



Star Gazing Farm Animal Sanctuary

A haven for retired farm animals and wayward goats

Winter, 2022

Dear Friends,

Recently I met someone who commented, “I don’t really like sheep; they are smelly.” “Oh no,” I exclaimed, “they have a gorgeous smell!” And they do—it is gorgeous and earthy. But then, everything about sheep is gorgeous and earthy. **Look at those faces—totally open!** They do not hide the hope and love and security they feel. Sheep should get a lot more respect than they do. They are absolutely sweet, absolutely kind, absolutely trusting (and are only occasionally sneaky). In this letter we’re going to give full credit to the impossible happiness sheep bring to our lives.

Looking back ... Many years ago when I was searching for a farm, it was my ill-advised dream to have goats. Happily, the universe provided me, initially at least, with sheep. When the goats started arriv-



“Wait, wait! Listen to me! ... We don’t have to be just sheep.”
— Gary Larson

ing, I was shocked at the chaos and destruction they wrought. At some point it dawned on me that **sometimes your dreams are not quite what you think they might be!** While goats may provide a good belly laugh (and elicit some well-chosen expletives), it’s always the sheep who bring on a quiet and utterly peaceful smile of contentment. How strange and wonderful are the winding paths our lives can take.

Smart cookies ... Many an unsuspecting human has underestimated the intelligence of sheep (I myself have been outmaneuvered by them on too many occasions to deny it)! This is why, on the second page in this letter, our very articulate sheep Ray Ray has written you a letter asking you to help our little farm. He had to dictate it, since he doesn’t type

“We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.”
— Joseph Campbell



very well, being blind and having only two toes on each foot. His message is clear (one thing about sheep: they don’t beat around the bush): because of your donations, all the residents on this farm are able to have happy, healthy lives, with nutritious food, excellent veterinary care, and volunteers who keep their spaces clean and welcoming. **Won’t you please make a gift to help all the animals we save? Your tax-deductible contribution of \$50, \$100, \$500, or even \$1000 goes right into the farm’s operation.** Will you be a rainbow in our cloud? You can do so much good.

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” — Maya Angelou

Yours for the animals,
Anne Schroeder (AKA Farmer Anne)

You've Got a Friend

Oops, excuse me for putting my nose right up to you. I can't see, you know, and so I use my ears and nose to figure out the world. My name is Ray Ray and I am a four year old Katahdin sheep. I was born without fully formed eyes at a farm where they trained herding dogs. I couldn't ever tell where the dogs wanted me to go, so I'd run in circles. Some of the dogs laughed at me because I bumped into things. They would yell, "no-see-um, you're a no-see-um." I bleated with confusion and humiliation. (I'll bet you didn't know herding dogs can sometimes be bullies.) Sometimes I didn't even want to go out into the fields to graze.



And then everything changed: I came here.

"Life has so many surprises that the only real surprise in life is when nothing surprising happens."
— Lemony Snicket

Can you imagine a place where *everyone* is different? Can you imagine suddenly feeling useful and important, having friends, and being loved? The most amazing things can happen in life. Even to a blind sheep.

I want to tell you a story even though I feel, dare I say, "sheepish" about it. Recently I bit onto something I shouldn't have; I pulled away too fast, and injured my mouth badly. It hurt and I was bleeding. I didn't know what to do but Milo my dog friend (who is always looking after me), ran right up to a volunteer and told her, "hey, hey, look there, look at Ray." Milo doesn't usually talk to humans, but he's the best dog in the world so he made an exception. Everyone sprang into action and suddenly I was being whooooooshed along on the highway and to a sheep hospital. **I'll be you didn't know there is a hospital for sheep!** Don't worry, I'm OK now. The nice doctors fixed me right up! Imagine: without money in the bank, I could not have been whooooooshed to the hospital and treated immediately. Without the whole farm working like it does—with Milo on the job, volunteers who know how to listen to him, medical funds available, and a truck that is a bit smelly (umm, that might be partly my fault) dedicated to ferrying us to the hospital, I would have been in really bad shape.



Will you help my farm today by making a donation? Because without you, I couldn't have been helped. Without you, I would not have so many wonderful friends. Without you, I wouldn't even be here. **My farm needs your continued financial support.** 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, or by sending us some of the supplies we need (I like ginger snaps). Please, help us maintain this farm as an example of kindness and 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 make a difference and give great lives to animals like me, who was born in the dark but now feels the light all around me. You can make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$500! Your dollars go directly to help us, the animals. There is a handy form on the last page of this letter you can use, check out our cool Venmo QR code (are we modern, or what?!), or go to our web site at stargazingfarm.org/donate. **Every dollar helps us!**

@Star-GazingFarm



venmo

Thank you. ♥
 Ray Ray

The New Kids on the Block

Pepper



Sarah May



Virgil



Hopkins



Sheila Louise



Vern



Ernie (and Ruth)



Saul, Isaac & Miriam



Al



Marty



We have had a bumper crop of aged animals this year! Our senior citizens areas are now bustling with activity and I have to say, these elders are just wonderful. Aside from a

few bossy ones, they are grateful for their soft landing pad here at this farm. And here they will stay throughout their old age. We are awaiting a wheelchair for Sarah May who has bad arthritis but a sassy attitude—she can't wait to go wheeling around the farm with Herbie. Our elderly Angora goats, so shy and tentative at first, are now happily headbutting the younger goats and now wander all over the farm, exploring.

One way you can help us and them is by sponsoring an animal. For a small fee every year, you can contribute to their care, and feel a greater connection to them. You can also make a blanket donation for their care. **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!"

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

In Loving Memory

Senna



Yuki

Fatty



Davey

Rotkappchen



Zoe

Ethel & Clark Gable



Over the last two decades, many beautiful beings have come to this farm, and then been called on to their higher purpose. We humans know and can articulate the sadness—but the animals feel loss, too. They mourn their mates and buddies, sometimes crying, sometimes by not wanting to eat, often by isolating themselves. Animal grief is real.



When our sweet Yuki recently passed away of an inoperable tumor, her best friend Milo the dog wandered the farm whim-

pering. They have powerful emotions, but they also appear to grasp the fact of death more astutely than we can. If we are able, we let the animals go to the body of their friend to say their goodbyes. Death is natural, and allowing them to witness the parting soul enables them to come to an acceptance and peace at the new order.

We provide the best veterinary, and, ultimately hospice care possible, easing the discomfort and allowing our friends to pass with dignity. This, too, is our duty.

You can help our animals even *in extremis* by making a donation to our sanctuary today.

Hail the furry and feathered travelers!



Tis the Season!

2023 Wall Calendar!

Shopping for Gifts?

We have an online shop where you can buy gifts for your friends and family: woolen items made from the beautiful fiber of our animals, Star Gazing Farm T-shirts and caps, custom carved animal ornaments, knick-knacks, and animal sponsorship gifts!

[Shop.stargazingfarm.org](http://shop.stargazingfarm.org)



Holiday Festival

Is it...could it be...? Yes! Santa Claus is coming to town! Saturday, December 10 join us at the farm from noon-4. (check our online shop for details). The animals aren't waiting, though—they start their "Letters to Santa" December 1!

Santa.stargazingfarm.org and on Facebook



DONATE
www.stargazingfarm.org/donate
 Venmo: @Star-GazingFarm

SPONSOR
www.stargazingfarm.org/sponsor

SHOP
shop.stargazingfarm.org

SANTA LETTERS
santa.stargazingfarm.org

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)



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!?



Additional notes, instructions, or designations

Star Gazing Farm

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