



# Spring Farm CARES

## ANIMAL & NATURE SANCTUARY

August 2022

### You Are A Lighthouse of Hope

**Your support to Spring Farm CARES is helping in situations where hope has run out.** Inside these pages, we are sharing with you a few of the lives you have changed just this year. Look at their faces and feel the gratitude they have for your help in getting them to safety.

You know that feeling when you walk in your door after a hard day and you are greeted by your animals? Doesn't it just make you feel like all is ok and that you can take a deep breath and relax if only for a moment? And if you have cats, it may only be for a moment, as, after they greet you, they now demand you get on with the feeding process. But all kidding aside, your animals bring a sense of relief in a sometimes all too crazy world. Unfortunately though for other people and their animals there is a perfect storm brewing, creating many problems.



Life can change in the blink of an eye. Since the advent of Covid, all too much has changed. And the lives of animals are being profoundly impacted by the changes befalling their human friends. At the onset of the pandemic, people adopted animals in record numbers. We heard of shelters being emptied of adoptable animals. It was an exciting time for animal rescues.

As time went on, however, this wave of adoptions became part of a perfect storm. With more people sequestered at home, spending time with their animals, and with more animals being adopted into those homes, the need for veterinary care rose dramatically. At the same time, veterinary hospitals were facing the same difficulties as other businesses. Staffing shortages and Covid restrictions changed the way that they were able to operate. Being short-staffed, most of them could handle fewer patients per day than prior to Covid, so that, as the need for vet care increased, the number of patients that vets could see decreased. Veterinarians, like other businesses, are still having trouble both keeping and hiring competent people. The problem has become a tsunami.

Many of you are experiencing the same issues. Pet owners are now facing much higher costs for veterinary services. Many are unable to afford those services. Many are now finding themselves unable to even keep their animals. The tide that carried animals out of the shelters has thus turned, and sanctuaries, shelters, and rescues are being flooded with animals. Many of those being turned in are older and in need of special medical care. This is a growing crisis with far reaching ramifications, both for those who love animals, and for the animals themselves.

**Spring Farm CARES is home to 245 animals who literally had nowhere else to go.**

***You are like a lighthouse, your beacon allowing Spring Farm CARES to continue as an island of safety for some of those who are drowning out there. Thank you!***

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# Your Help Saved Their Lives

## Special Cats with Special Needs



**Ned** was rescued as a kitten after being born with a brain condition called cerebellar hypoplasia. This causes balance and stability issues. He was also injured while young. One of his back legs was broken and his

pelvis was damaged. As you can imagine, Ned's mobility issues were challenging. Now three years old, his person recently found himself in a heartbreaking situation. He had to move out of state and couldn't take Ned with him. Knowing that Ned would need a special sanctuary, he searched throughout several states before finding us. And because of you we were able to say "yes" when we were approached. We've had several cats, and a dog, with cerebellar hypoplasia. We understand Ned's special needs. He now has a lifetime place to live. His gratitude shows. He has gotten to know and to trust us, while we have the pleasure of his company and of his loving nature.



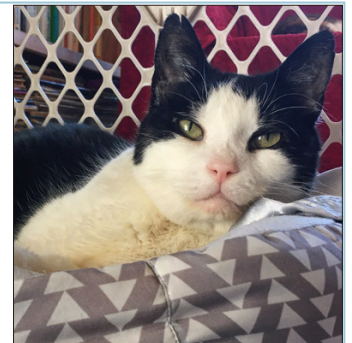
**Rhu** is a difficult cat--let's just say that she can be a bit cantankerous. She found herself in a sad situation in her prior home. Her cat friend died. Without a feline companion for the first time, she became virtually impossible for her people to handle. In desperation, they banished her to the base-

ment. There, more alone than ever, her temperament worsened and she even developed diabetes! Unable to handle her or treat her, her people reached out to us. The alternative was euthanasia. Having cared for many diabetic cats, we agreed to take her.

She was a challenge even for us, but she has begun to let us treat her. And she now has what she needs. She lives in one of our cat rooms. Aside from the fact that her insulin clearly makes her feel like a whole new cat, she also now has new friends. Friends! A thriving Rhu is letting us, and you, give again.

## Injured & Abandoned

**Sylvester** was found by one of our animal caretakers right in her own backyard. No one in the neighborhood had seen him before and no one knows how he got there. He was wearing a collar, so we thought that he must belong to someone.



Despite a search, however, no owner was found. He was in desperate condition when he arrived, with neurological symptoms requiring immediate care. It's believed that he had gotten into a toxin. He wouldn't have survived without immediate emergency veterinary care. But something had led him to the yard of the right person and to us. Being a senior, he has required a lot of medical help and he has regained most of his abilities, though he has permanent residual neurologic issues. He's living a good life here--and rewarding us with love and affection.

**Rusty** was found by a good Samaritan, young, injured, and in need of help. It was a weekend though and they couldn't find anyone to help, except us. We were already full to overflowing, and it was difficult for us to take him.



But, somehow, we made room. It's what you would want us to do. And it is your support that enables us to help in these emergency--sometimes life and death--situations. Rusty's case has been especially difficult because he had a severe bite wound on his tail. Since we had no way of knowing his vaccination status, we have had to keep him in rabies quarantine. Our staff veterinarian, Dr. Christine, regularly cleans and treats his wound. Rusty is a large cat, with a great disposition. Except when his tail is being treated. So hats off to Dr. Christine!



# When There Was Nowhere Else To Turn

## When Life Circumstances Change



**Xander** is a wise elder, now in his mid-thirties, who was loved and cherished by the same family for over 20 years. Xander was the last of their farm animals, outliving all of his friends, and the family found themselves needing to move off the farm and into the village, where zoning did not allow them to have Xander join them. It was devastating to these people to have to part with Xander. It was heartbreaking for Xander as well. Donkeys bond very deeply with their families – fellow animals as well as humans. Some of them at this age don't survive when rehomed as the loss is just too much for them. But when we heard about Xander we felt sure that he belonged here with our donkey herd. Based on his wonderful personality, we felt that he would fit in and be happy.

Xander's body shows the years. His back is swayed, his legs have arthritic changes, and his teeth are falling out. But his great big heart makes up for it all. His people told us how much Xander loves to be groomed and talked to. We smiled, for he would encounter no shortage of grooming and talking here. And, sad as Xander was to be parted from his human family, he took solace in being with other donkeys again. He has also found new purpose! He has taken a lead role in welcoming visitors, often with his ground-shaking, really unusual bray, inviting visitors, many who have never even seen a donkey before, to pet and to interact with him. His eyes light up and he becomes Mr. Personality whenever he sees people coming towards him. We are honored to be the safe place that he found for his retirement years, and to watch as he clearly touches and comforts the hearts of visitors.

**Sophie** is about 10 years old. She came to us after her human caretakers could no longer care for her. They were facing homelessness themselves, and her health problems were such that she couldn't have survived much longer without a lot of help. Among her problems were a very bad urinary tract infection, a heart problem, hyperthyroidism, and serious dental issues. We began addressing those ailments layer by layer, finding more problems as we went. Thank Heaven for Dr. Christine and your support. Sophie, has now settled in very well. She is happy and sends you her gratitude for your help.



**Goldie** is about five-years-old. She came to us when her human caretaker could no longer provide for her safety. Goldie had been horribly attacked by a fisher (the animal, not the human sort,) but she miraculously survived. Her person



nursed her back to health--which took a lot of love and care. But there was no way that Goldie could be left out for the fisher to come back and try again. So we added her to our own small flock. Goldie has now fully recovered. She looks great and is a little rascal. Our poultry roams free during the day then spends the nights safe in pens in our barn. Goldie rooms with another hen, Betsy, and with our 25-year-old goose Lucy, who Goldie delights in annoying—mainly by darting in and snatching up as much of Lucy's breakfast (canned corn) as possible each morning.



**You  
are the  
hope for  
their future**



The challenges ahead of all of us right now can feel daunting. But the animals teach us a valuable lesson. Live in the moment. Be present. Breathe.

**Spring Farm CARES has never needed you more than we do right now.** And, even if you have never visited in person, and perhaps never will, we feel you here. We look into the eyes of our animal friends and we can feel you. We feel the animals' gratitude to you for having helped to create the haven that they call home, and for the healing they are experiencing.

**You are saving lives  
&  
healing hearts**

We look into the eyes of our human visitors and we also see you. We watch every day as the animals work their magic on so many aching human hearts. There aren't words to describe how it feels to watch a child or young adult who has been through trauma and/or addiction walk in and find the loving eyes and nuzzles of Noah donkey or Lizzie horse or our greeter cat Misty Mew (just to name a few). **For blissful moments, the walking-wounded are transported out of trauma and into a heart connection that doesn't end when they leave here.** Those priceless moments dispense lasting healing. And it is the gift that comes from you.

**In truth, we all have so much to be thankful for, and hopeful about.** Here at Spring Farm CARES we focus on doing what we do better and with more love and gratitude each day...and on making sure that Spring Farm CARES will still be here in another fifty years, still dispensing love and healing to animals and to needy human hearts. With your continuing help, we will still be here. You are so appreciated.

**Thank you for all you give!**