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WINTER VolUNteer PrOGRAM: Join us for evening feedings December through May!

With Winter quickly approaching, we are making plans for help with evening feedings throughout the cold weather months.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is a working farm, meaning that all the rescued animals are farm animals who live outside all year long. Though we have a beautiful large animal barn and many smaller shelters for the little guys complete with heat lamps, for us humans involved it still means walking outside in the elements and going from place to place to feed and water. Due to the nature of the animals we rescue, we do not have the luxury of warm and cozy buildings during the Winter to continue our chores like our friends at most of the humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio who rescue domestic animals such as dogs and cats.

Happy Trails lane by the pig barn after a healthy dose of snow! The sanctuary is beautiful under a blanket of snow — be a Winter volunteer!

It has always been a challenge for us here at the sanctuary to find dedicated volunteers who will stick with us throughout the bone-chilling temperatures. The farm animals do not care that we may be cold or tired or weary of trudging through snow — they still demand their food, water, bedding and medications.

We are now sending out a plea

Continued on page 4

(below) Thanks to special volunteer and coordinator, Lacy Stickle of Family & Community Services of Portage County.

AmeriCorps VISTA, national Make-A-Difference-Day in October was a huge success here at Happy Trails! Many hard-working volunteers, like the ones shown here, spent the day helping with chores and clean-up around the sanctuary. The young ladies in this photo packed up old wire fencing that ran through the property from many years ago. The fencing needed torn down and removed, as we made a safe new pasture and run-in for the rescued horses. Thanks, Lacy, for coordinating such a wonderful work day, and thanks to all the volunteers!

PLEASE SAVE & SEND IN YOUR ACME RECEIPTS!!!
Farm Progress This Past Year

Where do I even start? There has been so much progress and so many projects going on that I'm hoping to be able to cover most of them.

Our two new pastures had been completed this past Summer. A total of four acres has been fenced into two separate sections, both sections having access to the new horse shelter in the woods. Many thanks to our wonderful neighbor, Wilda Carr, for allowing the use of her property for the good of the rescued Happy Trails horses.

The outdoor riding and exercise arena next to the horse barn has also been completed. What seems like millions of tons of sand had been dumped and spread, and the area itself fenced in to create an oval arena. Happy Trails has acquired a 50' galvanized round pen — it's movable and we can use it for an isolation pen.

We purchased a wonderful two-horse trailer that is exactly what we needed. It is tall enough to haul drafts; the center section comes out to allow for transport of cows, sheep or goats; it has a ramp to make loading easier for horses with injuries; it has two escape doors in the front (my favorite part of the trailer); has screened windows so no rocks can come in; it is simply perfect for our rescue work! (see inset photo)

Oliver the farm pig has moved his Winter digs over to be with Maria Pig and Mrs. Beasley, and so far they are all getting along famously. Oliver's old Summer shelter will be torn down to make room for other possible projects.

The run-in shed between the two garages up front has turned into a cozy Winter cottage for a group of pot belly piggies, including new arrivals Asbury and Priscilla, and old timers, Dennis, Java, Ellie Mae, and Seraphina. Heat lamps keep them comfy and a half door with heavy plastic strips allow them free roam of their new half acre pasture. (Yes, the horses have sacrificed their front paddock now that they have the four acres out back.)

The three big farm pigs, Chloe, Montel and Rusty, have a newly remodeled Winter shelter, and a large chunk of the woods for their play area.

The old barn up front is in the process of being remodeled into an office for Happy Trails as well as a supply area. The outside has been completed, and we're hoping that with more fund-raisers, we'll be able to pour a cement floor in the Spring.

Pigs In A Blanket Program!

No, we're not talking about food here. We're talking about saving your old sleeping bags, comforters and blankets for the rescued pot belly pigs who may be crippled or immobile. Though they all have heat lamps to help keep the piggies warm, there is a good number of them who absolutely adore their snugly sleeping bags and crawl under them every chance they get. We suggest sleeping bags because many of them are made of nylon, which don't collect straw on them like a blanket would. Most comforters are made of a smoother material also, and likewise stay cleaner and drier. We will still take blankets though also.

Thanks to everyone who has so generously donated their old sleeping bags, comforters and blankets over this past year. The warm, happy pigs thank you from the bottom of their little hooves!

Sleeping bags, comforters, blankets, heat lamps and heat lamp bulbs for the piggies can be dropped off at Happy Trails on Sunday's between 1pm and 3pm.

Cutesy Pet Names

In the Spring newsletter we talked about the unusual names that people name their pets, and promised to run some of them in our next newsletter.

How about:
• a rooster named Russell Crowe (Becky Albright has one!)
• a humorous white goat named Snowbell (courtesy of Char and Tim Scroggins)
• an extremely handsome black Standardbred gelding named Black Jack (proud owner, Rob Willard)

Sorry, Didn't Have A Summer or Fall Newsletter

We were so busy taking care of the rescued animals and being available for community events that a Summer or Fall newsletter didn't get out. We are very sorry about that, and we'll do our best to get back on track with our quarterly news updates.
Dear Friend of Happy Trails,

There’s been a lot of media coverage about the presidential election and about how your vote counts. The news has tried to drum it into our heads how important it is to vote for what we personally believe in.

Even if you chose not to vote in the elections, you vote every day of your life whether you realize it or not. You vote with the dollars you spend and with the choices you make.

When you buy that bottle of shampoo and it’s not marked with the important disclaimer “Not Tested On Animals”, did you realize that you are voting to support unnecessary animal testing on cosmetic products? When you choose to read the labels and spend your hard-earned dollars on a conditioner that has been humanely tested as opposed to being poured down the throat of some poor unfortunate creature, are you voting to support a company which is compassionate toward our fellow earthlings. Your votes count like you wouldn’t imagine.

If everyone decided to purchase only products that are not tested on our furry friends, do you think that the other companies who still promote cosmetic testing on animals would be able to stay in business? Of course not!

When I read about the outdated, unnecessary tests being conducted on products from the shampooos, conditioners, and cosmetics industries, I decided to make my vote count with the money that I spend. I also wrote letters to the companies on both sides. I let the non-animal testing companies know why I was switching over to them, and I also let the companies who continue cruel animal testing know why I would no longer be buying their products.

And how do you vote when you buy food? I have been a vegetarian now for over ten years now, and that is a very personal decision for all of us. Having grown up eating meat (for every meal I might add), I can understand that there are many folks who want to and choose to do so.

However, if you choose a meat-filled diet, I would like to challenge you to speak up about improving the laws that govern the slaughterhouses, or to purchase your meat products where the animals are guaranteed to be humanely slaughtered.

As you take a bite of that delicious, juicy hamburger or ham sandwich, think about the fact that there is a 34% chance that the animal you are eating was not rendered fully unconscious before (or he) was dismembered, her legs brutally torn from her body and her skin cut away.

If you do not wish to have meatless diet, at least have enough compassion for the animals you are eating to speak out on their behalf and allow them to die more humanely. It would be a step in the right direction. Right now, every time you purchase from your grocers a pound of hamburger, a pack of bacon, a container of neatly wrapped chicken, remember that you are placing a vote for the conditions that already exist in the slaughterhouses.

Your voting dollars count more than you could ever realize, and with each dollar you spend, you either support or disagree with the “candidate” you are choosing. Please choose wisely and carefully with the products that you buy.

The same goes for the charities that you support. Does it bother you to know that many charities use your dollars to fund animal research that has already been done just so they continue to receive grants? Dogs, cats, bunnies, chimps and other innocent animals who are too unfortunate to be sold or bred into a lab situation, endure broken bones, severe pain and trauma, burning chemicals, neglect, despair, loneliness, and ultimately a tragic, traumatic death for reasons that make no sense. There are charities that do fund research that has been brought into this century and are on the cutting edge of technology, and they have discontinued the barbaric practices of animal mutilation.

Vote compassionately with your dollars as we near the holidays and many charities will be contesting for your contribution dollars.

For a complete listing of products not tested on animals and a list of charities that do endorse animal testing, write to us at the address on this newsletter.

Be an educated voter when it comes to your consumer products and food choices, and plan to make a difference in some way this next year. Please consider adopting a compassionate life style, one step at a time, and on behalf of the animals, thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Annette Fisher
Executive Director
WINTER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
continued from page 1

for help and asking for volunteers to pledge their time one evening a month from December through May.
Evening feedings will be 5:00 to 7:00, so we are asking for volunteers to dedicate a whole two hours, one day each month. We ask that you pick one day that will be convenient for you, for example, the second Tuesday of every month. We do have plenty of help feeding on Sunday's, so we are seeking volunteer help for weekdays or Saturday evening feedings.

Feeding consists of providing grain and fresh water for all the rescued animals including the pot belly pigs, farm hogs, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, horses, cow, and whatever other farm animals happen to be here at that time. Horses need to be put away if they have been out for the day and the other animals safely put away in their shelters if they too have been free to roam the yard. The pot belly pigs, horses and cow are normally outdoors to exercise unless the weather is extreme.

We also pick out the stalls and provide fresh bedding for the horses, and give them their evening hay rations.

Plan on wearing layers of clothes and warm boots that you can slosh through mud in, and bring several pairs of dry gloves. You need to be in fairly decent physical shape to help with feeding — it involves a lot of walking (sometimes through many inches of snow), and often carrying feed or heavy water buckets.

So to sum it up, our Winter Volunteer Feeding Program will consist of you coming to the sanctuary seven times during the Winter, for two hours each visit, to help with our evening feeding. Choose one certain day that will stay the same for you for each month from November to May. We will ask that volunteers sign a pledge showing that you will be reliable and show up faithfully on the days that you have chosen. Sometimes volunteers don't realize just how important they are to our organization and how heavily we rely on their help and on them being here for us when they say they will. We will also be requesting help for feeding both mornings and evenings on holidays, such as Christmas, New Year's, etc. To schedule a day a month for feeding, please call Happy Trails at (330) 296-5914.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you really want to help at the sanctuary but the feeding times just don't fit with your work schedule? How about joining us on Sundays? Sunday is always our major volunteer and project day every week. Our Sunday "regulars" faithfully help to mend fences, repair shelters, clean horse stalls and rake piggy pens, change the water in the duck ponds, clear paths in the woods, and work on larger construction projects such as building the new pig shelter and horse run-ins.

If manual labor and getting muddy isn't quite your thing, you can also donate your time to helping us return phone calls, sitting at the Happy Trails booth at community events and helping to hand out literature, being an adoption counselor, or helping to trailer or transport animals.

If you would like to volunteer, you can fill out the volunteer form on our website at happytrailsfarm.org, or call for an application at (330) 296-5914.

Please consider saving your pop cans.

A new fund-raising program has been set up, thanks to our very own Sharon Barnard. Her idea to collect and recycle pop cans will help not only Happy Trails to raise additional money, but we will be helping the environment by promoting recycling as well.

You are welcome to drop off your bags of pop cans (you may crush them to create more room in the bags if you wish) at the sanctuary on Sundays between 1:00 and 3:00, or you can give Sharon a call at (330) 928-3623 to arrange a pick-up by one of our volunteers.

Please consider setting out a container where you work to collect the cans for Happy Trails, and get your office or work place involved in this fund-raiser. If permitted, we can provide a Happy Trails poster explaining how the collection is helping a non-profit animal sanctuary and encourage everyone to participate.
Happy Trails Summer Picnic Was Attended By Over 500 Visitors!

Wow! What an amazing day for the 4th Annual Happy Trails Summer Picnic and Fund-raiser that was held here at the sanctuary on Sunday, June 27th. The weather couldn’t have been more perfect, and over 500 guests enjoyed the day at the sanctuary and got to meet some of the rescued animals.

Parking is limited at best here at Happy Trails, so we were saved by the PARTA (Portage County) shuttle buses. Two very kind area businesses, Young Friends Chiropractic Center and Accordino and Butch Chiropractic Center, both located about two minutes up New Milford Road, donated the use of their parking lots for Happy Trails guests. The City of Ravenna also permitted the use of the parking lot at Havre Woods Park. Thanks to these kind folks who made it possible for Happy Trails to welcome the largest number of guests possible!

After the guests arrived and checked in, there was plenty of things to see and do! Kids from ages 1 to 100 could stop and get their face painted by our talented volunteer face painter, Denise Moore!

A generous vegetarian lunch buffet, complete with scrumptious desserts, was available for visitors. Everything from soups, buns, vegetable lasagna, pizza, donuts, salads, cookies, cakes, and everything in between was on the menu, thanks to both the Godfrey and the Salzer families!

Happy Trails logo apparel made record sales that day! Debbie Friend, Happy Trails board member who ran the booth, sold an amazing number of t-shirts, baseball hats, ladies tank tops, and Happy Trails sweatshirts! Crafts tables offered unique gift ideas. Many talented crafts-persons donated handmade crafts for the fund-raiser, and it was a great opportunity to find special birthday presents or to shop early for the holidays.

Jan Sponsler, host of Animal Crackers, a WCTV cable television show broadcast out of Wadsworth, spent the day filming our event for a segment of her show. Claus Siebenhaar donated his time as the camera man for the day. Volunteers and guests were all great about being interviewed on camera.

Dick Goddard, animal lover and weatherman for Fox 8 news, also spent the afternoon with us and brought along with him his wonderful sense of humor, his love for all animals, his calendars and bobblehead dolls to sell. Dick was also very accommodating and smiled for countless photos with our visitors and the rescued animals. Dick often helps to promote events for animal rescue groups across Northeast Ohio, and all animals everywhere are lucky to call him their friend!

Music was a great gift to us at this year’s picnic! Thanks to Steve Mehal, who recently adopted a rescued horse from Happy Trails, we were able to enjoy live folk music near the horse barn. Steve volunteered to sing and play his guitar, much to our delight, and even included an upbeat rendition of the old “Happy Trails To You…”! Anyone wishing to contact Steve to book him for their special event, can call him at (330) 659-4738.

A furry beast who also donated her time for the day was Misty, a beautiful, quiet pony owned by the DeCrane family, who had adopted Bonnie and Clyde, a pair of Quarter horses, last summer. Misty the pony watched her horse friends go from a situation of starvation and neglect to become chubby, happy and well-loved family members, thanks to the love and care given by the DeCrane. So Misty donated her time to allow kids to sit on her and get their photos taken, and in her own special way then helped to raise money for the other rescued animals at Happy Trails!

A Kid’s Area provided farm animal coloring books, thanks to Abby Robinson and Corissa, a duck pond where you could win a prize every time, and farm animal crafts. What was fun was that the kid’s duck pond was right next to the real duck pond!

Nancy Winrod, owner of the Grateful Dog Bakery, generously donated doggie baked goods to sell for our fundraiser, and spent the day visiting with guests and providing them with scrumptious treats for their canine friends. Get in touch with Nancy to order more doggy treats at www.gratefuldogbakery.com.

Marcinda Franks of Marcinda’s Magical Moments Photography, graciously donated photos which she had taken of the rescued animals at Happy Trails and made them into greeting cards to sell, with the proceeds going to the sanctuary. She also provided handmade jewelry for our fundraiser.

Dewayne Merrick of Advanced Imaging, also a professional photographer, donated his day to taking shots of all the activities taking place at the Summer Picnic and all the happy, sunny faces. Dewayne was kept quite busy, and provided Happy Trails with some priceless images! Both Marcinda and Dewayne are fantastic photographers, and can accommodate just about any occasion. Let us know if you would like to contact them!

Pastor John Fisk of the Church in the Valley, and his daughter, Rachel Whitehawk, gave us the great honor of helping us to re-dedicate Heaven’s Trail, the pet cemetery, by incorporating Native American Indian traditions into our dedication ceremony. The animals that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge were remembered with love and tears, never to be forgotten as they have all touched our lives here at the sanctuary and have taught us valuable lessons. It was a beautiful ceremony which helped us to re-dedicate the older section of the cemetery and to newly dedicate the larger animal section, to our furry and feathered friends who have passed on. Many thanks to them both for sharing with us their traditions and love for the Creator’s creatures!

A blessing of the living animals currently residing at Happy Trails was graciously given by Pam Ashby, and we were all able to take a moment and reflect on the farm animals who were able to be rehabilitated and are now seeking permanent homes.

A special thank you goes out to our picnic sponsors: Dr. Timothy Scroggins of Spencer, Ohio, and his wife Char, for sponsoring Janice & George’s log cabin, and also for sponsoring Glamour Shots with Joy the Cow; to Dr. Rigs of the Barberton Veterinary Clinic for sponsoring the piggy barn; to Sharon and Joe French and their family for sponsoring Heaven’s Trail, the pet cemetery; to Maureen Frederick, Portage County commissioner, for sponsoring a horse stall; to Nancy and Rick Winrod and the Grateful Dog Bakery for sponsoring the pot belly pig area of Dennis, Java, Seraphina and Ellie Mae; to Deborah Matz of Stow for sponsoring the picnic area.

We were all thrilled with the beautiful day! Thanks to everyone who came to visit the rescued farm animals and to those who so generously donated toward their care. Thanks to our many volunteers who helped to organize and make the day possible, and who spent long hours preparing and planning. It’s very rewarding to us to have the support our community, and to have our supporters be able to watch us grow each year.
Heirloom Collectors Doll House and Matching Barn Raffle

Happy Trails volunteer, foster mom, and longtime supporter, Cheryl Livensperger, graciously donated a year’s worth of her time and talents to construct a collector’s edition plastic canvas doll house and matching Happy Trails barn that is absolutely beautiful. If sold outright this future heirloom would retail for approximately $500.

The detail in the house is amazing and barn is amazing! Everything is in perspective from the mini afghans on the mini sofa to the tiny horse wall paper border; from the drawers that actually open and shut to the Grandfather clock in the downstairs hallway; from the Happy Trails horses nestled in their stalls to the mini hay bales, pitch forks and barrels in the paddock; from the holiday lights that trim the roof to the festive tree in the living room! What a wonderful birthday or holiday present for that special someone!

We will be selling raffle tickets for this beautiful creation, $1 each or 6 for $5, now through our Summer Picnic which will be held on Sunday, June 26, 2005. The winner's name will be pulled at random on Monday, June 27, 2005, and the winner will be notified by phone that day.

You may purchase tickets through the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org, or by calling Chuck or Nancy at (330) 733-1478. The house and barn will be displayed at various business locations, and we will have a list available of places where you can view the collectors doll house and matching barn!

Thanks, Cheryl, for making this beautiful creation for Happy Trails!
2004-2005 Happy Trails Quilt Fund-raiser

In order to generate funds for daily expenses such as food, medical, and general maintenance of the animals residing at Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Board President, Rachel Salzer, is creating a one of a kind quilt. For a donation of $5 per square (5 inch by 5 inch) your square(s) will be included in the making of the quilt. Also your name will be enrolled on a contributor list which will be incorporated into phase three of Heaven’s Trail, the pet cemetery. In this way your kindness will be a permanent part of Happy Trails. The sale of squares begins with the publication of this newsletter. It will end Valentine’s Day (February 14, 2005). This will allow time for Rachel to construct the actual quilt. Once finished, the quilt will be incorporated into a 2005 future fund-raiser (possible raffle or auction). Quilt squares will consist of prints of various farm animals such as horse prints, chickens prints, etc.

Please complete the coupon below and send it addressed to:
Rachel Salzer c/o Happy Trails
5623 New Milford Rd.
Ravenna Ohio 44266

In the event response is more than anticipated a second quilt and/or wall hanging will be created.

Name _________________________________
Number of Squares ________
Amount enclosed $________

Any questions may be directed to Rachel or Jen Salzer at 330-358-1739 or 330-389-0572.

THANK YOU’S

Thanks to Sally Richards for putting in a new patio floor for the chickens, ducks and geese. This helped fix a major mud problem in their enclosure, and we’re sure that in the Spring she’ll be setting up little tables and outdoor furniture on their new patio! Thanks to her and Dick Zampini too for all the major farm supplies, such as water tanks and water troughs, heavy duty water hoses, and a host of other supplies.

Thanks to Alex Hale for purchasing and allowing Happy Trails the use of a 4-wheeler to use at the sanctuary for running back and forth to and from the barns and garages when working on projects way out back. It will save us many long, tiring walking trips. Many thanks!

Eight Baby Pot Belly Piglets Happily Invaded Happy Trails

In August, Happy Trails received a call about eight pot belly pigs in need of being nursed after their mother died. They hadn’t been nursed for two days by the time we received the call. Of course the wee-ones were immediately brought to the sanctuary, where they were bottle fed a warm mixture of goat’s milk, applesauce and eventually oats.

The babies thrived! Connie Bloom, long-time supporter of Happy Trails and Akron Beacon Journal pet columnist, came to our rescue and wrote a wonderful, heart-warming story about the piggies needing homes (read her piggy story through the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org).

The response was overwhelming, and we are delighted to say that all eight of the piggies have been placed in wonderful, approved homes! Maggie Godfrey, Happy Trails board member and adoption counselor, visited each home and helped to prepare the newly adoptive families for what lay ahead — potty training, rooting, vet visits, finding the right commercial feed, choosing healthy snacks, teaching piggy “no”, and all the fun stuff that goes with owning and loving an indoor pot belly pig.

We are sure that without Connie’s help the wonderful adoptions would not have taken place — once again she has been responsible for helping rescued animals find loving homes! Many thanks to all the kind folks who came over to help hold the screaming, impatient babies and patiently fed them their warm formulas — especially to the Godfrey family who made several trips a day!

Two of the piggies shown below (growing up rather quickly) were adopted by Tracy Odvar. Here is a priceless quote from proud new mama, Tracy: “...they love to hang out and root around in the leaves. Now I have an excuse not to sweep the porch! hahaha - I leave the door open so they can go in and out as they please. My husband still just shakes his head and says I could at least turn down the thermostat! (Wonder what we’re going to do when it snows!)”

There are still many outdoor pot bellies here at the sanctuary in need of loving homes — if you need a testimonial as to how wonderful a pet pig can be, let us hook you up with some adoptive families who simply adore their piggies! Thanks to all who helped make this rescue possible!
Many, Many Thanks...

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is a quickly growing sanctuary operating on a small budget. We do our very best to ensure that your donations are used for the best interest of the animals. We believe that we've been doing a very good job of providing the rescued farm animals with appropriate shelter and a safe environment while providing any needed medical attention at a minimal cost. Thank you for your support and allowing us to help the animals!

There is never enough room to thank the multitude of kind souls who donated toward the care of the animals, but we will highlight as many as we can in the space provided here.

Thanks to:
- Char and Tim Scroggins for helping make the purchase of the new horse trailer possible
- Dave's Fireside Restaurant in Rootstown for providing Happy Trails with the use of a large room for their monthly and special events meetings
- David Stutzman for building an incredible staircase to the second floor of the barn — bye bye old ladder!
- Giant Eagle of Cuyahoga Falls for their weekly donations of dog and cat food and kitty litter. Thanks to Alex Hale for hauling the donations for us!
- The Salzer family, Rachel, Jen and Dick, for running the October Walk-A-Thon held in Kent
- Access to Independence for allowing Happy Trails to continue to be the non-profit group in charge of the Friday night bingo concessions as our weekly fund-raiser, and to Maggie Godfrey for being in charge of the concessions
- Judge Mary Spicer for her monthly donation of Mazuri Elder feed for the pot belly pigs
- Amy Gignac of Lafarge Construction for donating many truck loads of large rocks to make the base of our roads, pathways and truck turn around
- The Ravenna United Fund for awarding Happy Trails a grant to assist with our sanctuary projects — we so appreciate the support of our local community!
- Dr. Doug Hasbrouk for his compassion and generosity in helping us to help little Max finally cross the Rainbow Bridge
- Our new volunteers: Paula and Chelsea Moran, Jenna, Samantha Butterini, Andrea Lynett, Kathy Schaefer, Barry and Kathy Rubens, Yelena Skupinskaya, Katie Siders, Julianne Schwert, Stacey Hall
- The kind folks at Donzell's Garden Center for continuing to allow Happy Trails to participate in their promotional events and to set up tables and displays in their store
- Western Reserve and equine nutritionist, Eleanor Richards, for inviting Happy Trails to participate in the Equine Event in November at Lake Farm Park
- Yoli and Don Hershey for keeping us in oil

for the draft horses and for the underweight horses needing to add calories to their diet
- Western Reserve for the many many bags of donated goat feed
- ADM Alliance Nutrition for the un-countable truckloads of donated feed
- The Pastor John Fisk and the Church In The Valley for asking Happy Trails to participate in their Fall Festival and to bring some rescued animals to meet the parishioners
- Rod Moyer, Dale Bromman and Tom Barefoot, for donating their time and the use of and operating the back hoe to dig a horse grave
- Mary Alice Cowen for our monthly gift certificates to Western Reserve to help with our enormous feed bills
- Paula Moran and the Summit County Historical Society for inviting us to set up a display at their Summer Open House in August
- K105 Country Radio Station of the Year and Maryanne Graff for allowing Happy Trails to participate in the Forum Program featuring non-profit organizations Sundays at 7am
- Hiram College and all the students for many hours of community service to Happy Trails
- Claus Siebenhaar for the donation of the video recorder

Above and Beyond The Call of Duty

Where would a non-profit organization be without it's die-hard volunteers? Happy Trails has been blessed with three of the hardest working ladies ever to shovel poop. And they would be Chris Cook, Sharon Barnard, and Laura Amer.

Faithfully, every Sunday since the beginning of time (or so it seems), they have spent countless hours doing everything and anything needed at the sanctuary to help care for the rescued farm animals. There isn’t many projects that they haven’t been involved in — you can find them cleaning stalls, helping to staff our booths at community events, moving farm hogs from one place to another, catching chickens, washing the pot bellies, fixing fences, making posters, giving tours, scrubbing water buckets, brushing and walking horses, passing out treats — and this is only the beginning of their lists of activities they participate in!

Though still in high school, Laura works as hard as her adult friends, and is an inspiration to many of us “old folks”, being young and full of energy. She is an incredibly quick learner and definitely has a way with the animals. Laura is an awesome role model for older teens who need to learn what community involvement is all about, and how to show compassion and care for others. (We do ask that everyone keeps in mind that our volunteer age limit is 16 years old.)

Though Chris is working about a million hours a week at her job, she still keeps Sunday’s open to spend time here at the sanctuary. Chris is also such a great sport about the bizarre things that come up at Happy Trails. Chris agreed to stay at the sanctuary and care for the animals for a weekend this past July. She kept her cool when watering the horses as she caught a glimpse of a giant farm hog running by. Swish! Maria Piggef ran past her! Chris kept her cool and called for help (the Godfrey family - bless their hearts - come to our rescue whenever a big pig manages to take down a fence)! Chris managed to survive the weekend with pizza and wine coolers, and ended up with some humorous stories to tell!

Sharon, along with working two different jobs, also manages to place Happy Trails high on her priority list. She is involved in many aspects of Happy Trails, including the care of the animals, the planning of special events, fund-raising, general upkeep of the sanctuary, and worked very hard on Glamour Shots With Joy The Cow, together with Chris and Laura, for the Summer picnic!

We are hoping that these three reliable Happy Trails volunteers will be with us for many years to come — we don’t know what we or the animals would do without them!

New Equine Massage Therapist Volunteer

What better way to relax a rescued horse at Happy Trails than to give him or her a healthy massage! One of our newest volunteers, Judy Lee, brings to the sanctuary her special skill of equine massage therapy.

The horses have eagerly waited for their turn on Sunday mornings to get a calming, soothing equine massage, which promotes better health and often eases the pain of arthritis.

If you have an equine friend who could benefit from massage therapy, you can contact Judy at (330) 813-9699, or at equinemassage2004@yahoo.com, to discuss your horse’s special health needs. Also, the gift of an equine massage is the perfect holiday present for someone who has everything — check out her website at www.freedomstouch.com.

Pilamaya to all Happy Trails supporters
(That is Lakota for thank you!)
Happy Trails was thrilled to be contacted by Kelly Bender, a Weaver Leather representative. Kelly visited Happy Trails during our Open House in October, and brought with her a very generous donation of many new horse blankets, halters, lead ropes, grooming supplies, and other equine-related items. We so very much appreciate such a thoughtful donation — many thanks to Weaver Leather, based out of Mt. Hope, Ohio, and Kelly Bender, for thinking of the horses in the Happy Trails rescue programs!
A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CHIPPENDALE & MAX

All of the animals that pass through Happy Trails touch our hearts in some profound way, but none more so than Chippendale and Max. Though they may not be with us here any longer, they are always in our memories. Those of us who worked with them, loved them for who they were and for what they went through. Here is their story...

Max, a darling little brown and white Paint mini gelding, was rescued form a horrible neglect situation almost two years ago. It was in the middle of a bitter cold January and he had no water, no shelter, and improper feed. He had founder terribly, and could barely tiptoe around on the ice. With the help of Hearts & Paws, Happy Trails purchased him, along with four other horses over the course of several weeks, just to get them out their situation. Though we brought in many local and even a state wide humane agency, it was determined that nothing could be done to remove the other animals from the property.

Max slowly and carefully walked into the trailer we brought for him, and was a brave little soul the entire time he was in our care. Max was checked out time and time again, in the end there was a total of six vets that had accessed his condition. Though a wide variety of treatments were attempted, in the end, x-rays showed that a third of his bone in his foot had deteriorated, and during his last month in a foster home, a hole opened up in the bottom of his hoof and what was left of the coffin bone began to drop. It was finally time to let little Max enjoy a retirement where there would be no more pain. On Thursday, October 28, Max crossed the Rainbow Bridge, under cool but sunny skies and on a blanket of green grass. Many thanks to his foster mama, Becky Albright, who helped him to live as pain-free as possible over this past Summer, and who loved him for simply being the adorable little guy that he was. Thanks, too, to Dr. Doug Hasbrouk for helping both us and Max be at peace with his passing. Max, we love ya buddy!

Happy Trails brought Chippendale, a 22 year old Missouri Fox Trotter gelding, to Happy Trails on Saturday, July 31. He spent his last thirteen years at a boarding facility, where his owner used him as a trail horse. Chip had Cushings Disease, a tumor on the pituitary gland. He also had a hard, calcium tumour on his spine, right where the saddle would rest. Instead of allowing the horse to be retired earlier on, he was continued being ridden.

Cushings is a disease that causes a thick, heavy coat which does not shed out, and during it's final stages can cause shut down of internal organs. So, with a tumour on his spine and dealing with health problems related to Cushings, Chippendale was continuing being ridden by people with apparently more money than brains. The final straw came when he was ridden for the last time, and they blew out both of his back suspensory tendons. The pain had to have been horrific for this poor animal. When both the people leasing him and his original owner were too cheap to even have him euthanized. Happy Trails brought him back to the sanctuary.

A Happy Trails vet said that the damage was done, but to allow him to have a little time with us, and allow him to know that there actually are people who will treat him kindly and with the respect and care that he deserved. He was given a thick bed of straw in his big 12x12 stall, and allowed to roam freely to and from the barn, as his movements would allow. When he would lay down in his stall, we would lay in there with him, and he would rest his tired head on our laps. We would hold him and comfort him and tell him how much he was loved. He was given treats and leg massages to ease any discomfort of his tendons.

As we discussed the time when it would be appropriate to let him go, our concern was of the coming cold weather and the ice and snow that would accompany it. Bless his heart, Chippendale made the decision for us. Friday, September 3, I went out for the morning feeding, and Chippendale had died in his stall during the night. He had died due to complications of Cushings, and finally he found a place where he would no longer experience pain. Even though he was with us such a short while, we learned many valuable lessons from him.

Each animal that comes through our rescue program has so much to teach us, if only we choose to listen. It’s always a shame, however, to find a horse that's smarter than the people who ride him.

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Meet Big Red and Tony, Happy Trails New Ambassadors & Belgian Hitch Team

OK, you know a horse is big when you can sit on it and hug it, and your arms are nowhere near going around its neck... and that horse would be Tony. Big Red’s right up there with him though!

Tony and Big Red are now the official ambassadors for Happy Trails, ready to represent us at community events, special parades, will make guest appearances, and plan to be our all-around goodwill boys.

Their story is a typical one, with a not-so-typical ending. Tony and Red, both around 18 years old, spent their life on an Amish farm in Mt. Hope, Ohio. They worked hard in the fields and pulled with an 8-horse hitch team. They were gentle giants — whenever a new, young draft needed broke to drive, they were harnessed up between Red and Tony. After many years on the farm and earning their keep, they were becoming older and a quite a bit slower (the older and slower part happens to the best of us!). It was a quite a bit slower (the older and slower part happens to the best of us!). It was needed broke to drive, they were harnessed up between Red and Tony.

Tony and Red were in good health, well taken care of by Mr. Don Miller, and his son, Willis Miller, their owners. However, if a home and a buyer were not found soon for them, they were destined for the local auction. Here, meat buyers often purchase horses no-one else wants and transport them to one of the horse slaughterhouses in Texas. Considering their outdoor chores with Winter upon us), their chances of being picked up by the meat guys were all too good. After working hard their entire lives and earning their keep, their reward should be retirement, not to be sent through a Texas slaughterhouse.

Happy Trails was not in a position to purchase horses at this time, but our wheels began to turn. This would be the perfect opportunity for Happy Trails to have some equine representatives, and to give us, the board members and the volunteers, a team to rally around — some horses that we could love and hug and care for, that wouldn’t be leaving us like all the rescues do when they finally find their permanent homes! We always experience such mixed emotions when a rescued animals leaves us — we’re incredibly happy for them, and always feel such a sense of loss for ourselves. This hitch team could fill that void, we would be saving them from having to go to the meat buyers, and they could stay together as the good buddies that they are as they retire.

Becky Albright and Annette Fisher went to see Tony and Red, and they were beautiful! They are healthy and strong, and simply too old to work an eight hour day in the field with the eight-hitch team that they are a part of. The younger horses easily outworked them. Amish draft horses need to be able to earn their keep on the farms and be able to do the heavy work required, and Tony could not.

The original asking sale price was $500 each, but Mr. Miller saw that the boys were going to the best home they possibly have. Tony also walked out the rest of the money.

Within a few days and a million phone calls later, we were not only able to raise the original asking sale price was $500 each, but Mr. Miller saw that the boys were going to the best home they possibly have. Tony also walked out morning from a hard days work before. Mr. Miller agreed to let us both for $700. Becky put down a deposit to hold the horses until we could get back to pick them up, and we began sending out emails and attempting to raise the rest of the money.

Thanks to all the kind folks who have contributed toward the rescue of these two awesome creatures! Their upkeep will continue to be a challenge. I’m sure, as they are amazing hay burners! We are hoping that everyone can enjoy them, so make sure to meet Big Red and Tony when you visit Happy Trails! A special fund will be set aside especially for their care, and any contributions toward their needs may be payable to Happy Trails, with a note that the donation should help care for the rescued Belgian hitch team.
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and adopts out abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals such as horses, ponies, pigs, hogs, chickens, ducks, geese, sheep, goats, and cows. We help to heal not only their health issues, but also to help heal their spirits as well.

The animals come to Happy Trails from humane societies and animal protective leagues across Ohio, and some of the horses have been picked up from slaughterhouse auctions. We politely ask that you not just drop by to visit. Anyone wishing to meet a rescued farm animal you would like to consider adopting should call to arrange an appointment with an adoption counselor.

We are not a public facility and at this time do not have a staff to have open public hours. Not all animals listed are currently housed at the sanctuary. We use foster homes when needed and can help you to visit the animal at their foster home.

To adopt a farm animal from Happy Trails, you would first fill out an adoption application. An adoption counselor then visits the new home to assure a safe environment, proper shelter, and an exercise area is provided for the farm animal being adopted. Each animal has their own set of adoption requirements and must be adopted as a pet — the rescued animals are not allowed to be used as food production or for breeding purposes. Barbed wire fencing is never approved. All animals go to their new home with complete medical records and are up to date on vaccinations, worming, and are spayed or neutered when appropriate. For more information, call Happy Trails at (330) 296-5914.

ANIMAL ADoptions

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ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

- COWS
- FARM HOGS
- SHEEP
- POT BELLY PIGS
- CHICKENS
- DUCKS & GEESE
- GOATS
AWESOME ADOPTIONS!!!

We never have enough space to list all the wonderful adoptions that have taken place since the previous newsletter, but we like to highlight at least some of them!

**Erma**, a 30+ year old butterscotch-colored mini mare, won the hearts of Steve Mehwal and his family. She is now spoiled rotten and has settled into retirement as the family pet!

**Sequoia**, a young Standardbred mare, dealing with blindness in one eye and the neurological disease EPM, has been adopted by Happy Trails very own volunteer, Carolyn Hayes! Sequoia is a very lucky mare to have found a mom who loves her so unconditionally!

**Cleopatra**, a chubby little pot belly piggy, stole the hearts of Michelle Cochran and Melanie Bolevich. Cleo now has a warm piggy home, complete with a nice yard and Pearlie the pig for her new best friend!

**Leo**, a white Pekin male duck, found a loving home with Jim Capone and Sue Boston. Leo was adopted to be a buddy for Daisy, a lonely white female Pekin duck in need of duck companion. Leo was sold through a meat auction, but was not eaten thanks to a caring soul who allowed him to live and passed him through the Happy Trails Adoption Program. Leo now enjoys his family!

**chickens**

Albright and the family, who are lucky birds to live in a wonderful home and how thankful they are for all of the folks who have opened up their hearts and their homes to give a second chance to a rescued farm animal! Don’t be left out — look into farm animal adoptions through Happy Trails Adoption Program. Call us at (330) 296-5914 for more information.

...and I whispered to the horse;
“Trust no man in whose eye you do not see yourself reflected as an equal”

Don Vincenzo Giobbe
circa 1700

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A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

**Jojo**, an adorable two year old little chocolate brown mini horse stole the hearts of Carol and Steve Schwartz. All the little guy wanted for Christmas was a home and a family that he could call his own.

Like all Happy Trails horses, he first received booster shots, was put on a worming schedule, given a vet check to get a clean bill of health, had his hooves worked on, was given a Coggins test, and was gelded.

Little Jojo's Christmas wish came true just in time for the holidays when Joe Albanese, Happy Trail's farrier, helped trailer the mini to his permanent home with Carol and Steve a week and a half before Christmas. To show them how thankful he was to be receiving his new home and how eager he was to spend time with his new mom and dad, Jojo came out of the trailer ready to celebrate the holidays, complete with a large red bow on his backside and another red bow between his ears!
Happy Trails Winter Wish List

LITTLE STUFF:
• For our hard working volunteers: bottled water, work gloves or garden gloves; snacks on Sundays
• Old sleeping bags, blankets or comforters for the pot belly pigs
• Lime or stall deodorizer
• Feed: Hog pellets, duck/goose pellets, chicken laying mash or scratch (any brands)
• Paste wormers such as Quest, Strongid, Zimectrin, Panacur, etc.
• Office supplies (stamps, 8½x11 color or white copy paper)
• Printer cartridges for a Lexmark X73 computer printer
• Gas cards and long distance phone cards (almost everyone we call back is long distance)
• Heated water buckets
• Lead ropes & new horse halters (including draft sizes)
• Heat lamps and heat lamp bulbs; heavy-duty extension cords
• Snow shovels

REALLY BIG STUFF:
• A load of bank run (to fill up and level off the horses stalls)
• Several loads of smaller gravel (to put over top of the larger gravel where we’re attempting to make a truck and trailer turn-around next to the barn, so our hay wagon, blacksmith, and horse haulers won’t get stuck again this year)
• Several loads of sand (to help fill in low areas of the pot belly pigs yards where it tends to get muddy)
• A tractor (with attachments such as a post hole digger, a scoop, a blade, etc.) to handle the major property upkeep needed at the sanctuary
• A ½ or 1 ton truck (to pull the horse trailer and transport animals, to haul feed, to take pet porters full of pot belly pigs to and from the vet)

MISC. STUFF:
• Straw (for warm bedding for all the rescued animals for the Winter)
• Hay (good quality hay to feed the larger farm animals)
• Stall mats for fourteen 12x12 stalls

LET-US-DREAM TYPE OF STUFF:
• A concrete aisleway in the barn (it’s a 10’x84’aisle)
• A concrete floor put in the old remodeled barn that we’re turning into the Happy Trails office

MONTHLY EXPENSES YOU MAY WISH TO SPONSOR OR HELP OUT WITH FOR A MONTH:
• From November to May: the outdoor Port-O-Jon for use of our volunteers and visitors: $45 a month
• Cub Cadet: The utility vehicle that enables us to haul our manure to the corn field and helps us haul supplies, feed and water around the sanctuary: $147 per month

SUNDAY LUNCH VOLUNTEERS:
• For everyone who would like to help but cannot do manual labor, we need more people who enjoy cooking and would like to supply our hard working volunteers on Sunday’s with a simple vegetarian lunch.
• If you are willing to supply something simple for about five to ten people on Sunday, we would appreciate the help.
• Often Sunday volunteers are here to help the entire day, from 8am to 4pm. If you can even help out once a month with a pot of soup, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, a pasta dish, or any other veggie specialty you may have, please give us a call at (330) 296-5914

DONATING TREATS FOR THE ANIMALS:
• If you wish to donate produce (vegetables or fruits) or other items as treats for the animals, please check the following list before sending snacks. The farm animals diets are closely monitored, and we allow them to have only certain foods other than their grain and hay rations.
• Also, any fruits or vegetables that are donated cannot be molded, rotted or in need of cleaning. Please understand that we can only accept food and produce items on the list below.

HORSES MAY RECEIVE:
• apples
• carrots
• pears
• sealed bags of Ginger Snap cookies (actually good for sour stomachs)

FARM HOGS MAY RECEIVE:
• Breads (may be old but not extremely molded)
• Apples • Cucumbers • Pears • Corn on the cob (not rotted)

POT BELLY PIGS MAY RECEIVE:
• Apples
• Pears
• Ginger Snap Cookies (again, good for sour stomachs)

DUCKS MAY RECEIVE:
• Lettuce
• Crackers
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is a 501c3 non-profit group that relies on the generosity of kind folks who believe in our animal rescue efforts.
Please consider making a difference by becoming a member or by making a donation to help the save the life of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today.

Yes, I would like to become a member

☐ Happy Hen......... $20 
☐ Pudgy Piggy ...... $35 
☐ Cool Cow .......... $50 
☐ Big Belgian ...... $100 
☐ Animal Angel ...... $250 
☐ Farm Friend ...... $500 

* You will receive a membership card.
** Receive a membership card and a Happy Trails t-shirt.

Thank You!!!

DONATION INFORMATION
I’d like to send a general donation at this time of

☐ $15  ☐ $25  ☐ $35  ☐ $55  ☐ $75  ☐ $___ other

☐ Use this donation where it is needed the most
☐ I’d like my donation to go toward __________________ which is mentioned on the wish list.
☐ I’d like my donation to be in memory of my beloved pet ____________, a _______ (type of animal).

☐ Please keep me on your mailing list.  ☐ Please take my name off your mailing list.

NAME _____________________________________ ADDRESS ____________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP __________________________________ PHONE___________________________
EMAIL ____________________________________

Return to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc., 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Oh 44266

Yes, I would like to sponsor a rescued animal
Receive a photo and a personal rescue story! Please circle the animal and sponsorship payment you wish to contribute.

Animal  Monthly  Yearly
Chicken ................. $10 ............ $120
Duck .................. $10 ............ $120
Goose ................. $10 ............ $120
Turkey ................ $10 ............ $120
Goat .................. $20 ............ $240
Sheep ................ $20 ............ $240
Pot Belly Pig .......... $25 ........... $300
Farm Hog .............. $25 ........... $300
Cow .................. $50 ............ $600
Horse/Pony .......... $50 ............ $600

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Cow .................. $50 ............ $600
Horse/Pony .......... $50 ............ $600

Priscilla asks, "Wouldn't you like to be my sponsor?"
Visiting Happy Trails

Twice a year Happy Trails opens its doors for the public to visit the rescued animals and attend our semiannual fundraisers: in June for the Summer Picnic and in October for the Fall Festival.

If there is anyone interested in adopting a farm animal, you would make an appointment with an adoption counselor to meet you at the sanctuary or at one of our foster homes.

We respectfully request that people do not simply “drop by” to visit and here’s why: Happy Trails does not have a staff that is here at the sanctuary at certain times, so therefore we do not have regular “business” hours. Everyone involved with Happy Trails is strictly a volunteer — we do not have paid help that is always at the facility and available to give tours at all times. We are normally feeding, watering, turning out horses, mucking stalls, or caring for a sick or injured animal when we do have help. Our gates are always locked for the safety of the rescued animals and the safety of our volunteers and guests.

Our main goal as we grow is to make sure that the animals we have taken in at the sanctuary are cared for properly and that they are our number one priority. We appreciate everyone’s understanding of our limited staff resources, and hope that everyone will see the importance of making an appointment if you wish to visit on a day other than Sunday.

Where Have We Been This Summer?
It’s more like, where haven’t we been?

If you were out and about in your community this past year, chances are you’ve seen us at:
• The Randolph Heritage Festival
• Donzell’s Garden Center in Akron
• Portage County Fair in August
• The Church In The Valley at their Fall Festival
• Summit County Historical Society for their Open House in August
• Access to Independence every Friday night at bingo
• Lake Farmpark for the Equine Seminars sponsored by Western Reserve

Thanks to the many organizations who invite Happy Trails to participate in their events! We do our very best to attend as many as possible!

Portage County Fair

What a busy week that was! Happy Trails had a booth set up in the Merchant’s Building, as well as had Rocky, then a fourteen month old Percheron stallion, in the draft horse barn. Volunteers kept busy checking on Rocky and handing out information about Happy Trails at our table. Here, volunteer Dick Zampini gets ready to show Rocky in halter classes, where he won two first place ribbons! We are all very proud of Dick and Rocky for working so hard and doing so great! Thanks to all who helped during fair week!