

Spring Farm CARES

ANIMAL & NATURE SANCTUARY

August 2023

YOU ARE THE CAT'S MEOW!

A Report To You From Our Cats



You know how change is, right? Change is never easy. And if you have a cat, you know that change for them is even more difficult. Now multiply that by 150 cats and you will have some idea of what is happening at Spring Farm CARES right now. But the cats are excited to thank you for helping them.

All of our cat rooms are being completely rebuilt from the ground structure up. New hospital grade floors, new walls, new porches, new heating/ac system, and new lighting. Everything will be more easy to clean and disinfect and the cats will be able to utilize their screened in porches for three seasons instead of just two. We can't wait for them to see it! In the meantime, there are cats and construction - an interesting combination for sure.

All of this work requires us to move the cats out of their rooms. This project will take until at least late fall to complete. We are doing this in phases of four rooms at a time. To accommodate that, we built a large 4-room enclosure in the middle of our big hall. The cats are moved with all of their belongings into each room. From there, they can see everything that is going on.

On the first day of demolition of the cat rooms, Dawn came into the hall and saw all the cats from the two rooms facing the construction lined up in one

long line just staring at their old rooms.

Dawn said to them, "See, this is why you had to move out here." All at once, the entire line of 10 cats turned and looked at her with eyes wide open.

"No kidding," said Angelo (age 20), "just look at that. I've seen a lot of things around here, but nothing like this."

What we keep hearing from visitors over and over again is - "I wonder what the cats think of this."

So the cats are now going to report to you what is happening at the farm this summer!

Every message you are about to read is indeed from the cats themselves with Dawn translating.

Angelo



Hello everyone, it's Big Ang here! My name is actually Angelo but my human fan club started calling me Big Ang many years ago. Listen, I've seen a lot of things but I have to tell you what is happening here now is very special indeed. You see, I am now 20 years old. I've been here since 2012 they tell me. I came in here in very rough shape. I was homeless in a trailer park and my fur became all matted. It hurt really bad. But when I came here they fixed me up. This is the first real home I have known and I absolutely love it here. I love my cat family and my human family as well. I have always loved visitors and the children who come read to me and my friends.

I am beyond grateful to live here. Right now, there is a miraculous thing happening. All of us cats are being given new rooms. I have been watching the progress every day. First, they took the rooms completely apart. There wasn't even a floor left! But now they are building it all brand new. I have never in all my years seen anything like this. We are all waiting with eager anticipation to see what it all will look like. I can't wait! How lucky we are! Never could I have imagined, when I was living under trailers in dirt and feeling totally hopeless, that I would end up with a life like this. I don't know how much more time I'll be blessed with in this life. But this I can tell you for sure. My heart is full. Thank you so much for making this possible.



This is what it looks like in our big hall now. The hall is where I live as the chief greeter cat. That is a job I take very seriously! Nothing like having everyone come out and join me! I had things just the way I wanted them and then this happened. Anyway, there is lots going on as the new rooms are built. I will be glad when this is done and I have my special space back! Hope to see you soon!

---- Misty Mew, Chief Greeter

Meredith

Things are different around here, that's for sure. At first, when we moved into these new rooms in the center of the hall, I was thinking, 'What is going on with these humans now?!' There is always something going on but this is a doozy. I am still watching with amazement as things are being built. I can't picture what this will look like but they say it is going to be great. I'm just glad to still have all my friends with me. I don't mind this new room. I see a lot more going on than I could in my room. But people are always walking by and thinking something is wrong with me when I'm just being me. I know I'm a little different. But that is why I am here. All of us who are here are different. It is good to have a place where we can just be ourselves. Not all of us have that figured out yet. Trust me, some of these younger knuckleheads drive me nuts sometimes. I'll tell you one thing, the ones that like to pee all over the place better not mess up the new room when we get in there. That's all I've got to say about it.



Hazel



Hi, I'm Hazel. I asked Dawn if she could include me in the cats to interview for this newsletter. She wouldn't have picked me at this time in my life, but I insisted to be included. You see, by the time you are holding this newsletter in your hand, I may not even be in my body anymore. More than anything, I have hoped I would be able to see the new rooms when they were completed. I watch them day by day as they meticulously build our new space. It's going to be spectacular, I can feel it.

I've been around for 19 years in this body. It is only natural that my body will give out at some point. They say I have a mass and I know they are all sad about this. But I'm not sad. And I'm asking you not to be sad for me either. They are taking wonderful care of me here. Dr. Christine keeps me

very comfortable. She is very kind. But I also can feel her worry about me. I have great caretakers here too. I am dearly loved.

This is an opportunity for me to thank all of you who make this place a home for us. There is no one that loves this place more than I do. This is not just a shelter. It is a sanctuary in every sense of the word. A place of peace. A place of healing. And, if I can please say, a good place to die when that time comes.

I once was abandoned and left alone with no one to care. Then someone caught me and brought me here. In this sanctuary I have found my place in this life. I have found purpose. I have found friends. And I will leave this body far richer and wiser and kinder than when I came in. I can think of no better thing to say.

Thank you from my heart, and on behalf of all of my friends, for your loving support. We depend on you for our chance to have a life we'd otherwise never have. You are the best friends we have in this world. Although we have never physically met many of you, we know you are here with us. Bless you all and thank you.

Luau

Ok, so truth be told, I am probably one of the knuckleheads that Meredith was talking about. I don't think that anyone really takes me too seriously around here. I am just kind of a party guy. I guess I came in with a bit of a grudge after someone dumped me out of the house in the middle of winter and expected me to survive on my own. I didn't like that human. He obviously didn't like me either. I haven't quite worked the finer things in life out yet. And I confess, I don't always use the litter box like I'm supposed to. So I'm getting a lot of flak here with these new rooms that are being built. All I can say is that it is true that I can try harder. I am lucky now to have a place to call home. And I am grateful for that. I truly am. Maybe I will need to take things a little more seriously. But I don't want to fail. It's a lot of pressure but I'll do my best. The nice thing is that I know, no matter what happens, I will still have a home here. I am safe. If you are a part of helping me, then I thank you. All of this is more than I have ever had.



Smudge



Smudge, in back
Pandora, front

Hello, my name is Smudge. I find in times of change, when a lot of new things are happening, that I think of friends who are no longer with us. I have lots of friends. But my best friend ever was my buddy Pandora. Pandora and I were a team and we saw lots of changes in our lives together. But no matter where we went, we went there together. Sadly, Pandora's health was not as good as mine and he could no longer stay in his physical body. I swear sometimes that I still feel him sitting next to me just like he always did. I miss him.

As I am watching these new rooms take shape, I think of Pandora and try to send him images of what it is like. Please know that we loved our old rooms too. This is a great place to be a cat. They make each of us feel wanted and special.

I am a lucky guy. To be blessed with a home and to know the love of a great friendship is more than lots of cats ever find. I am honored to live here. And all of us are grateful for the humans whose giving hearts have created our loving and wondrous home.

Dear Friends,

I am Misty Mew and if we haven't met yet, we should. I am the head greeter cat here at the farm. As you now have heard, we have a lot of upgrades coming to our living rooms. I work very hard here and get tired. I will be the first to say that I will be glad when all of this commotion is over.

If you have never been here to the farm, we'd love to have you come. We love to share our hearts with all of you. We are about celebrating every heart that touches ours. But even if you can't come in person, we are shining our lights of gratitude to you.

You are such a light in this world. Each one of us feels that here. Thank you!

