



Star Gazing Farm Animal Sanctuary

A haven for retired farm animals and wayward goats

Winter, 2021

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago I had just seen this farm for the first time. I knew right away it was The Place, and showed up at the realtor's office saying, before even sitting down, "you need to get me this farm."



And how did it even come to be? Sometimes there is just one small thing that changes the entire course of our lives. In my case it was a New Year's Eve visit over 30 years ago to a 150 acre farm in Virginia. My friend Pia was farm sitting (who even knew that was a "thing"?). At the time I lived with my one cat in a basement apartment in Washington, DC. I showed up to this strange, starlit, out of the way place in my white city car, wearing my city shoes and my black full

"Something that struck me most vividly on that first visit was the way the blue-eyed wooly goats would stand in a huge group and just look at me. All of them standing stock-still, just watching. It had never occurred to me, frankly, that goats would want to look at much of anything in particular, never mind me. Silly and unschooled in the ways of farm animals, I looked back right at them and I suspect that that is when they put the goat spell on me."

– The Look... of Love by Farmer Anne, March 2006

length wool coat, having no idea that this visit would change everything. I promptly got dirty and covered in hair. I petted my first cow, bottle fed Noelle the baby Angora goat, met my first livestock guardian dogs (an Anatolian Shepherd named Mama and many white, puffy, enormous Great Pyrenees), along with Heidi the German Shepherd who watched over the whole place. I marveled at the sweet smell of milk, the orange clay covering everything, the wonders of goat poop on the porch, and, looking out the kitchen window at animals peacefully grazing just yards away I asked, "you can do this? I mean, a person can live like this?" Evidently.

Some people are blessed with knowing what their goals and dreams are from a young age. Mine have changed many times (from concert pianist to linguist/international spy to OK, let's be real and learn computer programming). But so often I heard the refrain, "follow your heart", even as I continued to show up in heels at 8am every morning to sit under fluorescent lights at a computer screen for the requisite 8 hours. It took that many years to figure out what my heart was telling me. **We should never think it's too late to start something that is "right"**. And it's also never too soon to stop following a path that is not.

I moved here with Sage the dog, Rico the cat, Andy and Star the bunnies (this farm is named after Star), and Betty and George the ducks. That very year Mr. Newman Goat arrived on the scene and within three years the non-profit Star Gazing Farm was born. With it came the most amazing volunteers, people who helped finance the growing of this beautiful place, and animals in need who stole my heart. It became a place where people could catch their breath from the stir of modern life. On this 20th anniversary of Star Gazing Farm's inception, won't you please make a gift to help all the animals we save? **Your tax-deductible contribution of \$50, \$100, \$300, or even \$1000 goes right into the farm's operation.** We have very low overhead, so every donated dollar really counts here!

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

Long Lives Lived Here

My name is Madison. I am a Rambouillet sheep and I will be nineteen years old in February. As the animal with the longest tenure on this farm, I am honored to be writing this letter to you today. My story, you ask? Well, I was abandoned by my mother, and I came to this farm when I was only one week old. It is unusual for a sheep to live as long as I have, and most extraordinary that I had the good fortune to come to this sanctuary when I was little and could enjoy the peace and privilege of this quiet life. Many of my friends had hard experiences before they landed here. I'm a lucky guy!



*"You can't always get what you want
But if you try sometimes you find
You get what you need."*

— The Rolling Stones

My quest today is to ask you for help. When I was little, if I needed my bottle, I would stand on the table outside Farmer Anne's bedroom window and *baaaa* and *maaaa* extremely loudly until she came out with my milk. **It is good to ask for what you want—and you might get just what you need!**

And my farm wants—and needs—your financial support. Without it, I wouldn't even be here. Think about that! You can donate in so many ways: on the Internet through our web site (stargazingfarm.org/donate), through Venmo (@Star-GazingFarm), by writing a check, by coming to our visiting days, by sending us some of the supplies we need. And I really hope you will share our stories with other animal lovers. People need to know that such beautiful and safe lives are possible for us farm animals.

Over these 19 years, I've seen many friends come and go. Some have lived shorter lives than me and some have lived long, long lives like my friend Dee Dee Donkey, who passed away at age 47. Me — I only have a touch of arthritis and my teeth aren't so good anymore. I'm slower than I once was, but I can still keep up with my much younger best friends Bubba and Bart! And I still look like a buffalo and give great full body hugs. Mr. "Maaaz", that's me.

But friends, while I've been blessed with good health, did you know that farm animals can get the same diseases that humans do? Cancer, heart and liver disease, arthritis, cataracts and even dementia. Did you know that there are hospitals who treat these things, and that the people at this farm will actually drive us to such places for treatment? **That's miraculous!** So much of the world considers us "livestock" and should we become ill or infirm, or simply no longer "productive", we are loaded onto trailers and left at auction houses to face a dismal demise. Not here. Recently we had three animals in the hospital: our dear Ernie the goat, who ultimately passed away due to liver disease complications, little Davey the goat, who had two surgeries due to his malformed jaw, and Jethro, who sustained an eye injury and required laser surgery. All of them had caring doctors and nurses, and of course their loving humans at this farm. Because of your help, we did not have to hesitate when presented with the costs of their treatment. Won't you please donate to us this year? **Please support our mission to give great lives to animals like me. Be our heroes! You can make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$500! Your dollars go directly to help us, the animals.**

We are only a fortunate few on this farm. So much sadness exists amongst my brothers and sisters. Millions of sheep died this year in the U.S. so people could do things with them (eat them, take their skins, make them into shoes—it's so sad). Billions of my cousins worldwide have nothing like the life that I have had. Please, let this farm be an example of kindness, fair and humane treatment of farm animals. It's amazing what you can help us do. And we need you. Please donate to Star Gazing Farm—my home. Thank you!

You can give by check (a handy form is included on the last page of this letter) or online on our web site at stargazingfarm.org/donate. Every dollar helps us!



The New Kids on the Block

Stephanie



Duke



Davey



It's always such a happy event to bring new friends to the farm. We give careful consideration to every animal we bring here because we know we sadly cannot take them all. Here are just a few stories of our new guys and gals: **Davey** was born with a 'parrot mouth' - a severe overbite. Unfortunately his birth defect also included a lower jaw much too small for his mouth which ultimately led to his hospitalization and two surgeries. Now back home and recovering well, he is on a "hay soup" diet. **Weeble, Wobble, and Waddle** were dumped along with 21 other ducks at a water processing plant in Ohio. Some amazing people arranged to save all of the ducks and place them in good homes. These three were closely bonded and while it's often hard to place drakes, we said we are quite happy to take in "bachelor flocks!" Our stray rooster **Duke** is just about the cutest guy ever, a Frizzle Cochin bantam. Dumped in the woods near Takoma Park, he was saved by kind citizens just in the nick of time (it was cold and he was very, very hungry). Our newest arrival, the personable **Clark Gable** seems to be vying for the 'most handsome chicken' award. He was left at the Howard County Animal Shelter and they said no one was interested in him. How sad is that? Stephanie, a sweet young Anatolian Shepherd, came to us from an alpaca farm where she was "one dog too many" and really needed a job. She's still working on the concept of "job" but is very good at hugging.

Your donations ensure that we are able to continue to welcome 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 housing and food, the best medical care, and give them just the best possible life. People who visit our farm are transfixed by the way everyone here "just gets along!"

Weeble, Wobble & Waddle



Clark Gable



Please be a part of our community and help us do our good work.

In Loving Memory

Sam



Cracky

Champagne



May May

Ernie



Mother Goose

Jenny



Dee Dee

Blueberry



Gruff



Mr. A

I so wish that death would just wait a while. Whether it's Sam, who went on shearing missions with me, slept next to me in the winter, and warmed the heart of anyone who met him; or Dee Dee Donkey, who lived here for 20 years, sat in people's laps, snuggled with children, and kicked anyone who tried to steal her food; or Champagne, a duck saved off of the highway who lived here only a few months but became mysteriously paralyzed. Losing each and every one of them hurts. The animals mourn them and the people mourn them. Jean-Claude the llama sits vigil over the bodies, and often places himself right on top of a new grave.

Hail the furry and feathered travelers!

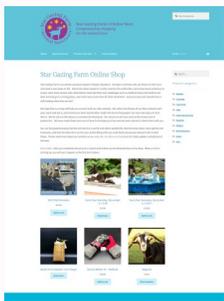


New Web Sites!

We have two fabulous new small sites for you to enjoy!

Our online shop features mittens, socks, hats, and yarn made compassionately from our own animals, as well as other cool crafts! A wonderful place to do some holiday shopping for your favorite animal lover!

Shop.stargazingfarm.org



Every year in December, we open up the floor to the animals; they can write to Santa Claus to tell them about their year and ask for presents. Their voices are genuine, heartwarming, and sometimes quite funny.

Santa.stargazingfarm.org



DONATE

www.stargazingfarm.org/donate

Venmo: @Star-GazingFarm

SPONSOR

www.stargazingfarm.org/

2022 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 \$2.50 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 online shop (shop.stargazingfarm.org) to order online.



Wont you help the animals at Star Gazing Farm?

DONATION FORM

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

Calendar order (\$15 each) Quantity _____
 Pick up at Farm Ship to me (\$2.50 S&H)

Additional notes, instructions, or designations

DESIGNATIONS

For animal sponsorship
 _____(name of animal)
 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!

Star Gazing Farm

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Star Gazing Farm is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.