



Star Gazing Farm Animal Sanctuary

A haven for retired farm animals and wayward goats

Winter, 2020

Dear Friends,

Night is the best time to be at the farm. After the excitement of dinnertime is over, after no more UPS trucks are passing from which Milo needs to protect the farm, when the stars come out and the crickets are singing, the farm is transformed. It's as though the animals take over in the darkness of the night. They get together in groups to digest and discuss the day, they settle down in their favorite sleeping spots, many of them go for their evening walk, and some seek out a human who might just be lucky enough to be outside waiting for a friend to stop by. A four-legged friend, that is.



The other evening I was sitting up by the barn and Bruno, our half blind horse came to me, lowered his head, murmured something, and touched his nose to my face. While he has become much more friendly and comfortable over the last two years, this was the first time he did this. This horse had been at the slaughter auction, and when he arrived here he was frightened of being touched or approached by anyone. It takes time for everyone to heal. It also takes time for impatient humans to quiet down and wait for the animal to realize that comfort and safety, kind hands, and always enough to eat are now a constant. We need to earn their trust. His show of trust that night was a beautiful gift and, I wonder perhaps, if it wasn't also a thank you.

It seems like in our modern society we are brought up to ask for what we want, to go get 'em, strive, demand, act. This simply doesn't work with animals—most especially with animals who have been damaged in some way during the course of their lives.

"Nature is one of the most underutilized treasures in life. It has the power to unburden hearts and reconnect to that inner place of peace." -Janice Anderson

But providing these beautiful animals the safe and loving environment they so desperately need has a cost. And so we do need to ask you to please support our mission and make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$300! Under the new 2020 Cares Act, even if you do not itemize your taxes, a charitable donation of up to \$300 qualifies as an "above the line" contribution!

You can feel great knowing that your dollars are going right to help the animals. Our administrative costs continue to be very low; the bulk of the work at the farm is done by volunteers (and that includes me, Farmer Anne!) Your donations help pay for their feed and hay (an average of \$1000 a month). You help us with their veterinary care—which can be substantial when we have cases like our beloved Mamie the cattle dog, who was diagnosed with liver cancer and had to have a delicate surgery just a week ago; the cost for this live-saving operation was over \$5000. Or Sam, our Anatolian Shepherd who, at 12 years of age still plays like a puppy but has tentatively been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is on costly medication. You help purchase the bedding so we can keep their sleeping areas always soft and clean. You help us buy fresh greens for the bunnies, diesel to run the tractor so we can put up hay bales, and fence boards that the goats and cows seem to always be 'playing' with. It's amazing what you can do. And we need you. Please help us by donating to Star Gazing farm. Thank you!

Yours for the animals! *Anne Schroeder (AKA Farmer Anne)*

Star Gazing Farm receives GFAS Verification

We are so pleased and proud to announce that we are now a Verified Sanctuary by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

This organization sets the bar quite high for sanctuary standards. The application process is intense and rigorous. We provided a great deal of documentation including everything from a detailed description of each animal, where he/she came from and when, veterinary information and all our medical records, volunteer and visitor policies, and manuals for feeding and other procedures.

They also performed a site visit where the entire property was inspected, photographed, and a few requests were made for remediation, mostly on safety-related issues. They examined all veterinary supplies and medication on hand, reviewed feed and supply labeling, looked at every fire extinguisher and smoke alarm, inspected fencing, storage rooms and asked about the animals' back stories and current conditions.

To have reached this milestone in our sanctuary's life is a great accomplishment. and we plan to continue to do the very best we can, every day, for every single animal in our care.



Herbie, my Story

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!

Sigh, I've always loved Shakespeare. A bit unusual for a sheep, you say? But you see, I have traced my ancestry back to 16th century England and I can attest to the fact that I come from a long line of literate sheep.

Please sit down and let me tell you my story.

I was born in the fifth month of a strange year called 2020. Alas, it was immediately apparent that I had some physical

defects and these found no favor with the brute of a farmer who kept my mother and sister but sent me to the auction house with a rowdy batch of other boy sheep. I was three months old. Oh my, what a fearful adventure I then had. There was a bumpy ride in a big tin box that went so very fast. And then the livestock auction. It seemed no one knew that my name was Herbie so everyone called me by my number. I felt humiliated. The place was noisy and smelly, and men were yelling just like they did at the markets back in the old country. I knew this place in my bones and feared things were looking awfully dim for Herbie. I couldn't see over the heads of the other sheep because I can only walk on my elbows. Then my number was called I didn't want to go with those who bid on me—the rough looking man with the big boots or the large lady with the hat who looked at me like I was the ugliest thing she'd ever seen. But forsooth! I went away in another tin can and sat right next to a lady who cried and patted my head. I hadn't ever seen tears before, but I knew right away what they were (I've read all the Tragedies—*Richard II* was my favorite) and I head butted her to improve her countenance. Yet more rides, changes of scenery, and then... a farm where everyone seemed to be singing. So many different shapes and sizes of animals, I thought I must be imagining it all. They smiled at me and they were fat. I knew right then and there that I wanted to be a fat and smiling sheep. I am in love with the fair maid Rhoda, and my other companions are Jenny, a very old but very kind goat and Madison, an even older sheep who is quite jolly. I never knew sheep could live 18 years. What a place! Food and dance, massages and kind words.

The best news: they want to help me walk upright. I'm currently taking lots of more rides to be evaluated for special legs (prostheses) to attach to my little crooked legs so that I can walk straight. It would be nice to look the other sheep straight in the eye. I will be seeing more veterinarians and technicians. But it costs a lot. I've received \$600 towards my "life on new legs" program, **but I need a minimum of another \$2800 to fully cover costs.**

I feel so fortunate that people want to help me. My back hurts sometimes because of the way I have to walk, but I love to run and play. Most of all, I love to have my head patted—just like that lady did in the car, all that long time ago.

Would you consider donating to help my current and future medical costs so I can live a normal life? **You could give \$25 or \$50 or even ten times that! (let's see—that would be \$500—we Shakespearean sheep are good at our numbers, too!).** Anything that you give helps—not only to pay the hospital, but also to make the humans stop worrying. When they are worry-free, they smile and laugh and give more hearty pats.



The New Kids on the Block

George



Ruth



Falkor



Roger & Rudy



We are so honored to introduce you to our new friends at the farm! We give careful consideration to every animal we bring here because we know we sadly cannot take them all. Those in immediate danger and those in need of rehabilitation take first priority. We also look at how the new animal can fit into the existing animal 'society' to ensure that they will have a happy landing. Here are just a few stories of our new guys: **George the Pig** was picked up in a cruelty seizure in Prince Georges County. It's taken him a long time to trust people, but he's discovered the joys of vegetable stew and bely rubs. His little

Petey



Herman & Pippa



Brewster



tongue hangs out all the time, which just makes him all the more handsome. Some of our new residents were wandering out on their own and picked up by good Samaritans. These include **Roger the Guinea Pig**, **Ruth the Rabbit**, and **Brewster the Rooster**. And then there is **Falkor, the Flying Goat!** A La Mancha, whose mama died in giving birth and whose owner was going to "dispose" of him, he bears many—too many?—resemblances to our beloved Mr. Newman Goat and is working diligently on restructuring the farm.

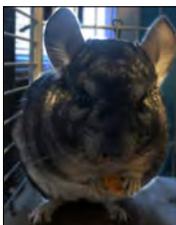
Your donations ensure that we are able to continue to bring creatures in need and give them the very best. **Could you please help us by donating \$50, \$100, or even \$500 to help these beautiful animals?**

Your donation or sponsorship of an animal (stargazingfarm.org/sponsor) ensures that we can continue to accept new friends, offer them the right food, the best medical care, and give them just the best possible life. People who visit are transfixed by the peace and 'happy vibes' at our farm. Please be a part of our community and help us do our good work.

Wall-E



Billy



Rhoda



In Loving Memory

Old Vinnie



Sweetly

Cinnamon



Blueberry

Manuel



The hardest part of loving the animals is seeing them through the last part of their journey on earth. We give them every possible chance to enjoy life, and every possible comfort and consideration for quality of life when the end is near. Offering the best hospice care and death with dignity is very important to us. **You can help our animals even *in extremis* by making a donation to our sanctuary today.**

The New "Big Barn"

Raising the funds for a new structure takes time. When we built the invaluable and gorgeous Alpaca Barn, we needed



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about three years to bring in the funds and set up the necessary contractors. Our goal is to build a new, open, high-ceilinged barn in our upper pasture. This is necessary for our older tall residents who need space and shelter in inclement weather. But it can also double as a event and learning space. Given current health restrictions, having an outdoor space is even more important for our work.



Our New Logo



You may have noticed that we are sporting a new look. Our new logo, designed by our friends at Splice Design Group of Baltimore, MD, was chewed over by many a volunteer before it reached its final form. Some of you may suspect that Mr. Newman Goat had a hand (or hoof) in this. Gone but not ever forgotten, Mr. Newman may live amongst the stars, but he also nibbles on them whenever possible.

Stay tuned for the much requested Star Gazing Farm T-shirts, hats and magnets, and (drum roll, please) a brand new web site.

Visiting the Farm

I know this has been a hard year for people. I hope and pray that none of you or your loved ones have suffered from a direct hit from COVID-19. But I'm sure everyone has been affected by social isolation, frustration at supply shortages, long lines, and just the inability to live life as we know it. I am **so** happy to report that to date, none of our staff or volunteers have been sick, and quite honestly—the animals are none the wiser. What a joyful thought. They carry on with their lives just as before: their evening dances, their food fights, their naps in the sun. They remind us to live each day as it comes. We have finally opened up the farm to limited numbers of visitors (10 per visit) by reservation only. It's **WONDERFUL** to have people here again. All scheduled visits can be booked at <http://stargazingfarm.eventbrite.com>

2021 Wall Calendar!

Our calendar is here! This is a gorgeous, full-color wall calendar with photos by professional photographer Kathe Powell. Each month features a beautiful photo of one of our animals and his or her story.



You can help the farm! Purchase one for yourself and one as a gift! Enjoy being with our animals every day of the year. The cost is only \$15 each (plus \$2 for shipping for up to 5 copies).

Please use our enclosed envelope and make a notation that you wish to receive a calendar or visit our web site to order online.

Wont you help the animals at Star Gazing Farm?

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EIN: 20-0882587
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Name _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
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 Check Enclosed for \$ ____ [Payable to "Star Gazing Farm"]
 Charge \$ ____ to my Visa/MasterCard /Discover/Amex
Credit Card Number _____
Exp. Date _____ CSC Code _____
Signature _____

DESIGNATIONS

For animal sponsorship _____ (name of animal)
 For the barn fund
 In memory of: _____
 In honor of: _____
 Please contact me about planned giving
 Please keep my donation anonymous.

Did you know you can also give monthly either via our web site's Donate page or through your own bank!

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www.stargazingfarm.org/sponsor

Calendar order (\$15 each) Quantity _____
 Pick up at Farm Ship to me (\$2 S&H)

Additional notes, instructions, or designations

