Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary
JANUARY 2008
Newsletter

Dreams Coming True For Happy Trails!

What’s New For 2008???
New Barns, A New Office, And Plans For Continued Growth!

On Tuesday, December 11, quicker than you can bat an eye, two beautiful new barns were built all in one day at Happy Trails!

One new structure will provide shelter for the rescued ducks, geese, turkeys, and chickens. The other barn will provide sanctuary for the roosters rescued from cockfighting situations, and serve as an educational area to bring awareness to animal-fighting issues.

Our current duck, geese, turkey and chicken areas were...well, less than adequate you might say. Sufficient, just getting by, in need of repair — all were ways to describe the old feathered friend’s shelters.

The arrival and construction of the two new poultry barns and the new office are much more than just “new buildings” to us — they are the dawn of a new era for Happy Trails. They signal the growth and stability of the sanctuary, the welcoming of a new phase in our outreach to bring compassion and kindness for all creatures to Ohio,

Louie Louie has settled in quite nicely at his new adoptive home. Here he proudly sports his new scarf on a cold November day (photo compliments of his proud new mama and dad, Seth and Diane Klimas!)
Dear Friends of Happy Trails,

I look back at all the amazing things that have happened for Happy Trails this past year, and am overwhelmed with the progress we have made! In awe, I watch the animals bring people together as a community, witness miracles happen daily, and observe folks who work around the farm animals change the way they think about them.

One of my personal highlights this past year was “Pigs Across America”, when we took ten rescued piggies to a much larger sanctuary in California. It was an incredible experience. This trip was about so much more than just moving piggies to a new home. It brought awareness of livestock transport issues. It made room at Happy Trails for an entire new group of animals in need, and it brought people together from everywhere. It was the ultimate in sanctuaries working together for the good of the animals!

Another highlight was early one morning recently when I turned out Koda, a once-emaciated Paint horse. As I unclipped his lead rope, I watched with tears streaming down my face as he took off playing and bucking for the first time ever as he ran across the yard. When he first arrived at Happy Trails, he couldn’t even hold his head up past his shoulders due to weakness and he could barely stand. Now I was allowed to witness his moment of “I’m back!”.

I also had the rare opportunity to hold and care for a precious two-day old baby goat that had been abandoned on the side of the road. With several weeks of two-hour interval syringe feedings and countless sleepless nights, she turned the corner and survived! It always amazes me the difference that animals make in this world. Natasha the goat inspired the Farm Animal Visitation Program for nursing homes.

It was also amazing to me to witness adoptions that I consider nothing less than miracles — Polly and Token, two extremely old Quarter horses found their forever home with an adoptive family whose hearts are as big as all outdoors; Huckleberry the sheep recovered from pink eye and open sores, and was chosen by someone who loved him for being the silly sheep that he is; Dorito the rooster loved to attack visitors regularly at the sanctuary, but found a gentle soul who was enamored with his character and charisma, and loves him for his fantastic personality; and this just names a few of what I call our “miracle adoptions” because these animals would normally be considered “un-adoptable”.

Facility improvements were made, barns and a new office were constructed, new volunteers came out of the woodwork, and a countless number of animals were given a chance to know peace, comfort and a life free from pain.

The sanctuary seems to be a sanctuary for people as well, since the animals often work their own magic on the people who take the time to work with and around them.

This was all made possible by Janice the pig, Happy Trails animal founder, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge this past fall. Though I miss her terribly, I hope to continue her work of spreading compassion and kindness to all creatures in her memory through the sanctuary she founded.

I am looking forward to 2008, to reach further, to make a bigger difference, to touch the lives of more people and more animals, to bring everyone together on the same page, to eliminate animal cruelty on all levels, and to make our world a safe and more compassionate place to live.

On behalf of the Happy Trails rescued animals, many thanks to everyone who has in some way been a part of the growth and success of the sanctuary! I strongly encourage everyone to get involved in some way — adopt, sponsor, volunteer, transport, donate, or foster.

May your new year be filled with compassionate and kind choices in the products you buy and the foods you choose!

Sincerely,

Annette Fisher
Executive Director

For up-to-date sanctuary information, check out our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org
How Are They Doing? Here’s Some Animal Updates!

There’s always animals being adopted into their forever homes and medical details to share. Here’s a few short updates on some of the rescued farm animals.

• **Nevada**, the beautiful 10 year old Appy-mix gelding, was recently chosen as a foster-to-adopt horse by a wonderful family, and he has stolen their hearts! The perfect trail horse, Nevada is in the process of being adopted permanently by his new people!

• **Rachel** the piggy is healing very nicely! The wounds from chemical burns over 85% of her back are healing more every day, and with continue love, care and burn treatment, we expect her to make a full recovery! Please consider adopting this beautiful pot belly as your personal pet! (Rachel would be great as an “only” pig — she does not play well with other pigs. She does, however, get along with chickens, turkeys and goats.)

• **Koda**, the once-emaciated brown and white Paint horse, was diagnosed at the Equine Specialty Hospital as having EMND (Equine Motor Neuron Disease), a horse disease similar to Lou Gehrig’s disease in humans. Koda gained about 100 lbs., but this disease will prevent him from gaining back all the weight that he should. However, he is incredibly happy and active and enjoys life to the fullest at the sanctuary!

• **Sweetpea** the goose is healing well after having to have one of her eyes removed. We thought she was mostly blind in her other eye, but she has made a remarkable recovery, and runs and play in the yards like she is not handicapped in the least! Sweetpea is now available for adoption, and is seeking someone to love her for the wonderful and very sweet goose that she is!

• **Leeza and Piper**, the two white pregnant goats found their forever homes the week before Christmas! The two goats now live within several driveways of each other, and Piper had her two twin baby boys on Christmas Eve! Mama and babies are all doing well, and the goats are loved by their new families!

• **Little Pembroke**, a darling brown and white four month old male goat, is getting neutered in the next several weeks. He has recovered from upper respiratory infection, coccidia and open sores, and after he is neutered, will be available for adoption!

• **Merry and Matilda**, mama sheep and baby sheep, left us for their forever home the Sunday after Christmas. Matilda, the baby, recovered from pink eye and open sores, and Merry, the mama, recovered from severe hoof rot. When naming the sheep, we felt that mama sheep should be named Mary, because, of course, *Mary had a little lamb*! And then, since it was the holiday season, we had to spell her name “Merry” to reflect the time of year! We’re funny!

• **Wilda and Willie Nelson**, two white Muscovy ducks, are available for adoption as an old married couple. Wilda was diagnosed with a bad hip and has a slight limp, so she and Willie are seeking a home where they can be in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

• **Macy the duck**, a sweet little mixed white female, still has a pin in her leg, but is expected to make a full recovery from a leg fracture. She has graduated from cage rest and having a webbed-cast, to no cast, small yard exercise and swimming pool therapy. Macy will be available for adoption after she is able to walk better.

• **Migisi**, a once-starved Palomino quarter horse, came back from training this past week. At 20 years old, our goal was to see if we could teach Migisi some better ground manners, and if we were lucky, he would be quiet enough to ride. *One out of two ain’t bad!* Migisi now has much better ground manners, picks up his feet politely for the farrier, walks gracefully on a lead line, and will stand quietly tied.

However, for the average person riding him is probably not in the cards. Unfortunately it’s often difficult to untrain 20 years of abuse. Migisi is available for adoption and would be best with an older gelding or a non-aggressive horse buddy.
Country music’s hottest radio station, K105FM, broadcasting out of Boardman, Ohio, is used to Happy Trails being in their recording studio. Their Sunday morning Forum Program has often featured the special events, happenings and rescued animal stories of Happy Trails. So when Happy Trails was asked to bring some of the farm animals by the studio during morning drive time the week before Christmas, it was a no-brainer as to which animals would be chosen to represent Happy Trails.

Nacho the rooster is very experienced with public speaking engagements, as he makes guest appearances everywhere from Ravenna High School to the University Of Akron’s ethics and social problems classes. He is quite vocal and makes sure that everyone is paying attention. Nacho was a shoe-in to be on the radio!

The second easy-made-decision was to take Natasha, the six-month old cute-as-a-button tri-colored baby goat, who had been abandoned at only two days old! She was a natural with PR and easily took to people. She’s always a little comedian with guests at the sanctuary, and politely allows people to pet and fuss over her at many community-event appearances. Natasha is the reason that Happy Trails created the Farm Animal Visitation Program for senior citizen nursing homes. She is very much a “people-goat” and LOVED to talk to people. Natasha would be perfect for the job!

So the big morning arrived, and Cheri Rider, Happy Trails volunteer in-charge of the Farm Animal Visitation Program, rolled into the sanctuary driveway at 5:30am.Yep, you read that right! 5:30am! We gathered up the usual “stuff” for the big adventure (cleaning supplies, treats, water bowls), and we were apparently making too much noise for any of the barnyard animals to sleep in. Natasha woke from a sound sleep and came tearing out of her barn in the dark. “Baaahhhhhhh!” she screamed at the top of her lungs.

Nacho, in his travel crate, politely sat down on a soft towel. Cheri patiently buckled Natasha’s collar around the excited goat’s furry little neck. “Blaaaaahhhhh!” Natasha yelled happily. I put my arms around her front end, and Cheri picked up her back end at the same time. Up in
the car she went and head-first into her crate. “Baaahhhhh!” she sounded. She was overjoyed at getting to go by-in-the-car at such an early hour of the morning! She must surely be special! “Baaahhh!”

We had about a thirty-five minute drive to K105FM, and it was going to be a long trip... The rooster woke up and began to practice his very best crow for the radio listeners, and Natasha happily bellowed non-stop. By now, it was 6:10am. Way too early for this much happiness.

I have to confess, however, that we encouraged it. “Natasha, are you excited???” I would ask in a high voice. “Baaahhhhh,” she would answer. “Are you the famous goat???” “Baahhhhh,” she screamed. “Yes, yes, yes I am!!! Baaahhhhh!”

Once we arrived, we carefully lifted our precious cargo out of the car. Natasha looked around in wonder. “Blahhhhh?” she asked. Cheri took Natasha and I gathered up the rooster. As we waited in the hallway, Nacho announced his arrival...“Err-err-err!!!” (I am chicken — I am here!) “Sshhhh! Not yet!” we told him. “Err-err-err!!!” (I am chicken — I am here!) Natasha looked silently down the top of his lungs. Meanwhile, the rooster would not quit crowing. Ever... I had visions of maybe throwing the towel over his head. Or stuffing him inside my sweatshirt. I couldn’t hear. I couldn’t even pay attention. I also couldn’t bear to watch the goat eat the expensive radio equipment any longer. I looked down in shame at my Happy Trails sweatshirt so I could concentrate on answering a question. Big mistake. Much to my horror, my dark green Happy Trails sweatshirt was completely coated in white fur from working with the goat, the goat who wouldn’t make a sound. It looked as though I had on a goat-fur sweatshirt. It was thick, and it was everywhere! How embarrassing! The fur was charged with static electricity, and it was on the microphone, on my jeans, on the reddish-brown rooster, and in my hair. What was it that Doug just asked me?

It didn’t matter. I couldn’t answer any questions or complete a full sentence without being drowned out by the happy, crowing rooster! This was so not going well. "Natasha wants to wish everyone a happy holiday on behalf of the farm animals at Happy Trails!" came the voice from inside me. I was watching the small but extremely furry goat silently lick the side of the computer clean. She was still searching for the car she went and head-first into her crate. “Baaahhhhh!” she sounded. She was overjoyed at getting to go by-in-the-car at such an early hour of the morning! She must surely be special! “Baaahhh!”

Our ten minutes of time now over, Mary Ann asked if she could help walk Natasha outside. Cheri and I were highly disappointed in our goat representative. I took Nacho down the hallway and out the door. He continued to crow the entire time at the top of his lungs.

Natasha looked silently down the short hallway. With a little tug on her collar and encouragement from Mary Ann, Natasha tip-toed toward the door. One small hoof hit the pavement outside the door. Then another hoof. “Blaaahhhhh!” she bellowed! “Baahhhhhhh!” We picked her up to put her in the car. “Blaaahhhhh!” We slammed the rear door shut. “Baahhhhh!” We stated our “thank you’s” and “we’re sorry’s” and hopped in the car. “Blaaahhh!” Both animals vocalized their radio experience the entire way home. It ends up that Nacho was rather proud of himself and thought his crowing was appreciated by all the K105 listeners. Natasha thought the whole radio experience was fabulous and wants to do it again. Cheri and I are confident we will never be invited back...
To Help An Animal In Distress, Who Do You Call?

This is a great page to keep in your car or purse!

Happy Trails is a support organization for the humane societies and animal protective leagues of Ohio. Our animal-intake criteria is that the animal has been removed by either a humane officer, sheriff’s department or other law enforcement official from a situation of abuse, abandonment or neglect. Happy Trails does not handle owner surrenders or cruelty calls, and refers all animal concerns to the right parties. Here’s a list as to who you might call for help to report animal abuse or cruelty.

DOMESTIC OR FARM ANIMALS

If you encounter a domestic or farm animal that is hurt, injured or ill, most county humane societies or animal protective leagues have someone available for emergency calls 24 hours a day.

If you cannot locate the number for the humane society in your county, you can always call your local sheriff’s department. If you suspect an animal is not being taken care of properly, please report it immediately. Your call could save that animal’s life. Concerned calls can always be made anonymously.

In Northeast Ohio, call:

- Portage County Animal Protective League 330-296-4022
- Greater Akron (Summit County) Humane Society 330-657-2010
- Stark County Humane Society 330-497-1032
- Medina County Society for The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals 330-723-9918

Please remember that when wanting to rescue an injured or sick animal, your personal safety and the safety of others should always come first. If you become injured also, the animal definitely won’t receive help. Keep in mind that no matter how calm or nice an animal might be normally, if it is injured, hurt or scared, it may bite or become aggressive. Care and caution should always be considered when encountering a stray, sick or injured animal. Do not put yourself or others in harm’s way.

On behalf of the animals who depend upon us to offer them kindness, compassion and to extend a helping hand, thank you ahead of time for caring enough to step in and make a difference.

WILDLIFE

It is illegal to have wildlife as pets or to rehabilitate wildlife in Ohio without a permit. If you encounter wildlife (deer, raccoons, fox, birds, wild ducks, wild geese, opossums, etc.), here is a list of a few licensed wildlife rehabilitation specialists. If they are unable to help you, they will direct you to the Ohio Department Of Wildlife:

In Northeast Ohio, call:

- Fran Kitchen (Akron) 330-745-2947
- Sanders Wildlife Center (Stark County) 330-477-0448
- Terri Cleland (Mahoning County) 330-783-0645

If you encounter an animal in danger and are not sure of your location or who you should call, you can always call your local Sheriff’s Department, and they will either assist you or direct you to find the appropriate help for the distressed animal.

If you feel that your concern is not receiving appropriate attention at the local level, you may wish to contact one of these larger national organizations:

- PETA (People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals): 206-352-9288
- HSUS (Humane Society Of The United States) 614-607-7139
- HFA (Humane Farming Association) - only handles farm animal cruelty cases: President Bradley Miller 415-485-1495; or Gail Eisnitz 828-299-1246

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How Can Kids Help Animals?

Be a Happy Trails kid’s volunteer, and help collect items for the sanctuary!

ALUMINUM CANS

Ask your school or local business to allow you to set out a box labeled “cans”, and collect aluminum pop cans for the Happy Trails recycle program! This program helps to fund many projects for Happy Trails, and kids can involve their parents in helping with this important project! Bags of aluminum cans can be dropped off at the sanctuary on Sunday’s between 1:00pm and 4:00pm. If you have time to crush the cans, that’s helpful and saves on room!

BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, COMFORTERS AND TOWELS

Help gather old sleeping bags, blankets, comforters, and towels for Happy Trails! The blankets are used to keep the piggies warm as they snuggle underneath their heat lamps, and the towels are often used to line the cages of animals being transported to or from the vet’s office. These items can also be dropped off at the sanctuary on Sunday’s from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Ask your school to schedule a visit from a Happy Trails representative! Help teach your classmates ways to be kind to animals, and have a Happy Trails rescued animal visit your classroom!

INK CARTRIDGES

Ask your local businesses to help you collect ink cartridges (any brand except Epsom)! Happy Trails recycles ink cartridges, and the funds from this program help to pay for the grain needed to feed the animals. Drop off days and times are the same as for the cans and blankets!

Kids can make a difference in spreading compassion for animals too! For more information, call (330) 296-5914.
In Memory

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many families who have lost loved ones this past year and who have asked that donations be made to Happy Trails to honor the memory of those they hold dear.

We would like to especially acknowledge the passing of Diane Pajk on Nov. 2. Diane was a very loving and compassionate person who was thrilled to have adopted a rescued Happy Trails horse. Diane and the love-of-her-life, Sophie, a beautiful Standardbred mare, had been inseparable over the past five years.

Every time I would receive a call from Diane, she sounded like quite the proud mama, sharing heartwarming stories of Sophie’s accomplishments and antics, where they rode, what they did, and how Sophie’s old leg injury was doing. Diane treated Sophie like a queen, and Sophie, in turn, was entirely devoted to Diane.

May Diane’s love for her rescued horse be a shining example for others who are considering adopting an abused, neglected or abandoned equine. Our sympathies go out to Diane’s husband, Tom, and her family.

University Of Akron Ethics And Social Problems Classes Welcome Rescued Roosters

Happy Trails was honored to have the opportunity to speak at several University of Akron classes in regards to animal issues and how they affect our community.

Executive Director, Annette Fisher, talked about animal ethics during Professor Eric Sotnak’s Ethics class, and touched on a wide range of subjects including the veal and foie gras industries, farm pig gestation crates, animal fighting, horse slaughter legislation, Premarin, factory farming and canned hunts. Personal accounts of animal abuse and cruelty in regards to the animals that come through the gates of Happy Trails painted a very real and disturbing picture for the students as examples of situations that are taking place right here in our own Ohio communities.

Professor Diane Sotnak also invited Annette to speak to several Social Problems classes, and the crucial link between animal cruelty and abuse and social issues such as violent crimes and child abuse was addressed. Sadly, the threads of the way animals are treated are woven into our social structure, and the way we permit our animals to be treated is often the way we treat each other.

Tennessee, a rescued rooster recovering from a horrible cock-fighting situation in Lorain County, attended the classes to bring awareness and to represent the animals (and people) who suffer as a result of animal fighting. Unfortunately, cockfighting is alive and well in every county in Ohio. The animal cruelty involved is simply unspeakable — the combs are cut off the roosters with no painkillers or antiseptic, their natural back spurs (toes) are cut off and replaced with metal bands sporting sharp spikes, razor blades are clipped to the ends of their wings for the fight, and they are painfully shaved from their chest down. These normally docile animals are then put in a situation where they are made to fight for their lives — kill or be killed. The animal fights involve gambling and alcohol, and often there are children involved who witness these grisly events as though they are an every day occurrence — an extreme violence that kids should not become accustomed to.

So does animal cruelty and abuse relate to an ethics and social problems class? You betcha!
Happy Trails Receives National Accreditation With The American Sanctuary Association

Vernon Weir, Director of the American Sanctuary Association, recently congratulated Happy Trails on receiving acceptance and recognition into the American Sanctuary Association.

The American Sanctuary Association (ASA) is an association which identifies and accredits quality animal sanctuaries and assists in the rescue and placement of homeless, abandoned and abused exotic animals, non-releasable native wild animals, and domestic animals.

The ASA recognizes that there are countless abandoned, abused and neglected animals in the world today. The ASA exists to assure the humane and compassionate care for these animals by setting standards for their care, accrediting sanctuaries that meet these standards, networking with member sanctuaries, assisting in the rescue and placement of homeless animals, supporting legislation that protects animals, educating the public, and reaching out to other segments of the rescue community.

ASA offers participating organizations the opportunity to be accredited by members of their own peer group. Accredited members are also linked to a sanctuary network that allows them to share information relating to sanctuary operations and the latest in animal care and housing.

**Happy Trails is very honored to receive this accreditation!**

**ASA Policies and Procedures**

1. **No Breeding.**
2. **No use of animals for any commercial activity that is exploitive in nature.** Commercial activities are defined as follows:
   - Allowing free roaming public access to the animals or the sanctuary.
   - Using sanctuary animals for exhibition
   - Using sanctuary animals for entertainment.
   - Buying, selling, trading or auctioning animals or their body parts.
   - Any other activity inconsistent with the humane care and welfare of sanctuary animals.

5. Sanctuaries will obtain and maintain individual organizational policies that will outline and provide acceptable responsibility for the lifetime care and welfare of animals in their custody, or if the animal can be rehabilitated, until they are released in the wild.
6. Sanctuaries will establish and maintain an emergency plan for animal escapes, fire, flood or other catastrophes.
7. Sanctuaries will provide proper veterinary care for all animals in which they are responsible.
8. Sanctuaries will establish and maintain a humane euthanasia policy for animals who are severely injured, terminally ill or suffering. This program will be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
9. Accreditation and membership in ASA will be granted by the Board of Directors after approval and acceptance of the sanctuary accreditation application and a site visit from a member of ASA’s Board of Directors or other individual authorized by the Board.

This is only a partial list. For complete information about the policies and procedures of the ASA, be sure to visit their website.

www.asasanctuaries.org
New Barns, New Office  
(Continued)

and they are a beacon of peace and comfort to all the feathered farm animals that enter the gates of the sanctuary.

In addition to the two new barns, the second major project that we are also absolutely thrilled to announce is the construction of a new Happy Trails office! With a little site re-arranging, Happy Trails has been blessed with a beautiful building that we can now proudly call “our office”!

These three structures were made possible by two compassionate animal-lovers who kindly stepped forward to help Happy Trails grow into the animal rescue organization and educational facility that Ohio needs! Many thanks to Cecil Smith and Carolyn Yane, who graciously made these dreams a reality. The new feathered friends barn will make feeding a breeze and provide a much better environment to help us offer specialized care to those crowing, quacking, gobbling, clucking creatures in need! The second barn will provide peace, comfort and life-long care to the friendly roosters who are removed from the horrors of animal fighting. This second barn will also serve as an educational area to bring awareness to the animal fighting issues that are affecting every county in Ohio.

The animal rescue work of Happy Trails does so much more than “rescue animals”. Our special projects and people’s love for animals and desire to spread kindness and compassion often bring entire communities together.

The following folks were also instrumental in making the new poultry barns and new office a reality — many thanks to: Denny Dillon, for donating many hours of his time and the use of his equipment to bulldoze and level the ground to prepare for the new barns, and for hauling countless trips of gravel and dirt; Dave Robinson for donating his time and operating the skid steer to move dirt and gravel to create a base for the feathered friends barn; to Russ Fisher and Rob Willard for working in a white-out blizzard to create the base for the new office (Rob’s beard actually iced-over!).

On the actual day of construction of the poultry barns, three big straight trucks from Alpine Structures of Holmes County rolled up in front of the sanctuary in the morning blackness at 6:45am. Three crews, each truck containing two workers, intended to get both barns built and completed on the same day! Amazing!

A tongue-in-groove floor for each barn was quickly laid out and completed within a very short amount of time. It was like magic, watching the barns go up quickly and efficiently. As I walked away from the construction site, it sounded like a thousand pop-corn machines were going off. The air-guns were nailing fast and furious, and the weather held out...but only for a while.

Every hour I went out to visit the barns and to watch the workers, and each time there was a great deal more finished. It didn’t seem possible. The barn was being created in what I thought was record time. And then it began to pour down rain.

The workers continued on, the rain not really hindering their
progress, or so I thought. I continued to stare in amazement as the barns were quickly and professionally finished, and at 3:15pm the last truck slowly rolled out of our narrow driveway. So after what I thought was a record-breaking time of only eight and a half hours, two gorgeous new big barns graced the property at Happy Trails. The driver in charge handed me a receipt. “We’re sorry it took so long — the rain and mud slowed us down...”

Jump to Friday, December 19th. Happy Trails originally intended to fix up our sad old barn that we have been slowly repairing, and turn it into a workable office. However, when we discovered that the cost to build a brand-new structure was within our budget, we were more than happy to keep the old barn as a storage facility. So on Dec. 19th, the magic of the workers from Alpine Structures happened again. In about seven hours, a 16’x32’ gable-style structure was built, and Happy Trails beautiful new office was created!

We will now go into the new year building pens inside and out of the new poultry barns, and dry walling and installing flooring in the new office. If you are handy with construction, won’t you please join us??? We are eternally grateful for these new structures, and can’t wait for everyone to see them completely finished! This spring, after the mud around the construction sites calms down, I’m sure we will also have more than our share of landscaping to finish!

So as we enter into 2008 with two new barns and a new office to boot, Happy Trails plans to continue to make a difference, to grow, to reach out, to educate, to rescue, to spread compassion and kindness, and to offer peace and comfort to both the animals as well as the people who enter the sanctuary gates. **May God bless everyone who made our new construction projects possible!**

(For a more detailed version of the construction and to view photos, visit our website at www.happytrailsfarm.org.)
Did You Know That...

...there are animal issues, current articles of legislation, and animal-related topics that truly affect the world in which you live? We encourage folks to be educated, be informed, and be aware! The following list of websites host a wealth of information on many animal-related topics. Please be sure to check them out, and share this list with your friends!

EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES FOR ANIMAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION AND RELATED ANIMAL TOPICS

Be educated, be informed, be aware!

Humane Society Of The United States
www.hsus.org

Humane Farming Association
www.hfa.org

ARC (Animal Rights Coalition) NEWS

Physicians Committee For Responsible Medicine
www.pcrm.org

Mercy For Animals
www.mercyforanimals.org

Farm Sanctuary
www.farmsanctuary.org

PETA (People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals)
www.peta.org

Care 2 Make A Difference
www.care2.com

Animal Place Sanctuary
www.animalplace.org

Animal Welfare Institute
www.awionline.org

And don’t forget to keep up with Happy Trails news at www.happytrailsfarm.org!

Adoption Update: Becky & Tootie

A little over two years ago, Becky Albright of Atwater adopted Tootie, a beautiful warm-blood baby horse that had been born with a severely deformed front hoof. The prognosis was not good, and we were told that even if baby grew to be a year old, she would probably need to be euthanized due to her size and the stress placed on her tendons. Becky adopted the foal, knowing that her time with her would probably be short and bittersweet. However, not only has the baby survived, she has thrived! With Becky’s love and guidance, Tootie learned to “shake hands” with her bad leg when she was only four months old. Tootie’s other talents include being able to take a Jolly Rancher (her favorite candy) from your lips very carefully. Tootie also has her very own pet cat, Spike, who adores her! At 2½ years old, Tootie runs, plays and bucks with the best of them on her deformed front hooves! Becky is still realistic that the day may come when Tootie’s hooves may not serve her well. For right now, Tootie is happy and healthy, and she and Mama Becky are inseperable!
We Are Grateful To...

...everyone who has offered their support of the sanctuary in some way, no matter how big or how small! Happy Trails has continued to be blessed with the support of many, many people who are interested in helping to bring about an end to animal suffering and to spread kindness, compassion and awareness in our communities.

Unfortunately there is never enough room in our newsletter to thank everyone who has touched the lives of the people and animals at Happy Trails, but we always like to mention a few.

Gratitude and appreciation goes out to:

• Doc Randy Alger, our cow, sheep, and goat vet, for always being there no matter what hour of the day or night we call him.
• Lauren Carroll, for doing such a fantastic job with improving and revamping our volunteer program!
• Everyone who sponsored a rescued farm animal for a friend or loved one for the holidays! What a fantastic gift — the gift of life!
• Chuck Conring, webmaster extraordinaire, for donating his time and talents to the Happy Trails website and also for handling our assortment of computer malfunctions
• Cheri Rider for directing the Farm Animal Visitation Program for senior citizen nursing home facilities
• Christina & Len Cooper for hosting a birthday party for their one-year-old son, Gabriel, and requesting that guests bring gifts for the rescued animals at Happy Trails.

Collecting Horse Blankets

Happy Trails will continue to collect good-condition used (or new) horse blankets through February for distribution for the buggy horses in Ohio’s Amish communities.

Often the hard-working buggy horses run up to fifteen miles one way to their destination, and then will stand tied at a hitching post. After working up a sweat, they then cool down in our frigid winter temperatures. They truly should be blanketed during this time to keep them from “tying-up” (a health issue that affects their muscles).

Offering horse blankets to folks in the Amish community, compliments of Happy Trails, continues to help build the working relationship needed so that we can continue to provide the Amish Horse Health Seminars and offer the Amish Horse Retirement Program.

Just FYI for all you non-horsey people, horse blankets are commercially constructed and designed to contour to the shape of a horse. What we call a “blanket” is usually made out of a waterproof material. It buckles across the chest and has wide nylon straps that criss-cross underneath the horse’s belly. These blankets come in various sizes for different breeds of horses, and can be purchased at places like Big D’s, Tractor Supply, and most tack and feed stores.

Horse blankets can be dropped off at the sanctuary on Sunday’s from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

Large Animal And Equine Practice

Alger Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Randy Alger

(330) 274-3463
Mantua, Ohio

Bovine, sheep, goats, pigs and horses. Field service appointments only.

For all your horse-training needs, call Ken Aberegg at (330) 821-2056. Here five-month old Avistar (a warmblood colt available for adoption) arrives at Ken’s on Friday, December 28, 2007.


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Happy Trails was truly blessed with watching several dreams become reality at the end of 2007 — the beautiful new poultry barn took shape before our very eyes, the barn of peace for the rescued cockfighting roosters arose in less than a day, and our wish for a new office was granted!

This progress has inspired us to set goals for 2008 which will continue this era of growth for the sanctuary, and will continue to help us serve the rescued animals of Ohio and provide them with the very best facilities and care possible!

**NECESSARY LANDSCAPING PROJECTS**

Excessive rains have always created areas of flooding, impres-sive amounts of mud, and drainage problems for Happy Trails. One of our goals this year is to create proper drainage for the farm pig area and the large area around the horse barn. We plan to dig water drainage ditches, install drainage pipes, and fill in several low areas with sand and bank run. Additional gravel will help alleviate some of the slightly less-muddy-but-still-problem areas where we walk to feed the feathered friends. **We have estimated that a total project cost of materials, hauling, installation of pipe, the cost of many, many tons of sand, dirt and gravel, and rental of equipment, will cost approximately $7,430.**

**OUTDOOR PENs**

Creating a peaceful and safe outdoor environment for the feathered residents of our new poultry barns is a top priority!

We are in the process of designing outdoor pens which will keep out predators such as chicken hawks, fox and raccoons. The ducks will, of course, need a few in-ground small ponds to splash in during the hot summer months.

**Adding up the lumber, many many rolls of sturdy wire fencing, several ponds, mesh screens to provide shade, and fill-dirt and gravel, this project total is approximately $4,200.**

We’ll keep everyone posted as our projects progress and we continue to make improvements in the care of the rescued animals!

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I personally want to thank everyone who donated so generously this holiday season for the care and feeding of the animals. Due to the overwhelmingly large volume of letters and cards we received, I am concerned that there may be someone who didn’t get a proper thank you or receive a tax deduction letter. If by any chance you did not receive a tax letter for your 2007 donation, please contact me directly and I will make sure that one is provided to you. I sincerely apologize if you didn’t receive an acknowledgment, and want everyone to know how extremely grateful we all are for your kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,

Nancy Conring
Happy Trails Treasurer
330-733-1478
nconring@neo.rr.com
**Gifts, Bequests and Planned Giving**

A bequest to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. will ensure the gift of life for abused, abandoned and neglected animals. Please consider including the work of Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. in your will.

There are many options for planned giving. They can provide you with tax benefits while they help the animals. Through a planned gift, you may be able to increase your current income or provide additional retirement income, while reducing income tax and estate taxes. Some types of gifts virtually eliminate estate taxes, while others greatly reduce the amount of tax you are responsible for during your lifetime. It is important to explore your options so that both you and the animals receive the full benefit of any considered gift.

**Some options include:**

- **Bequests through your will**
- **Charitable Gift Annuities:** May provide numerous tax benefits to you, and you are guaranteed income for the rest of your life
- **Life Insurance Gifts:** Make Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- **Retirement Plans:** Donate your interest in an IRA or other qualified savings plan

If you are considering a gift or would like more information, please e-mail us through [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org), or call us at 330-296-5914.

**Note:** Happy Trails representatives would be happy to discuss your planned giving and bequests, and work with your attorney or other financial expert of your choosing.

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**Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary**

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is a 501c3 non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of kind folks who believe in our animal rescue efforts.

Please consider making a difference by sending a donation to help spread compassion and the save the life of a neglected, abused or abandoned farm animal today.

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**Donation Information**

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

- [$25]
- [$35]
- [$55]
- [$75]
- [$125]
- [$______ other]

- Please use this donation where it is needed the most.
- I’d like my donation to be in memory of my beloved pet ____________________________ (name), a ___________ (type of animal), who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge

- Please keep me on your mailing list.
- Please take my name off your mailing list.
- Please send me a tax-deductible receipt for my donation.

**NAME ____________________________ ADDRESS ____________________________**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP ____________________________ PHONE ____________________________**

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

You can sign up to receive occasional sanctuary news updates through e-mail. Log onto our website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org) and register to receive farm news!

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**Wish List**

- Lime or Stall Dry for the horse stalls
- Hay and straw (not more than a year old, not moldy)
- Several loads of sand and dirt to fix the horse stalls, the barn aisle
- Bottled water or soft drinks for our hard working volunteers
- Horse paste wormers such as Quest, Strongid, Zimectrin or Panacur
- A concrete aisleway for our barn. Aisle is 10’ x 84’.
- Sleeping bags, comforters and blankets for the arthritic or injured animals

- Outdoor kennels, large pet porters, crates or cages in good condition
- Tools: pitch forks, stall forks, leaf rakes, muck tubs
- Drywall and insulation to finish the inside of the new Happy Trails office
- Extension cords — all sizes
- With spring coming, a riding lawn mower that works
- Still hoping for a one-ton truck capable of hauling our horse trailer and the heavy rescued draft horses that we put in it. Thanks to the volunteers who still continue to haul for us!
The Horse Slaughter Ban In The United States Sends Horses To Mexico

If you are not a horse-owner, chances are you may not be aware of the hot controversy this past year regarding horse slaughterhouses in the United States.

If you are a horse owner, chances are you are painfully aware of not only the United States ban on horse slaughter that has taken place, but also of the latest trend of the meat-buyers purchasing what is called “killer horses” and shipping them on a horrific journey to the Mexican slaughterhouses, where they now meet an even more gruesome fate.

Whether it’s a topic you agree with or not, thousands of horses each week are sent to local horse auctions. Most of them are unwanted, aged, ill, or in need of medical attention of some kind. Some of the more well-known horse auctions in our area are the Sugarcreek Auction, the Mt. Hope and Kidron Auctions, the Damascus Auction, the Bloomfield Auction, and the Middlefield Auction, to name a few.

99% of the time, the unwanted horses are purchased by a “meat buyer”. These meat buyers purchase the horse to then re-sell them to a horse slaughterhouse plant, at so-many-cents per pound. The meat is then shipped overseas to a European market. Since horse-lovers across the country united their voices and protested American horse slaughterhouses, it is now illegal in the United States to slaughter horses. Now all three U.S. based horse slaughter plants are closed. This piece of legislation so far has been a mere bump in the road for the meat buyers. They now make their purchases, continue to overcrowd enormous trailers filled with frightened, injured and lame horses, and head off to beautiful Mexico, where the conditions of the slaughterhouses and means of killing are even more barbaric than the ones recently shut down in the United States. Some also head to Canada instead.

HSUS (Humane Society Of The United States) recently released truly mind-numbing undercover footage of U.S. horse export to Mexico. **HSUS has extensive coverage of the horse slaughter ban on www.hsus.org.**

Animal Rescue Groups Working Together

To create public awareness of the plight of the unwanted horses who are dumped at the local horse auctions weekly and are then taken by the meat-buyers to either a Mexican or Canadian slaughterhouse, Lisa Gordon of Frog Pond Draft Horse Rescue in Cambridge, Ohio, is organizing a draft horse rescue weekend this spring.

Lisa and Frog Pond Draft Horse Rescue is planning a mass-purchase of draft horses at auction to prevent them from having to experience the unspeakable fate of the long and inhumane trip to a slaughterhouse with a meat buyer. She will be seeking homes, sponsors and people with trailers to help haul these precious horses to safety. By organizing a mass rescue, Lisa is hoping to make the public aware of the plight of these horses and the current bill of legislation that so desperately needs attention.

Happy Trails is proud to support Lisa in her endeavors, and plans to help Frog Pond in some way with their rescue efforts. We’ll be sure to offer more details as the mass-rescue develops. If anyone is interested in adopting a draft horse from this rescue effort or willing to help haul horses on the day of the rescue, speak up!

You can either call Lisa at 740-435-8878 (leave a message) or visit their website at http://hometown.aol.com/FROGPONDARMLTD/HOMEPAGE.HTML.
Livestock Truck Catastrophe Demonstrates The Need For Transport Regulations

(From Farm Sanctuary — www.farmsanctuary.org)

“An alarming number of farm animals die regularly in catastrophic highway accidents when the trucks hauling huge loads of these animals overturn. In the past (several) weeks, the media reported on at least two such incidents, each of which resulted in massive mortality and suffering for the animals involved. Despite this industry-wide problem, neither the U.S. Department of Agriculture nor the agribusiness industry has adequately addressed the issue. As a result, farm animals are subjected to yet another level of unnecessary suffering. Farm Sanctuary is urging the USDA to establish a protocol to prevent these accidents from happening in the first place and to respond to these accidents when they happen in a way that will minimize animal suffering. Read more at: http://www.farmsanctuary.org/campaign/transport_action.htm.”

This is an excellent article that talks about how you can help make a difference!

TRY A CRUELTY-FREE DESSERT THIS WEEK! (GREAT FOR BREAKFAST TOO!)

(Highly recommended by Aristotle the goose; recipe compliments of Rob Willard)

Jelly Donut Cupcakes

These cupcakes are deceptively easy to make any time the desire for a jelly donut arises. Add a sprinkle of powdered sugar, and you have yourself one heck of a cupcake moonlighting as the donuts we all enjoyed as kids. And here’s a tip: the cheaper the jam, the more authentic your cupcake will taste. Skip the fancy spreadable fruit stuff and go for the supermarket brand. Makes 12 cupcakes.

1 cup soymilk
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 ½ cups flour
¼ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon salt
1/3 cup canola oil
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
About 1/3 cup raspberry, strawberry or grape jam
2 tablespoons powdered sugar
baking soda, nutmeg and salt.
Create a well in the center of the flour for the wet ingredients.

3. Mix the soymilk mixture with a fork to dissolve the cornstarch and pour into the flour mixture. Add the oil, sugar and vanilla, and mix well.

4. Fill the liners with batter about full. Place a heaping spoonful of jam into the center of each cupcake, being careful not to overfill. The jam will sink into the bottom of the cupcake during baking.

5. Bake cupcakes for 21 to 23 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack, and then set uncovered overnight in a cool and dry place. This will make the tops slightly crispy, like a donut crust. Using a sifter, sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve with tea or coffee.

DONATIONS OF FUEL CARDS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED...
...for both gasoline and diesel.

We use plenty of fuel in both the farm equipment and for transportation of the animals when we pick them up from a rescue, take them to vet appointments, and haul them to their new adoptive homes. Our fuel costs sure do add up!

Deciding to choose more compassionate and heart-healthy foods?

Be sure to check out:

http://www.pcrm.org/health/veginfo/
www.vegforlife.com
www.goveg.com
Holly Troche, DVM, and her husband, Dave, are fostering a white Pekin duck named Rockwell, who has arthritis in his leg and hip. Dr. Troche agreed to give him a warm and loving home for the winter. The bitter cold temperatures and deep snow would have reeked havoc on his joints, and he needed someone to give him the extra care that he needed. Dr. Troche shared an amusing anecdote that Dave had written and passed along to their family after a recent duck experience...

The following duck-advice is compliments of one soggy Dave Troche...

1. Get some old clothes, because one of you is going to get really wet, and it might not be the duck.
2. Attempt to corral duck without having him take out the walls of the pen.
3. Accept dirty looks from wife when offering to videotape the episode and put it on Youtube.
4. Carefully carry duck to bathtub, don’t trip over the three curious cats along the way.
5. Put duck into water, stand back as water flies.
6. Watch how many feathers float in the water, marvel at just how many feathers actually cover the duck.
7. Stand back as duck flaps wings periodically, spreading water over all surfaces of bathroom including walls and ceiling. Safety glasses or swimming goggles aren’t a bad idea.
8. Try to hold duck while other person gets Q-tips to clear duck’s nostrils, wondering how in the world he gets that many feathers in his nose.
9. Don’t think about the next time you have to use the bathtub as the duck demonstrates that he doesn’t have control over bowels.
10. Marvel at just how dirty the duck really was considering he probably didn’t get near water for a while. Remember, the duck is actually supposed to be white, not beige.
11. While one of you watches the duck, run Shop Vac and house vacuum to pick up all the loose feathers and wood shavings that have spread all over the back porch.
12. Remember not to use wood shavings as bedding material the next time.
13. Chase duck around bathtub, realizing the one catching the duck is going to be thoroughly soaked by the time you get him back to his pen.
14. Have the one who isn’t too wet try to dry the duck with a towel.
15. Stand back as duck does best dog imitation to shake water off.
16. Admire how clean the duck is, and remember that someday the wife might have you be the one getting soaked.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary has been registered on GoodSearch.

Happy Trails receives a direct donation every time one of our supporters uses GoodSearch to search the Internet.

This is an amazing new opportunity to raise money every day at no cost to either our organization or to our supporters.

GoodSearch is the search engine with a unique social mission. It’s powered by Yahoo, so you get the same great search results. GoodSearch donates 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofits and schools selected by our users. Now you can make a difference for Happy Trails simply by changing the way you search the Internet!

This web address will help get you signed up!

http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx

GoodSearch gets results:

• The Elephant Sanctuary has already earned more than $2300 just by using GoodSearch!
• The Bubel Aiken Foundation has earned more than $1900 just by using GoodSearch!

It costs nothing. Only 100 supporters searching the Internet just twice a day would earn the sanctuary $730 per year. So be sure to sign up today, and tell all your friends, too!

Don’t forget to check your shampoo, lotion and make-up containers for the all-important disclaimer:

“Not Tested On Animals”