

# Star Gazing Farm

A haven for retired farm animals and wayward goats

30 November, 2011



Dear Friends,

Well, it's been quite a good year here at Star Gazing Farm. After the initial excitement at the completion off the llama lodge and infirmary barn in January, the animals settled in for a year of serious eating, lounging about, and making extra work for volunteers.

There are many players critical to running a sanctuary and education center such as this. Every type of contribution, every volunteer effort, every service provided add up to a decent, dignified, and safe life for the animals we take in. And every animal who lives here plays his or her own part in creating an environment that inspires people to want to visit, learn, give, volunteer.

Perhaps you do not know that ...

- We receive weekly requests to take in farm animals; via our well-established network we work on these cases to find good and loving homes for the farm animals in need whom we cannot take in ourselves;
- Our Bunny Motel hosts several dozen rabbits every year while their owners travel;
- Our shearing service provides shearing and hoof trimming services to alpacas, sheep, goats, and llamas at over 100 farms in the mid-Atlantic area.

And ...

- We use six different veterinary practices to service our animals' medical needs (according to species);
- Our trusty farrier comes every 7 weeks to ensure that our equines' hooves are trimmed and cared for appropriately;
- Hay deliveries from our kind and generous hay supplier take place on average once a month and involve a whole corps of volunteers to offload and stack the heavy bales;
- The youth and adults who volunteer on weekends partake in regular sheep and goat hoof trimming, deworming, vaccinating, and overall animal body checks;
- We have a corps of fiber artists who spin, crochet, and knit beautiful items from our wool which we sell to raise funds.



Yet with all this wonderful support, we still need your help. When medical emergencies occur, as they did with our beloved Tetsuro the pig over the summer, we can be hit with extraordinary and sudden large veterinary bills. For such situations, **we have established a new medical fund**, so that we never have to make a difficult choice about treating a sick animal.

And while there are always tedious repairs to be done to existing structures and fences, we also wish to move forward within the next six months in **raising enough funds to build a new barn in our east pasture**, thereby offering shelter to our steers (who occupy this pasture about 6 months a year) and to offer this pasture as alternate grazing ground for our horses, sheep, and goats.

Please know that any donation you make to the farm will be used directly to feed, house, and provide top notch veterinary care to our animals.



*Angel, a Jacob sheep who was raised in someone's kitchen and in danger of being sent to market, now lives at Star Gazing Farm*

**It is only through your help** that we can continue our mission of providing a safe haven and the best possible care for these farm animals in need, and offering a secure and enjoyable environment in which people can learn about them.

With warm regards,

*Anne E. Schroeder* President

*Diane Ray*, Board of Directors

*Mary Jane Ruhl*, Board of Directors

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**Combined Federal Campaign #86412**