

Special Needs



Mary Beth

Means



Special Care



Teddy

You are the first one we think of each moment we look around at the animals living in our sanctuary. With gratitude, we thank you for helping these magnificent souls find their soft spot to land and to get the help they so urgently need. But, you are not just here for the initial crisis and call for help. You are here for the long-haul of tending to their needs for the rest of their lives.

They are alive today because you've cared. They are thriving today because you've stayed with them.

Mary Beth, donkey, found refuge here after being born with a birth defect that left her neck crooked and bent. Eventually, this will end her life earlier than any of us would like. But each day, we awake to another day blessed to spend this time with her. She is happy and she lets everyone know that every day. Her bray lights up the barn. Her eyes sparkle to see her caretakers and to take in all the love from them and from visitors who are touched to meet her. She is a bright light. She is so loved.

Teddy, came to us as a kitten, born without eyelids. He could not blink, and was in misery being unable to close his eyes or to keep them from going dry. Three surgeries with specialists reconstructed his face to give him the semblance of eye lids. His eyes need special cleaning and care every single day. He is remarkably patient with his caretaking team. And he rewards us all with special hugs that only Teddy can give.

In this issue, you will meet other very special animals along with their special animal care team and you will see the results of your generosity.

Special needs require special care – but it is only through your gifts that we can get there.

Special Needs & Special Caretakers

We can't talk about our special-needs animals without telling you about our amazing crew of animal caretakers. Every day they work hard cleaning stalls, scooping litter boxes, cleaning cat rooms, hauling hay bales in and out of the barn and working on holidays to be sure the animals receive top notch care. But more than that, they come in with their hearts wide open to give their love to animals who otherwise would not be alive today. They are a special group of caring people and we are grateful to have them.

Caring for animals with special needs can be both challenging and rewarding. Our caretakers make a world of difference and we salute them. Here are some of them in their daily tasks of caring for some of our animals.



José is one of our most senior horses, now in his 30's. This summer he had a bout of cellulitis which is very painful. We are very fortunate to have a Game Ready ice/compression machine – just like the kind you may see as you are watching NFL Football – only this one is made for horses. This machine has come in very handy for many of our horses that have had leg issues/injuries. In the photo, our Senior Large Animal Caretaker, Tyler Maxam, is administering a Game Ready treatment on José's leg. Thanks to the excellent care, José was able to go back to enjoying his time out in his pasture with his other friends.

José originally came to the farm in 2019 in very poor condition. It is great to see how he has healed and is enjoying life in our sanctuary!



Timmy has very special needs that require a lot of extra care. He was born in 2022 and came to the farm at just 8 weeks old after his mother rejected him and he had to be bottle raised. It was first thought that he was blind, but, upon closer examination, it turns out that Timmy was born with a brain abnormality. While he is sighted, he does not have the correct impulses to eat like a normal goat. He is able to suckle a bottle but does not seem to understand how to graze. He now will also eat goat feed from a bowl but he does not freely eat hay or grass. We did not expect Timmy to live this long, but he continues to amaze us.

On the right, Large Animal Caretaker, Kiley Watson, patiently feeds Timmy one of his three bottles of the day. Timmy is happy and thriving in his own way, but, without the extra care and love from his caretakers, he'd never have made it this far.



Piper

Piper came to us in 2015 at just eight weeks old. He was born without eyes and was found wandering aimlessly in the middle of a road in pouring rain in the dark of night. It is a miracle he wasn't run over. But someone stopped and brought him to us. Although he doesn't have eyes, he still has eye sockets and he has some discharge that has to be cleaned daily. Piper is a trooper about this. You would never know that he is blind. He races around the room, climbs to the top of cat trees, plays with toys, and even catches flies. He is amazing and is a kind and gentle soul. Piper is also FIV positive.

On the right, staff veterinarian Dr. Christine Schneider cleans his eyes of any discharge. It's the only time he stops moving!



Dusty

Dusty is now 14 years old and has been with us since she was about one year old. She had been found with a severe tail injury. Unfortunately, this injury caused her to become bladder incontinent. To be sure she empties her bladder all the way, and to avoid infections, her bladder needs to be gently squeezed twice a day to help express the urine. While this is not painful for her, Dusty likes to complain about this daily ritual with a growl that is not backed up by any ill-intent. It's just her habit to do so. But nothing keeps Dusty from having a happy life. Dusty is a people magnet and attracts a string of visitors who flock to her to give her attention as she soaks it all in.

To the right, Senior Small Animal Caretaker, Jessica Vetter, helps Dusty to empty her bladder.



Meredith

Meredith came to us in 2011 at about a year old. She was found as a stray and had several health conditions. Meredith is a diabetic, has chronic pancreatitis, and hyperthyroidism. Meredith dances to the beat of her own drum. She is a very odd cat and many often joke that she may be from another planet. She is quite a character. Meredith requires a lot of special care and medications to address all of her chronic health issues.

On the right, Senior Small Animal Caretaker, Trinity Cook, gives Meredith her morning insulin injection.



The Transformation of Freddie



Freddie upon arrival in July 2023.

Freddie came to us in July after being rescued from a neglect situation by the Susquehanna SPCA. He was not only emaciated, but he also had a severe laceration on his cheek that was so deep that the bone was exposed. The day he stepped off the trailer here at Spring Farm, was the first day of his new life. It was difficult to see him in the condition that he was in, but there was hope in his eyes and we had lots of love to give. Our crew set off to start his new health plan. It is a slow process to bring back a horse from the brink of starvation. If you up their food too fast, it can kill them. There is a lot that goes into what, how, and when to feed them.

We were grateful to have a horse like Freddie who was so amenable to have his wound treated. It took weeks of treatment under the guidance of our staff veterinarian Dr. Christine, and the diligent work of his caretakers. It was a lot to heal. But heal he did! Freddie today looks like a different horse!

He not only had the care of his medical team and caretakers, but also the other horses and donkeys in the barn who surrounded him with their support. It takes a village to bring them back. But Freddie had a whole loving village to gently let him know he was safe now. And that village includes you.

The photo to the right says it all. This is what your support does. Freddie couldn't have made it without you.



Freddie in July being treated by staff veterinarian Dr. Christine Schneider, with Barn Manager Taylor Kruger holding, and Senior Large Animal Caretaker Tyler Maxam assisting.

From our hearts to yours, may you be blessed in this holiday season and the new year ahead! May your hearts be filled with the gratitude and love being sent your way from all of us for all that you do.

All the best wishes from the animals, staff, and Directors of Spring Farm CARES



Freddie three months later. A whole new horse with a brand new life.

Ways You Can Help

Donate Securely On-Line: bit.ly/3TKtpO3

Become A Monthly Donor: bit.ly/3TKtpO3

Sponsor An Animal - \$100 for one Year: bit.ly/3DdHivI

Donate Items From Our Wish Lists: bit.ly/3gyrcaf

Please keep us in mind for your estate planning. Let your legacy live on through the animals and nature.

