

Their “Somewhere”... *is here*

December 2018



*“There’s
a Place for Us
- A Time and a Space
for us”*



SPRING FARM CARES
ANIMAL AND NATURE SANCTUARY

Spring Farm CARES

ANIMAL & NATURE SANCTUARY

“Peace and Quiet and Open Air Wait for us Somewhere...”



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a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Organization EIN: 16-1388835

"I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, then alone in the light."

-- Helen Keller

JAKE



We have so many stories of people coming to our farm and being transformed by the love and compassion of the amazing animal teachers who share our lives. We watch people come in, obviously unhappy or upset, perhaps deeply grieving – needing sanctuary. Needing a place to feel safe. They walk in with heavy hearts and leave feeling lighter. Comforted. Hopeful. In order to protect people's privacy we cannot share the details of such stories, but this year I decided to share with you a personal story of my own. It's about a 13-year conversation I have been having with our dog Jake.

Jake, a Lab/Chow mix, was first sighted on our manure pile, searching for something to eat. He was only about eight months old, confused and disoriented. It took two days to catch him. Once in our arms, however, his love, happiness, and joy at being safe poured all over us. The facility was full at that time, so he was housed in a kennel in the garage in my home. I found myself falling in love with him. I would have adopted him except that he wasn't a fit for the pack of family dogs already occupying that home. It's natural for me as an animal communicator to have conversations with the animals at SFC. In Jake's case, however, I pulled away. Why? I was getting too attached to him. He was up for adoption, an easy

placement. I couldn't bear the thought of loving and then losing him.

Came the day when he was to be neutered. I drove him to the vet's. As I drove, I realized that I was being stared at. Looking in the rear-view mirror, I found Jake staring me down. "What?" I asked him.

"You are probably the coldest person I've ever met," he said. I was stunned. He continued. "Why are you shutting me out?"

I felt a lump in my throat. He was right. I had shut him out deliberately. He was calling me out on it. I decided to be honest with him. "I actually find myself falling in love with you Jake, but I can't keep you. I'm protecting myself from being hurt."

"Really?" he said, while still staring at me. "Have you ever thought that maybe I love you too? Maybe I'm here with you for a reason? Maybe we have something to give each other, if only for a short while?"

He never took his eyes off of me as I led him into the vet clinic. I just patted his head and turned to go. "Think about this on your drive home," he said.

I cried as I drove. I'd been taught a valuable lesson. So, I let him in, fell in love with him, and got attached.

He was adopted one month later. On the day that he was to leave, I orchestrated it so that I would be off site on an errand when he left. There was an empty kennel in the garage when I returned. My heart ached already. Why had I allowed myself to get so attached?

I was called over to the SFC office to sign a document. "Jake has gone already, hasn't he?" I asked before going over. "He left a while ago," was the reply. Yet, as I came around the front of the building, I found a woman struggling to get a young child into a car seat while also trying to get a very uncooperative dog into the car. I had asked our staff to help her get him into her car! He didn't like jumping in, he had to be lifted. But they'd forgotten. So now I was face to face with Jake.

"Don't just stand there," he said, "help this nice lady get me into the car." I showed her how to help him. As soon as he was in, he ran over to his new little friend and licked his face. The boy giggled with delight. He was going home with his very first dog. And though my heart was breaking, I felt a surge of joy. How wonderful that this little boy would grow up with Jake by his side. The woman shut the door and thanked me. Jake kissed his little human again and then, as they started to back out, he ran to the

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

-- Helen Keller

window on my side. Tail wagging, he looked deeply into my eyes. And he put his paw up on the glass. "I know it hurts," he said. "But maybe we needed to love one another so that I could find something special inside of me that your love gave to me so that I could pass it along to this little human. And maybe I'm leaving something with you so that you'll remember never to walk away from loving anyone. Love is for a reason. Even if it's only for a while. You'll always be with me. And I with you. And now I get to teach this little human what it is that we know."

Tears streamed down my face as the car pulled out. I had just been taught one of the most profound lessons of my life.

A few months later Jake came back to us. A contractor had walked into the house unannounced. Thinking that he had to protect his family, Jake bit him. The family felt it was best to return him. And, since he had bitten someone, we could not adopt him out again. Jake became a "lifer" at Spring Farm. And I have had thirteen more years to enjoy the company of this amazing teacher. Throughout those years he has touched the lives of so many. Both visitors and staff have been touched by him as I was. He is old now. His health, and body, is failing. Once again I find myself facing that moment of good-bye.

On the very day that I finished this article, Jake took a turn for the worse. We had to make the decision and help our friend out of a body that was now keeping his soul from flying free. I sat beside his bed one last time. He looked up, right into my eyes. I knew that look. He lifted his paw as he had on the day that they drove away, and placed it on my leg. I felt tears welling up, but I also felt incredible gratitude to the dog who came into my life to teach me never to hold love back for fear of getting hurt. I felt no remorse in having loved him, only joy and gratitude for the opportunity. And, as all those feelings rushed through me, I heard his message inside my heart. "There you go, see? You did it. I shall miss you too. But I have no regrets at all. Only joy. And when I leave, you will be with me and you will remember all of the wonderful moments that we shared, and you'll know for sure why I asked you to open your heart to me in the first place."

Thank you, Jake. Thank you.

CODA

If ever we had a cat here who specialized in healing the human heart, it was Coda. Staff and visitors alike would search her out for solace when their hearts were tired or aching. Coda never missed her mark. Again and again we had visitors come in and ask for Coda by name. They needed to just sit with her for a while.

Staff would frequently walk by and see people sitting on the floor or in a chair, with Coda on their lap. Sometimes they would be sitting quietly, smiling contentedly. Other times, we'd see people sitting with her and crying while she consoled them. She gave them whatever time they needed in whatever way they needed her to care. Coda could take someone whose energy was getting out of control and expertly calm them down, until they felt solid and grounded again. It was not something those visitors could even put words to, but they knew when they needed more of Coda, and they knew where to find her. Her amazing work shined a bright light for many a lost soul.

Recently, Coda was diagnosed with a terminal illness. She was also elderly. We knew our time with her was coming to a close. But, if anything, her illness only increased her inner light. Her healing work intensified. I knew that I wanted to feature Coda in this newsletter. I was preparing her story and photos when, like Jake, Coda left our world to continue her work back in spirit. We were all saddened, yet so aware of how blessed we had been to have been in her presence for the last few years. Her light will always shine in the hearts that she touched. Thank you, Coda.



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

-- Helen Keller

Dear Friends,

When we founded Spring Farm CARES, we had a dream – a big dream. That dream became our mission. We dedicated everything we had to the nurturing of that mission. The dream was to help create a world of oneness, peace, and kindness – where humans would remember their connection to nature and the animals -- and where the animals and nature would no longer need to suffer the consequences of the distant human heart. One could easily look around our world today and sink into despair, believing that such a dream can never be achieved. But the truth is that our dream is as alive as ever. And we are achieving it.

Because the world of which we dreamed is accomplished one heart at a time. And the mere fact that you are reading this means that you are one of those hearts, joining with us, and other like-minded people, and animals, and nature, into a network – an ever-growing network of heart energy that is gradually opening consciousness to a greater way of being, and to new levels of love, kindness, and compassion. We are all in this wonderful network together, all of us needing each other and feeding each other, giving and taking heart energy to and from each other. And the animals. And nature. Even the planet.

The animals may not be able to write to you as I am writing now, but their loving energy speaks to all of us no less. As for nature – oh, it speaks with so many voices when we open our ears to listen. And here at Spring Farm CARES we are honored and delighted to be right in the middle of a wonderful symphony of voices, from you, from visitors, from our animals, and our surrounding nature sanctuary.

Every year I am humbled to write this letter and ask for your support. The stories in this newsletter outline just a small portion of the hope and healing that we experience here daily. Your support goes directly to the care of these amazing animal teachers who find safety and sanctuary with us and then share their hearts with the many humans whose lives they touch. You are directly affecting the healing and linking of many hearts. In continuing to support Spring Farm CARES, you are an essential part of the energy of a vast network which goes far beyond any of us, that is rekindling and stoking the fires of goodness, kindness, and compassion burning deep within the heart of humanity. Together, we of this network are turning an amazing dream into reality.



Coda was a cat who touched many lives and healed many hearts looking for help. Jake taught us daily to be brave and to love one another no matter how deep the fear of loss. Kernel teaches us to reach deep within ourselves at our most fearful moments, to find the inner strength that we didn't even know was there. Misty Mew teaches us to insist that your special talents be recognized. Eloise teaches us that being happy and spreading happiness is what life is all about, and that even in the darkest times, there is always hope.

And then there is you, our friends and supporters. You have taught us that no matter how hard it sometimes seems, there are always others out there dreaming the same dream. There are others out there spreading hope in a world desperate to find it again. You keep us going forward. Without you, we could never have done what we have done. Without you we cannot keep going into the future. You are the hope that spreads eternally. You are our heroes. We thank you from the depths of our hearts for joining our network of heart energy.

With Gratitude,

Dawn

Dawn Hayman, Co-Founder/Director

"While they were saying it couldn't be done, it was done."

-- Helen Keller

Spring Farm CARES is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization founded in 1991. Our annual budget is approximately \$1.5 million. Thanks to an endowment, currently all of our administrative fees are covered each year. That means that every donated penny goes directly to the animals and our programs. There are no outside fundraisers taking a portion of your donations. However, we have a \$400,000 funding gap that needs to be raised from grants and donations each year in order for our programs to continue. We cannot do this without your donations. We are completely dependent on your support.

And so we ask you again for your generosity. We ask that you help these animals touch more lives, heal more pain and sadness, and bring more hearts into the network. We ask for, your generosity and compassion to join ours in making the world a better place for these animals as well as the humans whose hearts they touch and heal. In so doing, you get a piece of that healing too. Together, we, you, and these animals are making a difference in the world.



Sponsor an Animal

You can sponsor one of our resident animals and make a difference in their lives!

Annual Sponsorship is \$100 / Great Gift Idea too!

A card and message from that animal will be sent to you (or the person you are gifting to) and your name will be posted next to that animal on our website.

Go to www.springfarmcares.org

Wish List

We have a wish list that includes items that we commonly use and need for the animals as well as for around the farm.

There are two wish lists on our website. One for new and used items and one on Amazon.com.

Please visit our website for more details or email our office at: office@springfarmcares.org and we'll send the information to you.

Go to www.springfarmcares.org

Please Keep Spring Farm CARES in Mind for your Estate Planning

Your gift 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 stock gift 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

Spring Farm CARES Financial Information

We feel that caring for and nurturing your gifts to us is as important as caring for the animals in our sanctuary. We are committed to longevity and transparency to our donors. Spring Farm CARES intends to be around for generations to come so we take our commitment to long-term goals and investments seriously.

We have a Financial Disclosure page on our website where we also have our IRS Form 990 and Audited Financial Statements for the past several years. We are always happy to answer any of your questions.

**For more information, see our website:
www.springfarmcares.org**

"My friends have made the story of my life. In a thousand ways they have turned my limitations into beautiful privileges."

-- Helen Keller



Kernel

Kernel arrived at the farm from a criminal neglect situation in 2017. He suffered from his experience. His confidence in everything in life was severely wounded. He was pretty much a lost soul. It was like watching a horse figure out for the first time he was a horse. Kernel is a very big boy. But he had no idea how to operate in the body he has with all that horse power under the hood. Any little change in his environment (and I emphasize "little") could cause him to totally lose it. People referred to him as a "goof." He was all over the place, with no focus.

His caretakers, under the direction of Robin, our Animal Health and Enrichment Manager, stepped in. They made his world smaller, so that he could better process things and learn. As he began to gain confidence and grow more successful in managing himself, they gradually expanded his world. All of us got to see the flower emerging from the seed. The kernel. He began to settle into his body and look at his world with hope and confidence.

This is what healing looks like. Animals, like humans, heal in layers. The safer they feel, the deeper they heal. We don't push them or ask them to give more than they can give or accept more than they are comfortable about accepting. For some, things happen in leaps and bounds. Others take baby steps. But, in the end, they emerge as their real selves. It is beautiful to watch.

People with little or no horse experience naturally gravitate to Kernel when they enter our barn. Large though he is, there is something about him that pulls people in to trust him. He understands timidity. He understands fear. And he understands how to comfort a human looking for something they may not even know that they are looking for in themselves. Kernel now gives back to visitors the very gifts that he found here for himself. We are watching an amazing teacher gently unfolding and finding his way. You are a part of his support team and he is very grateful.

Misty Mew

And now, we introduce you to our beloved greeter cat – Misty Mew. She welcomes people to the main hall of our small animal facility. Misty Mew is a special girl and she knows it. She appointed herself the head greeter cat, absolutely insisting that she be allowed into the hall each day. And she takes her job very seriously. She especially seems to know when someone is having a hard day and needs a little extra personal attention. She is always glad to help. A one-of-a-kind cat and a cat with a mission and a big job to do, Misty has touched a lot of hearts and soothed a lot of heartaches as well. We are grateful to her for all she gives to our visitors, volunteers, and staff each day.



"The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves."

-- Helen Keller

Eloise

The Pig Ambassador of Happiness

Eloise stood munching down her food at her trough as she received her final feeding of the day. She picked up a piece of broccoli and looked up at us, eyes glimmering with light and lips contentedly smacking. "I am the happiest pig in the whole world!" she exclaimed. "No doubt about it! I am sure of it!"

To see the joy and appreciation in this wonderful pig every day is beyond gratifying to all of us. But Eloise takes that one step further. Not only is she the happiest pig in the whole world, but she likes to share that happiness with anyone who comes to visit her.

As some of you may remember, Eloise came to the farm from a horrific neglect situation. She was in bad shape and beat up from the other pigs bullying her. She needed a place to come where she could be alone to recoup her energy and health. She was emotionally withdrawn and at the point of giving up. We found a quiet spot for her and let her unwind.

It didn't take long for Eloise to begin to respond to the love, kindness, and patience of her caretakers. Gradually, she began to come out from under her pile of straw when she heard food coming. And soon she was approaching her caretakers when they brought food in to her. And then the day came where she let us touch her. The real Eloise had emerged from the terrified, beaten down, and hurting shell of a pig that walked in our door.



Soon after, we noticed that Eloise was putting on a little more weight than expected. Our suspicions were confirmed by our veterinarian, Eloise was pregnant. She gave birth this summer to six piglets. All seven pigs will live out their lives here with us in our newly renovated pig quarters complete with grazing pasture and creek to wallow in on summer days.

Like most of the animals that end up at Spring Farm, these pigs have a mission, huge hearts, and compassion. Recently one of their caretakers, saddened by the loss of our dog Jake, went to the barn and sat alone with the pigs and cried. Estaban, the largest male piglet, came over and put his nose to her cheek every time a tear would fall. Then he laid his head on her knee and made little pig grunts to comfort her. After several minutes of that, Estaban then jumped up, ran over and tossed his food bowl into the air. He then went leaping around his pen, getting all of the other piglets running and leaping as well. In no time at all,

he had his caretaker laughing her tears away, having been lovingly comforted and allowed her grief, yet reminded that the joy of life still remained.

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Sometime is now.”***