



June 2018

Dear Friends,

After what seemed to be one of the longest winters on record, spring slowly started to prove that it was coming. Birds began returning to our nature sanctuary and farm, and the first shoots of plants appeared. The season of rebirth was upon us. With that came a distress call regarding about 100 animals which had been found in a situation of extreme neglect not far from us. We were called specifically to help seven mini-donkeys in deplorable condition. Our staff swung into action and we met the veterinarian and law enforcement on the scene. We brought home not only the seven donkeys, but also three bunnies, a pigeon, and, later, a pig – all to enter their own season of rebirth.

While tragic, as neglect and abuse always is, I'd like to share with you the healing involved in this story. Because just as there was hope after the long, cold winter, we were able to offer hope and a new beginning to these animals. This is a story that you helped write. It is a story about what it means for you to be a part of Spring Farm CARES -- not just for the animals, but for the humans who come to meet them and who walk away from here with a new seed of hope that they will plant in their own fertile ground. This is a story about what Spring Farm CARES is here for.

As the seven donkeys came off the trailer and were gently helped to their waiting stalls, I was momentarily once more devastated by their conditions. They were emaciated, with feet so overgrown that they could not walk normally, and exhausted after having spent the winter in mud so deep that it had been a fight just to stay alive. I gave thanks, however, that that horror was now in their pasts – that, because of people such as you -- compassionate, generous, caring people – the new beginning for those little guys had been made possible. Feeling renewed, I, along with the staff, set about helping the donkeys realize that they had come home -- that they were now safe and treasured.



*Chico, Toby, and Carley*

The first order of business once they had settled into their clean, warm stalls, and were enjoying some good hay and water, was to find out what each of them wanted to be named. Animals have definite preferences in names. And names, which create individuality both in our minds and in their minds, are crucial in developing relationships and imparting hope and confidence. One of the males, who asked to be called Coco, engaged my attention immediately. Where he had just come from, he had been kept apart from the other six. Of the seven, he was the most subdued and emotionally shut down. An air of deep sadness enveloped him. He seemed to have no hope. Worse, he seemed to have stopped trying. I quietly asked him if there was anything he wanted to say.

"Hearts weren't meant to be broken," he told me. "They just weren't meant for that."

I was stunned by the profundity of his words and the depth of his hurt. "I watched my friend die," he told me. "No one seemed to notice. No one seemed to care. She called out for help. I couldn't help her. She was all I had. And then she was



**Coco**

gone. Her body was treated like a heap of trash. No one heard her cry. No one felt her pain. But I did. And I was helpless to help her.”

Those in the world of animal rescue are compassionate and empathetic. Yet, often the depth of emotional pain that animals experience is not understood. Animals are no different than we are. Every emotion and hurt that we can experience they can, and do, experience as well. Here at Spring Farm we look at each animal physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Almost more importantly, we give them space. We let them unfold and tell us what it is they need and want for themselves. We humans can have our own ideas about what is good for them, but, in the end, we need to listen to what they themselves want. So often their wishes are different from our own. We must always be willing to change and grow in understanding and adapt to their needs. That’s not always easy, but it’s the right thing to do.

Each of the seven donkeys is now in that unfolding stage. Each day, as they feel a bit safer and share more of themselves with us, we learn more about who each of them is. It’s an honor to listen and be present with them. As we do so, we not only learn more about them, but ourselves as well.

Our animals touch so many lives. They affect changes in people in ways that we seldom get to fully understand. But, once in a while, we get a glimpse. I’d like to share a couple of those glimpses with you, because again, you are such a part of these stories.

This past winter we were all deeply touched by a visit from a grieving grandmother who came to be with certain of our dogs and cats. Her seven-year-old granddaughter had been tragically lost in a house fire just days before. The grandmother came here because she knew that this place, and those certain animals, had meant the world to that little girl. The child had visited here many times, and spoke of her favorite Spring Farm animals repeatedly. So the grandmother felt that, by coming here, she could somehow touch her granddaughter again. To the grandmother, and to the little girl’s friends, Spring Farm CARES is a sort of Rainbow Bridge of contact with the one they loved and lost. In fact soon her classmates, who also knew what this place meant to her, are coming to the farm on a field trip. It is the way they chose to honor her. There aren’t even words to tell you what this means. It expresses the heart and soul, the very core of the purpose of Spring Farm CARES. We are here not only as a sanctuary to some animals, but as a sanctuary for the human heart – where human and animal hearts can connect and heal together.

We had a cat named Priscilla who was adopted from us as a tiny kitten, then returned. This was due to no fault of Priscilla’s, and she was devastated. Since she had some special health needs, we had pretty much decided that she would be staying with us for the rest of her life. We didn’t want to chance her going through rejection and loss yet again. But Priscilla had other ideas. Priscilla wasn’t ready to give up on love. And when an area college student began volunteering here during the past year, he and Priscilla formed a deep connection. Eventually he’d spend most of his volunteer time with her. As it turned out, Priscilla’s deep connection with the young man helped him through some stressful times. He had shown an early interest in adopting her, but we had refused to allow it. Even the best intentioned college students often find that, with their changing circumstances, vacations, and locations, they can’t keep or properly care for the animals that they have adopted – and the animals get returned to us. Those two hearts, however, Priscilla’s and the young man’s, wouldn’t let go of one another. After months of regular visits, and with graduation fast approaching, we realized what was meant to be





and asked the young man if he'd still like to adopt her. He told us then that he had even been considering picking further schooling in our area to be close enough to continue to come here and see her. Obviously, he needed Priscilla as much as she needed him. Priscilla has now gone off to her forever home -- another example of the animal/human healing that occurs here.

I am sitting outdoors as I write this letter to you. Birds are singing their songs. The Brown Thrasher with its beautiful melody. The Robins and Red Wing Blackbirds. A Turkey Vulture soars silently overhead. And I look over and see two of the mini-donkeys, Toby and Carley, lying flat out on dry ground in the sun. They can't get enough of it. This is what healing looks like. This is what compassion and kindness and love provide. No monetary value can be placed on any of this. Kindness is the greatest gift of all, yet the easiest thing to give. Being kind is so simple. So easy. But when you can't find kindness anywhere around you, it is starvation of the heart and soul. And it's a very painful death.

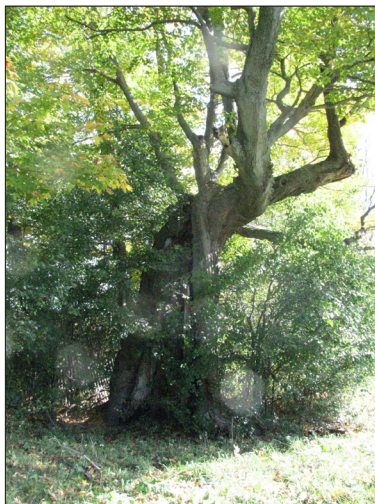
Every year it is my responsibility to our organization to ask for your support. Without you, none of the above would be possible. Your kindness and generosity go immediately and directly to the animals, and hence to the humans, who come in contact with us --to both animals and humans yearning for hope, whose hearts and souls are looking for love and kindness as well. Each year, we face a deficit of close to \$300,000. It is a gap we need to fill to keep on going. And filling that gap fills a lot of hearts and souls, with the very sustenance that they need in order to survive.

Coco is so right. Hearts were not meant to be broken. Hearts are meant to be whole. Hearts are meant to spread kindness and love. Your gifts to us have brought the deepest comfort possible to animals who had no other hope left in this world, to people whose hearts were breaking with unbearable loss and grief, and to children wanting to know that, though life can be very difficult at times, hope is always there, and never to give up. You are a key part of that gift of hope. We can never say "Thank You" enough.

Thank you, thank you, thank you -- for giving hope to so many.

*Dawn*

Dawn Hayman  
Director/Co-Founder



**Today's Seed Becomes Tomorrow's Tree  
The Future Is In Your Hands Today**

When doing your estate planning, please consider a gift to Spring Farm CARES. You will leave a legacy and plant seeds of hope and compassion for years to come. Leaving a lasting gift is easy and reaches beyond the confines of time.

It's also easy to make a gift of stock to Spring Farm CARES. Your broker can electronically wire shares to our account.

Please contact Margot, our Treasurer at (315) 737-9339  
for more information or email at:

**Margot@springfarmcares.org**  
Spring Farm CARES EIN#: 16-1388835

## WHEN A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS - MEET ELOISE



*What Eloise was trying to survive in and barely made it*



*Three days later - at Spring Farm*

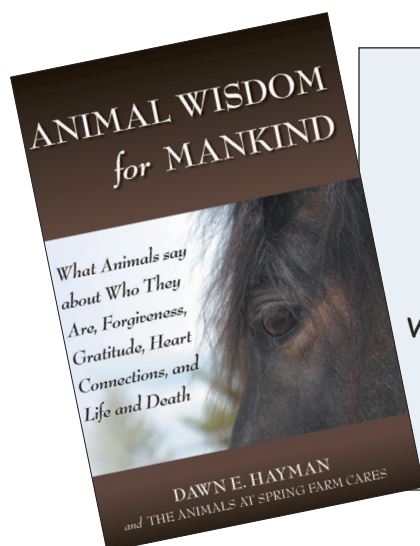
Eloise is very grateful to have found sanctuary with us. She is now a very happy pig. And we just found out that she is pregnant and due to give birth shortly. Your support makes it possible for us to rescue animals from such dismal conditions. (Note: the cat photo bombing Eloise on the right is another special needs animal named Sadie. She has been enjoying communing with Eloise through the window!)

### MISTY MEW INVITES YOU TO COME FOR A VISIT

- Tour our Animal Sanctuary & Gardens
- Tour our Nature Sanctuary
- Join our Volunteer Program
- Bring your kids to our Purrfect Readers Program and read to our cats
- Come to a Workshop with Dawn Hayman and renew and refresh your heart with the Spring Farm animals as your guides

Go to [www.springfarmcares.org](http://www.springfarmcares.org) for details or join us on Facebook to keep up on the latest happenings - [www.facebook.com/springfarmcares](https://www.facebook.com/springfarmcares)

Email us at: [office@springfarmcares.org](mailto:office@springfarmcares.org) / Phone: (315) 737-9339



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