-ange-509161>

- And we will have a party at my home, that will involve representatives from 31, Pampered Chef, Scentsy and Posh on June 4th. Money will be donated by the companies depending on sales sold! 6:00-? This will involve a bonfire, food, fun with our pet pigs and chickens (adopted from Happy Trails) and friendship!

- A poker Run starting in Hubbard, Ohio will be in July, date to be announced. We hope to see you all at these events!"

Katie Costello — 330-502-8552
Katie@thelearningdog.com

So What's Falcon Doing at His Foster Home?

Pretending to be a Super Hero Caped Crusader? Getting measured for a stylish Kardashian coat? Nope, none of the above.

Falcon is learning. Period. He is learning to be a good boy, to have polite ground manners, to channel his energy in good and positive ways, and to be confident and fearless.

In the photo at the right, Falcon is learning that noisy, flapping tarps, even when they're on top of your back, do not have be scary.

Falcon's foster mom, Veronica, has been working with Falcon and his train-



ing program at her home in Medina, and Falcon has proved to be a most excellent student.

The more interaction our foster homes have with the animals in their temporary care, the better chance these animals will have at finding that lasting, permanent home.

When asked how Falcon is doing with this training, Veronica said, "Falcon is doing fantastic! He is currently work on Level 3 Parelli training and he has graduated to saddle work."

Our foster homes are like gold to us. We are realistic about the amount of space we have at the sanctuary itself, so in the event of emergencies or mass rescues, our foster homes step up to the plate and help us make room for that one more animal. Or in some cases, those 30 more animals. Each animal in foster care gets personal, special attention, and they get to continue strengthening that human-animal bond that is so crucial to gaining their trust and confidence.

Foster homes are pre-approved, and foster homes can decide whether they want to keep their facility open for emergencies only, or if they want to foster on a regular basis. Either way, our foster home program is an integral part of the success of Happy Trails.

And not just horses can be fostered. Other farm animals are in need of foster homes as well.

Handsome black and white paint horse, Falcon, will be available for adoption after he completes his training, though we are currently accepting applications for this smart, wonderful boy. For information on either the foster program or adopting Falcon, contact us at adopt-foster@happytrailsfarm.org.

**"People are equal partners
with the plants and
animals, not their masters
who exploit them."**

- Haida Gwaii, Traditional Circle of Elders

As human beings, we are not above anything nor are we below anything. Because of being equal, we need to discuss a little about the value of respect. Not just respect when it comes to human beings, but respect when it comes to everything. We are not masters over things; we are caretakers for the Great Spirit. We need to treat all things with respect.

www.whitebison.org

Cockfighting Roosters

Continued from page 3

shown that people capable of cruelty to animals are often capable of inflicting that same cruelty on other human beings as well. It is a sick and vicious crime, and Happy Trails appreciates the opportunity to help bring awareness to the problem and to provide a safe and caring environment for the animals who suffer at the hands of those who find enjoyment in the suffering of others.

Happy Trails staff and volunteers have been working non-stop to settle in and care for a total of 47 chickens (both roosters and hens).

Folks can help in several ways:

- A \$10 donation will pay for one hour of animal care. Our staff provides care 14 hours per day, with several staff members on board every hour. Your donation will help provide staff care for these animals and will also offset any related expenses such as grain, bedding, vet and medical expenses, and transportation costs.
- Consider fostering-to-adopt a rooster. It has been our experience that many of the ex-cock fighters do very well as a family pet rooster and can be placed with a group of hens. While the chickens cannot be formally adopted until we are given legal custody, they can be in our foster program until a permanent adoption can take place. For more information, contact us at adopt-foster@happytrailsfarm.org or call 330-296-5914.
- Items we can use for the care of the roosters include scratch grains, sunflower seeds, metal water and food bowls that attach to the sides of a cage, zip ties, sawdust, straw, small stuffed toys, towels, towels and more towels, small blankets, and extra large pet porters.

To address the overall topic of cockfighting, here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

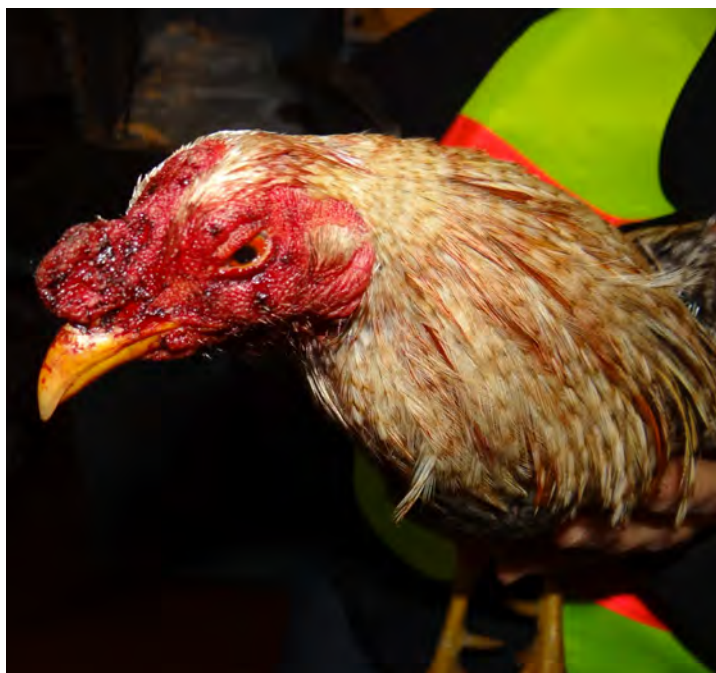
Q. How do they cut the combs and wattles off the birds?

A. They use scissors, knife or razor, and do not use any anesthetic when cutting them off. There are actually entire websites and articles from ruthless people devoted to how to easily cut off a rooster's comb and wattles. They talk about dunking their heads in cold water after to help stop the bleeding. And that they take about three weeks to heal.

Q. Why do they cut the combs and wattles off the birds?

A. The answers from the cock fighters include everything from the rooster getting frostbite on his comb in the winter to they require it for "show" birds. I question the integrity of any "show" that requires you to horribly disfigure an animal and then encourage you to do so without anesthesia or pain relief. A good comparison would be ear cropping for dogs. While that alone is a controversial topic, could you imagine the uproar it would cause if a "show" began encouraging dog owners to take scissors to cut the ends of the dog's ears without anesthetic? So, why do we tolerate them doing this to chickens, and who is monitoring these "shows" for animal abuse?

The real reason they cut off the combs is so the rooster can see better without getting so much blood in their face, as their combs



are a huge source of blood supply and can bleed profusely during a fight.

Q. Why do they shave the birds?

A. They not only shave the birds, but some of them cruelly pluck and pull their feathers right out of their chests, stomachs and legs. Cockfighting is a blood sport, and when wearing the gaffs, the chickens cut each other more dramatically on their stomachs and chests with the razor blades strapped to their legs.

If you are interested in learning more about cock fighting, there is a great article at <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/animals-used-entertainment-factsheets/give-roosters-something-crow-end-cockfighting/>

Be sure to watch the Happy Trails website for case updates on both of these cockfighting rescues at happytrailsfarm.org

Donations can be sent using the form on the inside back cover of this magazine, and make a note if you want the donation to be used for the roosters.

Who Adopts Ducks Like Norma?

In 2014, Happy Trails assisted the Portage Animal Protective League with a hoarding rescue involving a large group of horses, a bunch of chickens, and one lonely duck. We were told the duck had been accidentally run over by a lawn mower. However, the owner of the duck did not provide it with any veterinary care. Once at Happy Trails, Norma the duck began her healing process, and during this time, she found her perfect forever home with Katie Jarosc. We really have to give a hand to anyone who would drive nine hours from Cambridge, New York, just to meet and pick up her new feathered family member. Knowing Katie did this and that Norma now has such an amazing home restores our faith in humanity.

At her new home Norma continued her recovery. Katie said, "She can fly a little bit now, barely limps, swims every day, and has a whole body of feathers. The snow brings on some arthritis, and some times she needs her arthritis meds." But then, don't we all? Katie continued, "I'm so lucky! My ducks make me happy. You can talk to them and they talk right back to you." They are very loving." Here is the story of Norma, as told by Katie...

Norma's bio on Petfinder grabbed my attention. Thank God for Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary!

A few years ago, we raised our first ducks with regrettably little knowledge. They were purchased at a local farm supply store. "Sure, ducks would be able to live on your lake and fly away in winter;" the sales clerk told me. "They'll return in springtime." This was unfortunate and inaccurate information passed on to us, duck novices. Sadly, all but one beloved duck was taken in one night by predators. This began my journey to stop others from making similar mistakes. I contacted the vice-president of the farm supply store and we had a lengthy discussion

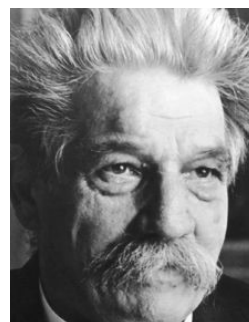
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course to
re-train*

employees and vamped up reading material and signage on the needs and resources for ducks and chicken ownership. They rolled out a whole line of chicken and duck housing (previously difficult to find) and made sure proper feed was available in their stores. I am pleased and humbled to know our ducks' deaths led to such reform. I am equally proud that the farm supply store was devoted to not contributing to 'duck dumping' while it make its financial goals. The result of my ducks death was a gerbil-like predator proof set of housing that grew over time. We still wanted Zip, my surviving duck, to have water time, so we enlarged the house to have a walkway to a lake play area we've nicknamed "Six Flags". Ducks are very vocal and quite smart. Routine is paradise to them. They greet you in the morning and will call to you from a distance when you arrive home. We felt like adopting Norma was the natural next step. A free range home wasn't an option due to her limitations. We felt we could take on the extra needs of a duck like her. Norma fell in love with "Six Flags" right away. We saw marked improvement on her walking from swimming.

Zippity was rather rude to Norma, and I believe God led me to finding Abby (Norma's new name) her own friend. Into her life waddled Audrey, a Khaki Campbell duck, and our new resident sheriff hen. Her presence changed Zippity's rudeness. Audrey is larger than Zip and willing to keep



him from Abby, only hurting his ego. Audrey has united the whole flock. It is Audrey who seemed to become maternal towards Abby, truly teaching her to preen and even to enjoy the snacks we pass out. I've likened her to the friend Secretariat traveled with! I am so pleased to say that all our ducks share lovely days together and all stand protectively in front of Abby when I approach. Having ducks shouldn't be entered into lightly, as I admit I did. Having ducks means sunny days spent checking and mending fences, purchasing food and hay, vet visits, and emptying kiddie pools. Having ducks in our family has been more rewarding than I can put into words. Even our cat, Steven, enjoys seeing them and will cry out if a strange animal approaches "his" flock. Having committed to the work, any bad day is balanced when you come home to their joyful faces, easy banter and silly games. I set out to "rescue" a couple of abandoned ducks, and found they are now a great part of who I am.



"Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace."

- Albert Schweitzer

Time to Celebrate! Going Away Party for the Pigs Brought Many Guests!

Jolie, a pretty pink piggy with artistic black spots dotting her rubbery snout, was recently adopted along with her two piggy companions, Laverne and (who else) Shirley. Jolie (her name means 'Beautiful' in French) had become the unofficial greeter at the sanctuary, and would mosey up to every guest, volunteer and staff member who entered the gates and would welcome them with contented grunts. She had read a book on how to train your humans, and would draw you in with that pretty face. She would wait patiently for you to reach out to pet her, at which time she would flop over like a fainting goat and wait for you to figure out she wanted a belly rub. During her stay with us at Happy Trails she trained many humans in this manner.

When the news arrived that all three pot belly friends were getting adopted, it



Crazy, wild, pig-party goers included Kachina the horse (front and center) who crashed the party; then back row left to right: Pam Summers; Chris Lattimer; Sarah Spradling; Tara Grace Kickert; Erica Harrington; Amber Milliren; Angel Brander; Nicole Todaro; Tari Addison and Kaleigh Miller. Guests of honor were from front left: Jolie, Shirley (behind Jolie), and (front right) Laverne.

was bitter sweet. Of course everyone was thrilled that these lovely ladies would have a caring, loving family of their own during their life time, but we would all miss them terribly. A party was thrown by staff and volunteers,

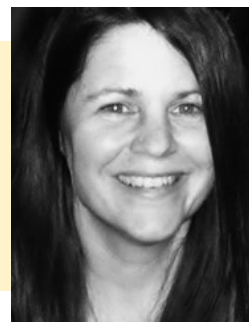
and everyone got to say goodbye to our precious Jolie and her best friends.

There were snacks galore of apples and cookies and cakes and salads. Yum! And even though Kachina the mini horse crashed the party and tried to steal all the treats she could, the pigs didn't seem to mind sharing. And did I forget to mention there were a lot of hugs and smooches and well wishes. While everyone was sad to see them leave, we wouldn't ever want to take this adoption opportunity away from them. They have since settled in with their new family and are enjoying themselves and living the good life.

For information on sponsoring, fostering or adopting one (or more!) of these wonderful creatures, contact us adopt-foster@happytrailsfarm.org.



And did we mention that there was a generous amount of cake to go around? Shirley (left) enjoys her cake in a quiet, dignified manner, while Jolie (right) plays "see food" with everyone around. While she might not be mannerly, she sure is funny!



"No matter the problem, kindness is always the right response."

L.R. Knost



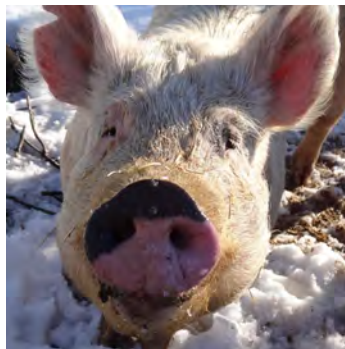
Odessa the goat highly recommends checking out the Happy Trails wish list on Amazon. Odessa does a great job keeping the list up-to-date using the office computer. This allows a donor to purchase an item on-line and have it shipped directly to the sanctuary! **Go to**

amazon.com
Smile

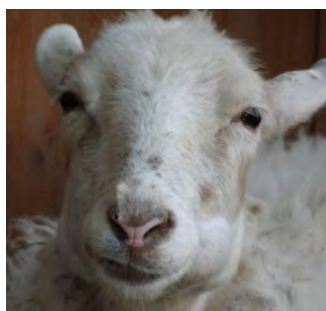


Princess Kachina the mini-horse is an advocate for sponsoring hoof trims for horses. "If it weren't for my special hoof extensions," Kachina said, "I wouldn't be able to walk properly." The other horses who get regular hoof trims are trimmed routinely every six weeks at \$30 per horse. There are normally about 40 in horses Happy Trails rescue program. Kachina said her special-needs hooves cost \$90 every six weeks. She feels she is worth it, however, as she visits the elderly in nursing homes and is an ambassador for school and special events. She touches many lives and people with special needs are able to relate to her.

Items to Donate or Sponsor



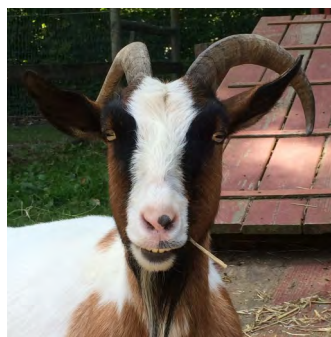
Willow the farm pig wants you to know there are several barns and shelters available for naming rights for building sponsors. "My new farm pig building is one of them," Willow said proudly. Your name or company's name would be spotlighted on a plaque outside the buildings to proudly show your support of Happy Trails. For more info on sponsoring a shelter or barn, contact us at 330-296-5914 or Info@happytrailsfarm.org.



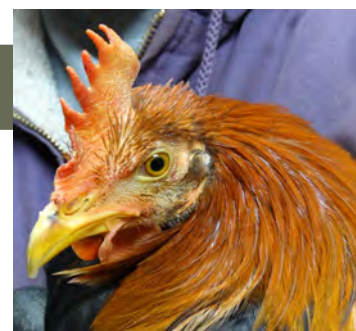
Miranda the sheep is requesting a sponsor for several big events, including the *Great Big Home and Garden Show* at the Cleveland IX Center and *Equine Affaire* in Columbus. "When Happy Trails attends major events, it helps create awareness, increases donations, and helps animals like me find a home," said Miranda. "I believe every rescued animal has the right to have their own family." You can sponsor our double-space booths at Equine Affaire in Co-lumbus for \$1,195 and the Home and Garden Show for \$1,865.



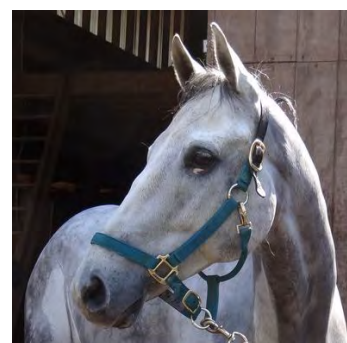
Charlie the calf would like you to consider being a matching-donation sponsor for special fundraising projects. "If you are willing to do a dollar-for-dollar match donation up to a certain amount," says Charlie, "a group of people willing to do that could definitely help us achieve great things this year." To discuss being a matching donor, call our director, Annette Bragg at 330-296-5914.



Natasha the goat would be very excited if she were to get two more supply sheds donated. The metal sheds cost \$650 each, and the cement slab base and gravel would cost \$850 each. "I watch the volunteers carry their tools and supplies to clean my barn from all the way up front," Natasha said. "I think it would be a better use of their time to spend more time cleaning my barn and less time moving supplies." She went on, "Plus, I see the need for a donation area in the back where I live. I hope it would be filled with all Ginger Snap cookies."



King Solomon the rooster is requesting a digital baby scale so we can properly weigh our feathered friends when they arrive and monitor their weight gain or weight loss accurately.



Handsome Tyee the gelding is worried about spring shots. "I know everyone needs vaccines, but there's a lot of horses," Tyee stated. "About \$65 would cover our basic vaccinations, tetanus toxoid, and West Niles. I heard there were horses in Ohio last year that died from West Nile. I think that's a pretty important vaccine." Then he remembered something else. "Oh ya, and a Coggins test. We are required by law to get those before we get adopted, and if someone picks me, I want to be ready to go! I should add \$25 to that cost to cover a Coggins test, too."

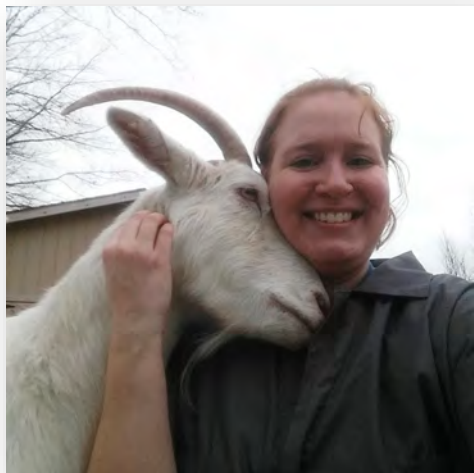


"The time is always right, to do what's right."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Welcome to Melinda Klundt, Student Intern

This semester we are welcoming to our intern program Tri-C Vet Tech student, Melinda Klundt, who is very excited to be working with the rescued farm animals. Though Melinda's internship goal is to experience working with all the different types of farm animals, her main project is working with the feathered friends. Her project will include everything from working closely with veterinarians for exams, diagnostics and treatments, to creating environmental enrichment opportunities, to putting together the



written care protocol including deworming, delousing, nutrition and safe transport, to working with the chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese with clicker training.

Since her recent beginning date of January 19th, one of Melinda's first patients was Zestos, a friendly, sweet, lovable Muscovy duck that was found frozen to the road. His webbed feet sustained damage from frostbite, and he was in need of soothing medicated foot-soak baths, which he tolerated quite well and actually seemed to enjoy. Wanting to name him something appropriate, Melinda came up with the name Greek name of Zestos, which means warm. Zestos is in the process of making a complete recovery, and we are accepting adoption applications for Zestos in anticipation of him finding the perfect home. Adoption applications can be found on line at happytrailsfarm.org.

Then without any breathing room in between feathered friends rescues, a total of 54 chickens came in from two different cockfighting raids, keeping Melinda busy with vet appointments, learning to handle the birds safely, and then in turn teaching our staff details of their care. Nothing like jumping into an internship with one rescue after another happening, but that is so typical of the life of an animal rescue worker, is it not?

When asked where she got her interest in working animal rescue, Melinda said, "My very first pet came from a shelter and even when I was young I became acutely aware of the need for animal adoption and rescue. It was my goal, my dream, to acquire a background in animal medicine and apply it to animal rescue. I'm looking forward to bringing my knowledge and skills to Happy Trails, as well as learning about farm animal rescue from such an established organi-

zation. Thank you for such a wonderful opportunity!"

Welcome, Melinda, to Happy Trails for your Spring internship experience. We are happy to have you on board!

For information about internships at Happy Trails, contact us at info@happytrailsfarm.org. Internships must be connected to an accredited college or high school course, and the student must be able to receive class credit for their work. Internships are non-paid, hours and days can be somewhat flexible, and applications can be found at happytrailsfarm.org.

New Volunteer Opportunities

Many people think that volunteering with Happy Trails might have to include shoveling heavy piles of poo or only involve strenuous physical activities, but we are offering a variety of ways people can volunteer their time and services for the good of the rescued animals that don't involve you breaking a sweat. If that describes you, you might be interested in:

- Assisting with office work such as filing animal medical records or updating adoption records
- Returning phone calls and counseling people who are seeking help with placement of their animals (This type of work can be done from the comfort of your own home.)
- Working with Animal Placement Coordinator, Rebecca Scalise, to interview potential adopters on the phone or to



- help with adoption paperwork
- Computer skills and writing ability is the combination needed for someone to help us write and email information to new adoption networks
- Computer Re-

search is always needed, as we are always looking things up and researching information.

If you would like to help animals, but are not necessarily into heavy manual labor, I am willing to bet there's a great volunteer experience waiting for you at Happy Trails. Go to happytrailsfarm.org for more volunteer information.

Meet Volunteer, Sandi Tarrant

Floor mopper, office cleaner, gift shop worker, rest room care taker, cage cleaner, generous donor, animal hugger — it's all in a day's work when she comes out to Happy Trails for dedicated volunteer, Sandi Tarrant.

Sandi not only works a full time job and takes care of her own family of doggies at home, but she faithfully dedicates time every week to help with *anything* that needs done at the sanctuary. Her willingness to help out with tasks that we normally struggle to find help with, such as keeping the restrooms cleaned and the floors swept in the gift shop and offices, is offset

with time spent holding and hugging those who need her most.

Sandi has also been a great supporter of the work of Happy Trails, and often jumps in when she sees a need.

During the 2015 holiday season, we were in the midst of solving a good problem to have — so many bags of grain were being donated we were running out of room to store them all. As we searched our budget for a way to purchase a storage shed, Sandi heard of our dilemma and Santa showed up with a very nice, metal storage shed, that now houses our overflow of donated grain and other items. The new donation shed fit absolutely

perfectly on the cement slab between the mini-vet clinic and the rest room building, and it has been kept full ever since.

"I heard about y'all when the February 14, 2014, fire in the goat barn was in the newspapers. I came out for a walk-through, and that's all she wrote! I was hooked!" said Sandi. "I think my biggest thing is that I can give my love to these animals who I would never have had any contact with if it weren't for Happy Trails."

We appreciate our faithful and dedicated volunteers, and Sandi, we don't know what we'd do without you! Volunteer information can be found on our website at happytrailsfarm.org.



Thank You!

Recently we received correspondence from Gallastar Sanctuary that ended with a quote we would like to share with all of you as we begin a brand new year.

"Sometimes it feels like there are so many things in this world that we can't control; earthquakes, floods, reality shows. But it is important to remember the things that we can control like forgiveness, second chances and fresh starts. Because the one thing that changes the world from a lonely place to a beautiful place is love. Love, in any of its forms, love gives us hope."

For all of us who are committed to creating a more compassionate world these words need to be remembered, especially when we feel like our backs are up against a wall. Love gives us hope.

We thank all of you for your support this past year and for the love you have shown to every animal that has come through the front gate at Happy Trails. So much love and so much hope have been ours to share because you cared.

We and the animals saved and those to come in 2016 are forever grateful. Happy New Year and may yours be filled with love and hope.

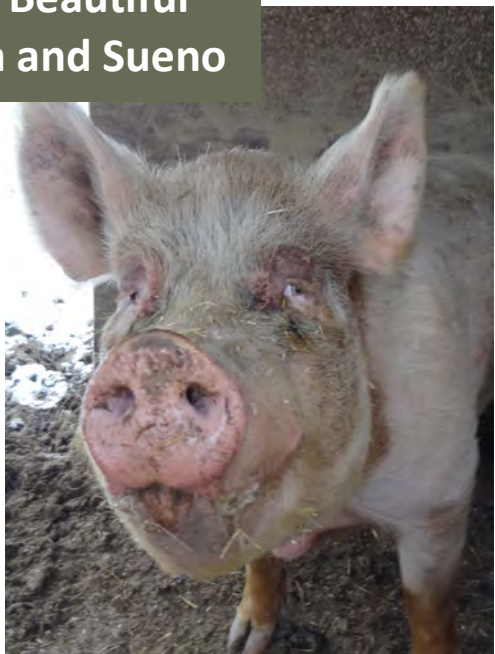
Sincerely,

*The staff and volunteers of
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary*



Tribute to Beautiful Mona Lisa and Sueno

Leonardo DaVinci never had a subject with such beauty as the Happy Trails Mona Lisa, a sweet, gentle, 850 lb. farm pig. After having Sunday morning breakfast as usual, Mona Lisa was out and about in her yard, rooting and finding treasures that only she knew about. A short



time later staff members went to her shelter to see if more straw was needed, and they found her inside her barn having a seizure. After the seizure, Mona Lisa never really came to, but was in a coma-like state. They covered her with layer upon layer of thick, warm blankets, and called the vet. Our beautiful Mona Lisa apparently had some type of stroke or brain seizure, and there was nothing we could do to help. Surrounded by pig friends as well as people friends and in the warmth of her shelter, Mona Lisa crossed into the world of the Spirit. Her beautiful soul will be remembered with love by everyone who met her.

Sueno, a very attractive gelding, was in a foster home where he was receiving lots of attention and special care. Sueno has always had some difficulty getting around, and

had some pain and lameness issues with one of his hind legs. This winter he began struggling with both back legs and was having much difficulty trying to walk. It was time to say goodbye to our old friend, and let him run free in a world where he could gallop like the wind. Many thanks to our wonderful foster home for having taken such great care of Sueno.



May both of these beautiful souls remember their experience with Happy Trails with love and happiness.

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Prosecutor Refuses to File Charges in Ohio Abuse Case Involving Vernon the Pig

Vernon the pot belly pig has a story that everyone has been watching. Though he suffered horrific abuse at the hands of his attacker, Vernon was adopted into a loving family, where he has his own sand box to play in outside, his own couch (well, he shares the couch) to watch his favorite



T.V. programs, and his own children to keep a close eye on and snuggle with daily.

Christ Fontes, a representative for PETA, had contacted Happy Trails and asked us to take in Vernon after they arranged to have him picked up in Lancaster, Ohio, where he had been brutally stabbed multiple times and beat with a tire iron. With good intentions, we were assured charges would be filed. The vicious attack on Vernon had been connected to a domestic violence assault, as many of our animal abuse cases are closely linked to other violent crimes.

Sadly, we recently received word that though they worked with authorities to have cruelty charges filed against the man accused of the abuse of Vernon, the female victim involved in the domestic violence attack has not cooperated with authorities. "Unfortunately, I don't have great news

and sent emails but the prosecutor declined to press charges. He cited lack of witness and Vernon's previous guardian has failed to appear for several court dates so her credibility has been seriously compromised. Mr. Cogley (the prosecutor) did not believe he could successfully prosecute without a witness. He was very respectful and considered our evidence for a long time so we chose to accept his decision. I'm sorry we were not able to persuade him. My supervisor and I made dozens of calls, emailed him, and spoke with him several times but it came down to evidence and we lacked a witness." She is not even following up with charges in her own case, as happens in many domestic violence situations. Often the victims of domestic crimes choose to not follow through with court proceedings, and in many instances, even end up back together with their attacker.

While the outcome of the court proceedings was not acceptable and we were told there was nothing we could do to change things, we are trying to focus on the fact that Vernon has healed, is loving life with his new family, and is the

star of the show at his new home. And the important thing is, we don't give up and we don't quit trying to hold people accountable for the suffering they inflict on animals. Karma is a very powerful thing, and I almost feel sorry for the person who did what he did to Vernon. Almost.



"It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal."

- Joaquin Phoenix

Staff Member Highlight — Meet Animal Care Giver, Nicole Todaro

Who takes care of the rescued farm animals for all of us? Staff members like Nicole Todaro, who has been with Happy Trails for a little over a year. Nicole graduated from Kent State University in 2014 with a degree in Zoology, and also worked for a while at the Akron Zoo. She loves working with animals of all types, is dedicated and caring. When asked if she had a favorite animal at Happy Trails, Nicole said, "Kyle the ram and I have bonded." Since Kyle is not a big fan of a lot of people, that says a lot! "One of my favorite things about working at Happy Trails is learning about the behaviors of all the different types of animals, and learning how to treat all the different medical issues and health aspect," stated Nicole. "I've always wanted to work with animals other than cats or dogs, something more unique or more exotic. I love working with the turkeys and the pigs." Here in the photo (at left), Nicole holds Prince William, a retired Amish horse, she was leading to turn out for exercise for the day. Thanks, Nicole, for choosing to be a staff member at Happy Trails!



Thanks, Jay, for your support of Happy Trails!



Jay Cohen

Certified Yoga Instructor

724-815-8746

jcohen1005@yahoo.com



Private lessons available.

Prince William is Available for Adoption!

Meet Bill, officially known as "Prince William". Bill, a very handsome bay Standardbred gelding, arrived recently through Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program. He was very well taken care of, worked many years as the family bug-gy horse, and even was ridden by the kids, but Bill needed to retire due to occasional lameness is-



sues. Bill's family loved him enough to not send him through the local meat auction, where older or debilitated horses are often purchased by the meat buyers and sent to horse slaughter houses in Mexico and Canada. Instead, his family contacted Happy Trails to get him into the Amish Horse Retirement Program. Bill would be great for someone who wants a back-yard buddy to do some light riding, as the perfect family pet, or as a companion for your lonely horse. **For adoption information, contact Animal Placement Coordinator Rebecca Scalise at rebeccas@happytrailsfarm.org.**

Tickets for A Night of Hope and Inspiration are on sale now at happytrailsfarm.org

Just the Facts — Did You Know That...

HEALTH FACTS

- According to an article in the British Journal of Cancer, a person's chances of developing pancreatic cancer increase 19% for every sausage or two bacon strips eaten. This number rises, researchers say, to 57 percent for those who eat three sausages or six bacon strips daily. The study also found that smoking is the only thing more dangerous than the consumption of red meat.
- An article in Readers Digest, (<http://www.rd.com/health/healthy-eating/going-vegan/>), states that you can get enough protein from plants. "According to traditional dietary standards, a 140 lb. woman should have 50 grams of protein a day, and for a vegan that might come from a cup each of cooked spinach (5 grams), lentils (18 grams), and tempeh (a soy product with 41 grams). In fact, large-scale research like The China Study revealed that too much protein, namely animal protein, is harmful for your health. Other research shows that excess protein in your body can strain your kidneys or cling as fat."



'Go On' an Actual Animal Rescue by Visiting the New Video on our Website



Have you ever wanted to go on an actual rescue with the Happy Trails rescue crew and be part of the team? You can join us from the safety of your own home by viewing the new rescue video posted on the website. Accompany staff member, Laurie Jackson, and Director, Annette Bragg, as they respond to a call to assist with the rescue of an emaciated horse. Go to happytrailsfarm.org and experience the rescue first hand.

Matching Gifts Incentive

Often employers have a matching gifts program, and for every dollar you donate to your favorite non-profit, they match that donation resulting in double the funding for the organization. Be sure to check with your company and ask if they have a matching gifts program in place!



"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, For all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

— Helen Keller

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to our friends at CTR Truck and Equipment Repair in Rootstown. They did an amazing job of helping with repairs on the Happy Trails dump truck and saved us money.

We really appreciate their support! CTR is under new management, did the job quickly and had our precious dump truck ready to go in no time at all!

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Virtue the Appaloosa Takes an Air-Ride Trailer to Her New Home in Texas

Happy Trails adopts animals out across the country to the best homes imaginable. So when Kayla Webb visited relatives in Ohio who were fostering Virtue, the two fell in love with each other and the rest is history. Even though Kayla lived in Garrison, Texas.



Virtue, who was very selective as to what humans she let in her inner circle, purposefully chose Kayla as her person during Kayla's visit. The horse would seek out her attention and look for her new friend.

Wanting to give her new furry companion only the very best, Kayla set up an Air-Ride transport for her beloved mare. An Air-Ride trailer is the best, most comfortable transportation you can find in horse trailers, and after the adoption process was completed, Virtue left for her new home and became a Texas resident. She arrived safe and sound and happy to see her new family.

Adoptions out of state don't scare us. Our goal is to find the rescued animals the very best homes possible, and if that means finding a way to get them safely to their new home, consider it done. Contact us for out-of-state adoption information at adopt-foster@happytrailsfarm.org.



Stuff That's Good To Know

GREAT BIG HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Happy Trails will be set up at the Great Big Home and Garden Show at the Cleveland IX Center from February 5th to February 14th. Be sure to stop by and say hi! For more information, go to greatbighome-andgarden.com.

SPEAKERS FOR YOUR GROUP

If you would like to have a Happy Trails representative give a presentation to your group, email us at info@happytrailsfarm.org. We have a variety of presentations and can focus on a specific topic of interest. For example, if you belong to a horse club, we can focus on equine rescue stories and other related horse topics.

EQUINE AFFAIRE

If you are a horse enthusiast, you will want to visit Happy Trails big double booth at Equine Affaire, a four-day horse-lovers event held in Columbus on April 7th to April 10th. For details on this event, go to equineaffaire.com.

TOUR SEASON KICKS OFF IN MAY

Be sure to plan at least one trip to Happy Trails this year! The 2016 tour season begins in May and goes through October.



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Many, Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the holiday Giving Tree Program, making it such a huge success we had to get additional storage space for all the donations. We were overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity! To everyone who purchased items from the stores as well as the

store owners who agreed wholeheartedly to partner with us for this program, we appreciate the opportunity to serve the rescued animals on your behalf!

A thank you also goes out to Arlington Self Storage in Akron for donating a storage locker to us to help with our many bags of grain to keep them dry, safe

from rodents and easy to retrieve. What a life-saver the storage is for us!



Available for Adoption Casey, Charlotte, Miranda, and Renaldo



**Beck Sand and Gravel
is a proud supporter of Happy
Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary!**



330-626-3863

**Many thanks for your support
and sponsorship!**

In the News...

Happy Trails is always in the news, and what a great opportunity to provide education and help people understand the seriousness of animal abuse. Thanks to WKBN Channel

27 and Fox 8 for covering the recent cockfighting raids. Be sure to watch for upcoming news stories on these rescues in the Plain Dealer, Record Courier, and other newspapers as well. We appreciate being able to bring awareness and understanding to the connection between animal abuse and other violent

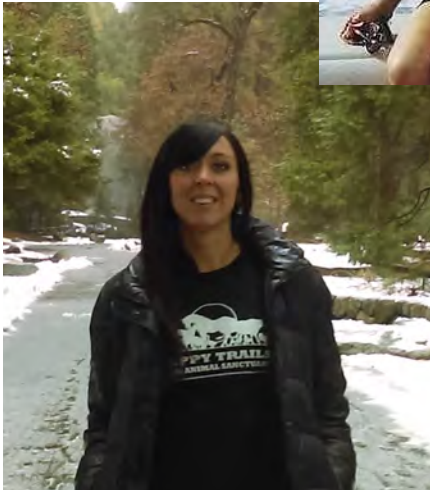


crimes. Animal abuse is so often a red flag alerting us of a dangerous individual. Thanks to all the news media who cover Happy Trails rescue stories.

Happy Trails on Vacation

Proudly wear Happy Trails logo apparel when you go on vacation, and get your picture featured in the magazine!

Thanks to the travels of Amanda Fowler, the Happy Trails logo recently appeared at Clearwater Beach, Florida, and then in Yosemite National



Park in California, in December 2015.

Simply send us your photo and include your name, date, and the location, and in addition to being featured in the magazine, we'll send you a bumper sticker as well!

Tribute to Trigger

Recently a handsome 12-year-old paint horse named Trigger came into the Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program. Trigger had to be euthanized several days after his arrival, and we wanted to be sure to acknowledge his life to honor him in this way.

As rescue workers, we always wish we could save everyone and fix everything, but the stark reality is that is not so. Trigger lived only two years at his recent Amish home, and served the family well as the kids' riding horse. Not long after they welcomed Trigger to their farm, they realized he was having major vision problems and called a vet out.

Several medications were used while Trigger rested in his stall for several weeks, but nothing would stop the deterioration of his sight. They decided to retire Trigger into Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program.



(Above) Trigger was examined by Dr. Randy Alger with staff member, Rebecca Scalise.

Trigger immediately received vet care, but the prognosis was not good. He had already lost sight in one eye and almost all sight in the other eye.

While we have indeed worked with blind horses successfully in the past, Trigger did not have the confidence to be placed in a new environment as a sightless horse, and he was well on his way to seriously injuring himself and others in his new surroundings. While some horses have the personality to not only survive, but to thrive, as a blind horse, this unfortunately was not the situation for Trigger.

I believe there are often things worse than death, and to be traumatized on a daily basis and live a life of fear, uncertainty and constant injury is one of those things.

Trigger crossed peacefully into the world of the spirit surrounding by caring, loving people who sincerely wished the outcome could have been different.

So while we were saddened by the end result, the program worked the way it was intended to. Trigger received the professional evaluation he needed and was not sent through the local slaughter house horse auction. Instead he was given peace, dignity, and respect during his last days here on this earth, thanks to a loving Amish family who wanted only the best for him.

Thanks to our friends at HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) for donating over 100 metal food and water containers for the chickens rescued from the recent cockfighting raids.

HOUSE BILL 215

Ohio has one of the weakest cockfighting bans in the nation, but a bill that just unanimously passed Ohio's House committee - House Bill 215 - could make cockfighting a felony in Ohio.

Go to <https://www.change.org/p/cliff-rosenberger-bring-ohio-h-b-215-to-a-vote-to-crack-down-on-all-forms-of-animal-fighting> to learn more and to sign the petition today!

Who's Been...

ADOPTED



(Clockwise from top left) Esperanza was adopted by new mom, Veronica D.; Red (now re-named Cheyenne) found her forever home with Meggan W.; Belle moved to Pennsylvania to live with proud new adopter, Julie Powell; spunky little Ginny the mini stole the heart of Barb S.; and beautiful Halley, an Appaloosa mare, was adopted by two-time adoptive mom, Virginia DaCosta (who also adopted Super Hero, a Standardbred).



Message to Happy Trails Rescue Crew from Staff Member/Treasurer, Laurie Jackson

Laurie Jackson, Happy Trails Treasurer and Staff Member, has very eloquently put into words how all of us feel about our staff and volunteers who handle the animal rescues in this letter address to them. This letter was presented after a very long week of executing two cockfighting raids back to back, and suddenly having to care for 54 chickens in cages; cockfighting roosters cannot be turned loose in the same small areas we have or they would indeed fight to the death. I would like to share Laurie's letter to our crew with all of you...

Being in the center of a rescue such as this is a very hard position. There are some of you that are more sensitive or in tune than any others I have seen to the suffering of our animals. There are directives given sternly as there is no time for consult, news crews with cameras shoved in your face; you must keep things clean and orderly all the while tending to animals with wounds and conditions the like of which many of you have never seen.

You take the directives, do your best, do it again when it is not right, spend your own money, volunteer your own time - both staff and volunteers - and you get it done. You put yourself and your feelings behind the animals 100% of the time and you don't leave until it can be left. Sometimes barely hours later you are back, at it again. Tending, nursing, caring, bustling to do your best - all to help ease the suffering and put joy back into the lives of animals that are criminally neglected.

Happy Trails is a law enforcement based rescue. We deal with sensitive information and officers of the law and news and the public. This is a hard area to mix people with very sensitive and in tune souls. But you all do it and you do it so well. Well enough that I am proud to work with each and every one of you. I may not know all of you personally at this point, but I do see how well you work, how much you care, and how hard you try.

So thank you. Thank you for all that you have invested in the last week. Thank you for the hard work. Thank you for the cold fingers and the runny noses. Thank you for pushing through sickness and long hours. From my perspective, I see that almost the entire team is completely new to this environment, to Happy Trails and to rescue in general. And yet you did it and did it well. Be proud of yourselves and for what it might be worth, I hope you all know how valuable you are, how much of a difference you make to the animals and how proud I am to work alongside of you.

Laurie Jackson
Treasurer/Board of Directors



Help Pass the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST Act) Today

Despite passage of the Horse Protection Act in 1970 that banned the practice, "soring", the practice of intentionally causing a horse to suffer pain in the lower part of its front legs in order to produce an accentuated gait called the "big lick", continues in some segments of the Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, and Racking Horse industry.

The PAST Act will strengthen the Horse Protection Act and finally end the soring of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, and Racking Horses. The PAST Act is strongly supported by the American Horse Council and most major national horse show organizations as well as many state and local organizations. The bill also has broad bipartisan support in Congress.

Various efforts have been made since enactment of the HPA over forty years ago to stop the soring of horses and they have not worked. This bill is focused on the problem it is intended to solve and does not adversely affect other segments of the show industry that are not soring horses and have no history of soring horses.

The American Horse Council urges members of the horse community to contact their Senators to voice their support for the PAST Act (S.1121) and urge Congress to take action on this important legislation.

Go to <https://app.muster.com/take-action/omAPChz70o/?t=2bb9070047edfc36d379c94b9551f21a> for the American Horse Council Action Center.

Hen Abandoned in a Pet Porter on the Side of the Road in Akron

Just like cats and dogs, farm animals are dumped and abandoned regularly.



Recently, a precious little hen who was de-beaked (in food production this is a common though cruel practice to cut the ends of a chicken's beak off using a hot blade and no anesthetic) was found in a pet porter along the side of a road in Akron. She was very thin, very cold, and very sweet. She has settled in nicely at Happy Trails, and has made best friends

with Chad, a small colorful, friendly rooster, who has

a bum leg. Sharon would appreciate a forever home where she can hang out with her gentle rooster friend and enjoy a leisurely life. Currently there is a multitude of chickens, both hens and roosters, available for adoption. Contact Rebecca at RebeccaS@happytrailsfarm.org, as so many have come in, not everyone may be listed on the website quite yet.



Help Get Three Horses Adopted with an Ad in Equine Affaire Program

All "horse people" attending Equine Affaire in April pour over page by page of the event program. If you are a horse lover, you pour a cup of coffee and don't move until you've memorized it cover to cover. And why wouldn't you — it's all about your favorite thing in the entire world — horses!

Happy Trails would like to take out a full page ad to promote horse adoptions, with a goal to find at least three horses their forever home. From an expense point of view, the longer an adoptable horse resides in the Happy Trails program, its care can certainly add up quickly.

A full page ad in the Equine Affaire event program promoting adoptions would cost \$825 and will reach tens of thousands of horse people. Finding permanent homes for at least three (but hopefully more) horses, would pay for the cost of the ad plus save funds in the long run. Our goal is to always find the animals that perfect person they can call their own, and move them on with their new family as soon as they are signed over by the courts.

If you would consider sponsoring a full page ad in the event program, we are confident this way of promoting the rescued horses would result in some amazing adoptions. We will be able to reach a target market of horse lovers with the end result of finding amazing homes for at least three rescued horses.

To sponsor the ad, call us at 330-296-5914 or email us at info@happytrailsfarm.org.



*“Until one has loved an animal,
a part of one's soul
remains unawakened.”*

-Anatole France

Misc. Wish List Items

Here is a list of some very random things that would be helpful to have at the sanctuary:

- **A golf cart** in great condition to help transport our elderly visitors through the facilities
- **A van** to transport animals in pet porters to and from the vet clinics. (This would be more practical than us using the trailer to transport pet porters. Many larger pet porters won't fit in the back seat of our truck.) We could place signage on the van to thank the business who donates the van and could



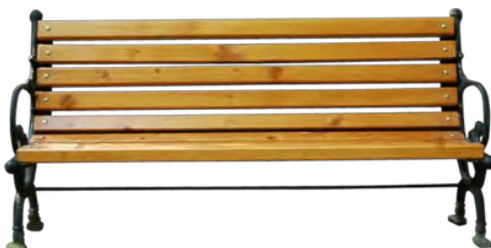
provide advertising for the sponsor in our newsletter, website, FB, etc.

- **A 2-horse trailer.** Our older 2-horse trailer is starting to



show extensive signs of wear, and is in need of some repairs once again. Our ideal 2-horse trailer would have a ramp-load for horses with severe leg issues or hoof deformities.

- **Park-type benches or picnic tables** to place along the tour routes for our tour guests who may need a place to sit along the way.



Tyee is Available for Adoption

Tyee, a dashing gray 10-year-old Thoroughbred gelding, was originally rescued in March 2014 from a situation of severe neglect in Columbiana County along with 15 other horses. During his first night at Happy Trails, we were not sure if he was going to make it.

He seemed like such a wise, old soul that we named him Tyee, a Native American name meaning "Chief".

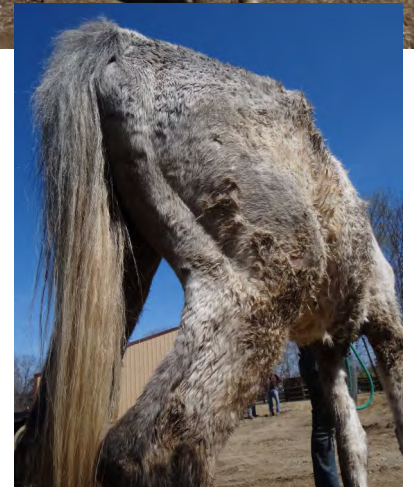
Over the past two years, Tyee has made a remarkable recovery. Due to an old racing injury to his front



right ankle, Ty can be ridden for light trail or flat, easy arena work. He is all personality and would be suitable for an intermediate to advanced rider.

While his "before" photos may be difficult to look at, they clearly illustrate just how far this horse has come.

Visit happytrails-farm.org to review the adoption process and print out an application. Tyee is one great horse who deserves an equally great person. *Could that person be you?*



Leave a Legacy of Compassion

Planned giving is a way to include Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary in your overall estate and financial



plan. Depending on your giving strategy, there could be immediate or future tax benefits for you.

You can be sure your legacy of compassion lives on through the mission of Happy Trails to bring peace and healing to both animals and people. We honor all requests and directives as to how donations are applied.

Planned giving options can include wills and bequests, gifts of cash or stock, charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust, and/or life insurance.

We are happy to discuss your charitable objectives with you. If you have questions, please contact Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

- Desmond Tutu



DONATION INFORMATION

2-2016

I am enclosing \$ _____

Please accept this donation:

_____ To sponsor the following specific needs: _____

_____ To be used where needed most

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Check enclosed

_____ Please charge my _____ VISA _____ Mastercard

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

CSC (3 digits on back) _____

Name On Card (Please print) _____

Signature _____

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

- Donate on-line at happytrailsfarm.org
- Call in your charge card info to Happy Trails at 330-296-5914

Return to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary
5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Want to become a monthly donor? Simply fill out the donation form above and include this coupon.

_____ Yes, I Would like to support the work of Happy Trails on a monthly basis.

_____ Please charge my credit card each month in the amount of \$ _____

_____ Please send me pre-addressed envelopes to send a monthly check. 2-2016



"People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

— Apple Computers

(Left) Staff member, Jason Wolboldt, changes the world daily for the rescued animals through his dedication and care.



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happytrailsfarm.org



Feathered friends, like beautiful Bess Truman (pictured above) are available for both foster and adoption. Don't buy when you can rescue!

When It's Time to Get New Plates, Get a Horse Plate and Support Equine Rescue

The goal of Ohio Coalition for Animals is to increase public awareness about the issues facing horse owners in Ohio through educational, charitable, and other programs that provide care for unwanted, abused, or neglected horses. By choosing the Ohio's Horse's license plate, your support will help make a difference in the lives of rescued horses in Ohio. In most license bureaus, you have to ask for the plate as it is often not displayed as an option to purchase.



Adopting Across America!

Over the years, Happy Trails adoption program has grown, and we now have animal placed in amazing homes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Nevada, California, and now Texas. If you live in another state and are interested in adopting, don't hesitate to consider adopting from Happy Trails. The rescued animals (like Elsa the pot belly pig shown at right) deserve the very best homes, no matter where they are!



Our Mission

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and provides an adoption program for abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals such as horses, ponies, pot belly pigs, farm pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, sheep, goats and cows. Happy Trails serves Ohio as well as any other state requesting our help, and works in cooperation with county humane societies, animal protective leagues, and local and state law enforcement officers. Animals in our program must have been removed from a situation of abuse, neglect or abandonment by law officials, and cruelty charges must be filed against the person(s) responsible for the crime.