



Spring Farm CARES

Animal & Nature Sanctuary

December 2025

You Bless Them With The Gift Of Growing Old

Not every soul that enters this life is fortunate enough to grow old. Caring for those who do is both rewarding and uplifting. Among animals, all too often and just as they reach one of the neediest points in life, those who are aging find themselves homeless, with no place to go and no one to help them. Many wander, cold, helpless, confused, wondering what will happen to them, searching for some safe place to rest without fear.

Because of you, Spring Farm CARES is able to take in some of these old souls each year. Those fortunate enough to come here receive more than medical and physical care. At Spring Farm CARES growing old earns them invisible badges of honor. Our aging animals are treated with respect, grace and dignity. We recognize them not as burdens to be discarded, but as Elders, who contribute wisdom not only to their junior animal friends, but to the many humans whose lives they touch. This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to animal Elders everywhere, and we feature some who made it to Spring Farm because of your generosity.

Mabel

The matriarch of our donkey “herd” is **37-year-old** Mabel. She’s actually the matriarch of the entire stable, for her gentle wisdom holds a space of calmness for us all. It wasn’t always that way. She came to us about 10 years ago after a sometimes difficult life. And difficulties didn’t end with her arrival. Because she came to us pregnant. The early 20s of age are usually the last of a donkey’s foal-bearing years. Nearly 30 years of age was rough on her. And after she gave birth to little Murfee, she refused to mother him. We had to hold her to let him nurse and then put him in another stall for safety from his mother’s roughness. It was sad for poor Murfee, but we understood that the exhausted Mabel had just had enough. Luckily, another donkey, “Uncle Noah”, became Murfee’s pal and teacher. And now, almost 10 years later, understanding that her days of being forced to produce foals are over, Mabel fondly mentors her son as well as all of the other donkeys on the farm.

Another donkey, our beloved Amber Donkey, lived to be 50. You gave Mabel comfort and support when most she needed it, and hopefully Mabel will also live to be 50, using the wisdom that she has found in this new stage of life to love, mentor, and calm all of those around her.



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



José

At **35 years old**, José is currently our oldest horse. Arriving in 2019, he had been left alone in a field of cows, with no care and just a limited quantity of poor-quality grass to sustain himself. He was horribly emaciated and ill. But how happy he was as he entered our barn to the welcoming whinnies from other horses. There are still emotional scars of abandonment in this gentle soul, but one of our younger horses, Shawnee, orphaned at birth and bottle-raised by us, made a project of José. Their bonding is beautiful to see. They're always together. Shawnee, along with friends in the horse herd and the care that we give him, has given José a new lease on life. But your generosity made it all possible to begin with.



Mister

Mister will soon be **30 years old**. Years ago an injury ended his harness-racing career and he was put out to pasture with Bunny, a retiring Standardbred. For 20 years they lived together in that pasture. Then one day we got a call from one of that farm's neighbors. The horses' owner had died. The farm had been sold. The horses would soon be homeless. The mare, Bunny, was in bad shape, but the pair was so bonded. Please, couldn't we take them? Together?

Thanks to you, we could. Bunny was indeed in bad shape and we knew we wouldn't have her for long. Mister hovered around her constantly, doing his best just to be with her. Sadly, she died in less than a year. Mister has been hurting ever since. We know that he'll never stop hurting. He has other horse companions, yes, but, well -- not Bunny. Yet he, and certainly we, are grateful that, thanks to you, they had that last year together.



Bayberry

Bayberry is about **28-years-old** (and doesn't really appreciate being considered one of our elders.) During an animal cruelty raid in 2017, she and three slightly younger horses, Brandy, Cami and Kernel, were rescued from unspeakably horrible conditions. You have supported their healing after very dark times.

Bayberry has been the slowest of the four to recover. Healing takes time, and each animal does it in its own way, at its own pace. We never try to rush the process. We just support each journey in whatever ways that we can. Bayberry is a testament to how patience pays off. She has generally preferred to be out of the limelight, hanging at the back of the pack. But in the past year we have frequently found her coming forward, reaching out. We'll welcome her advances and keep on allowing her to just be a horse. No demands, and never any expectations that she become something that she cannot be.

Merry

Merry is estimated to be **20-years-old**. She's came to us in 2012 after a series of sad events. First, she found herself homeless after her person of many years died. Then just a few years later the family member with whom she went to live also passed away. Unfortunately, she then proved hard to place as she didn't always use her litterbox. We took her in when the family ran out of every other option to place her.

Merry is a character. She's a vocalist, singing out her happiness when her caretakers walk in, gracing us with her fun-loving spirit. It was your generosity that allowed us to give this lovely little lady a soft, and understanding, place in which to spend her final years.



Reena

Reena, at nearly **20-years-old**, is busy at work each day, clearly indicating that retirement is not for her. Reena is a perfect example of your support helping repeatedly over the years.

Reena's homeless mother arrived pregnant in 2006. We adopted Reena out as a kitten. She was then returned to us at age 6 when her person was moving. We adopted her out again in 2013. She had that home for 3 years. Then the person could no longer keep her and again she was returned to us. Reena let us know that she didn't want to leave again. She couldn't take another heartbreak. And she embarked on a career here at Spring Farm.

Visitors get to meet Reena at our front desk, where she oversees office manager Nancy's daily tasks. Reena is clearly the boss of the whole operation, as she loudly informs any who don't jump when she yowls "Jump!"



Olivia

Olivia is happy and spry at **18-years-old**. She came to us in 2008 after being caught in a leg-hold trap. She somehow got free and dragged herself to a nearby dog rescue which contacted us. Your generosity allowed us to accept her.

Sadly, the leg had to be amputated. Olivia, however, never seemed to miss it. She literally picked herself up and moved on with her life. She fell in love with a group of cats in one of our cat rooms and made it clear that she had found her home. She is the queen of the room and there has never been a cat who has questioned that. She oversees her domain with kind but firm energy and has helped many scared and injured cats to heal during the years that she's been with us. She sends you her gratitude for the kindness and generosity that has allowed her to live a full and rewarding life. We can't imagine life without Olivia. It's as if she has always been here with us. But she will forever be with us, whether in body or in spirit.





Our Gift To You

Daily Messages of Gratitude From The Animals

November 27th - December 31st

This has been an annual tradition for several years now. Many of you have told us that it has become a tradition in your families to read these messages and share them. Each day, a message from one of our animals and their photo will be posted to our Facebook Page and on our Website. The animals are asked, "What are you most grateful for?" You will be inspired by their answers.

And back by popular demand! Each day, a video of the animal will also be posted with Dawn reading the message from that animal.

You can find the messages here:
www.springfarmcares.org/blog
www.facebook.com/springfarmcares
www.youtube.com/@springfarmcares



Happy Holidays From All of Us
at Spring Farm CARES

We all can learn a lot from the wisdom
and unconditional love that the animals so freely share.

Thank you for being there for them on their journey.
We are truly grateful to you.

All the best wishes to you and your family,
from the Directors, Staff, and Animals of
Spring Farm CARES



Esteban

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/3TKtpO3

Please keep us in mind for your estate planning -
Let your legacy live on through the animals and nature.
<https://bit.ly/3RuaQ1v>

