

ANIMAL HAVEN OF ASHEVILLE DECEMBER 2020



BEFORE and AFTER Pepper and her babies on right after two months of care

It was one year ago, October 17th, that Animal Haven volunteers rescued eighteen animals - sixteen potbelly pigs and two goats, from inhumane living conditions on a so called "farm" in Waynesville, NC. All the animals were living in darkness, no light in their stalls, no bedding, no food, but plenty of manure. All the animals had varying degrees of parasites and their ribs and hips were protruding from a simple lack of groceries. The mother pig, "Pepper", was in the worst condition of the group but still trying her best to nourish and protect her five young piglets. Since their rescue, all the animals have been spayed or neutered, treated for their ailments and are now happy, healthy, and full of themselves living the good life at the Animal Haven sanctuary.

On November 30, 2020, James Lunsford, the owner of the rescued animals, is scheduled to go to trial to face animal cruelty charges filed against him a year ago. He also faces additional charges of cruelty to animals for the cruel treatment of several horses.

We are not seeking jail time or restitution. Our goal is for the presiding judge to not allow James Lunsford to own or live with any animals, thus preventing him from neglecting any animals in the future.

Your support and donations enabled us to take in and care for these eighteen animals that so desperately needed it. Our volunteers helped us transport them to their veterinarian appointments for spay and neuter surgeries as well as helping with the extra farm chores that come with eighteen new faces to care for.

We created Animal Haven twenty years ago this past May and we had planned a big celebration at the sanctuary to celebrate and thank everyone who has helped us fulfill our mission of rescuing animals. Because of Covid, our celebration will have to wait but of course our work continues even in a pandemic because the animals have no voice. Your support speaks loudly for them. It is often a case of life or death and your support means life for them, a new life free from neglect and fear. Thank you and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2021.

Barb and Trina

Animal Haven of Asheville is a Section 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Come visit the animals and our thrift shop.

LABOR OF LOVE EVEN THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Cynthia with some of her creations

Animal Haven volunteer, Cynthia Williams, puts her graphic and artistic talents to work during covid. With different shape and size picture frames that were donated to our thrift shop, Cynthia refurbished them. She then downloaded and printed past and present photos of our rescued animals and turned the donated frames into beautiful collages of the animals. So far she has completed six: one of our cows, one of our goats, one of our cats, one of our chickens, one of our ducks, and one of our bunnies. They are not only works of art they are “keepsakes” of the animals we have loved and cared for at Animal Haven for the past twenty years! Cynthia has been volunteering at Animal Haven for fifteen years.

In addition to the collages, she prints our notecards, signs, labels, postcards, and more. In fact she prints anything we ask of her and it's usually on short notice! Besides that, she volunteers every Wednesday afternoon at our thrift store from 1 – 5 pm. Please stop in and thank her for being there for us and the animals even during a pandemic. Thank you, Cynthia, you're a trooper!!

Here's a great Stocking Stuffer!

The [Carolina Veg Discount Card](#)

Purchase a card for \$10 and get a 10% discount at various local restaurants, service providers, and retailers. All proceeds from card sales go to animal sanctuaries, farm sanctuaries, animal rescues, and other charities that promote cruelty-free living. This card offers discounts on plant-based food and other cruelty free products.

Participating businesses in Asheville and Hendersonville Include: Inconceivable Café, Karma Café, Plant Restaurant, and Sunflower Diner. Participating businesses in the Greenville, SC area include: Amber Island Tattoo, Cook's Station, Ella's Kitchen, Farm Fresh Fast, Green Fetish, Green Lite Organic, Happy and Hale, Healing Springs Wellness Center, Thai Vegan Restaurant, and The Eatery.

For more information and a complete list of participating businesses go to:

www.greenvillevegan.com/carolina-veg-discount-card

Purchase at Animal Haven Thrift Store All card sales benefit Animal Haven

Volunteers Jim Owenby, and friends Blaze, Rob, Gary, and James have spent several of their weekends working on the farm. They built a beautiful two stall addition on the side of Elsa's cow barn out of Hemlock barn wood. They installed sliding doors on each end of it, insulated the entire structure, and then replaced the leaking tin roof on Elsa and Lucy's barn!

When they finished that major project(s) they continued to donate their time to install fencing and gates where needed.

Thanks to Jim, Rob, Blaze, Gary, and James our larger farm animal rescues will be more comfortable this winter. With the new addition and fencing, we can now separate Lucy, our Black Angus cow, when she is in "heat" and goes on a rant from Kevin, Penelope, Gulliver (sheep), and newcomer tiny Pygmy goat Luis. That in itself is a beautiful thing!



Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work!



Volunteer, neighbor, and friend Joe Gurley and his assistants Daniel and Luis have been busy at work doing much needed repairs to our house at the sanctuary. Old age, water damage, and a sagging roof were taking a toll on our ninety year old house.

Not anymore thanks to their expertise! We will also be more comfortable this winter – a whole lot warmer, safer, and in a house that now feels more like a home! Muchas Gracias y'all!

That's Joe working away at left!

Thrift Shop Sales Help Keep Us Open

With the cancellation of several of our major fundraisers this year due to Covid, we have had to rely even more on our thrift store sales to help keep the bills paid. Clean, reusable items donated to our shop are needed now more than ever to help offset the deficit we are feeling from the pandemic. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm. Face masks are required inside the shop and optional over at the sanctuary. All the neat stuff you donate is greatly appreciated and of course its value is tax deductible.





Regular visitors to the sanctuary are often asking if the dogs can come outside so they can play with them. Many have their favorite whether it is Bruce, Prince, Gizmo, Buffy, or newcomer, eleven year old Marvin.

Visitors are surprised when we tell them the majority of them were shelter dogs from our local Humane Society. If you are ready to add a furry friend to your family, do your research and find a breed that fits your lifestyle before you start looking for your new best friend.

Anyone looking for a certain breed of dog should check out the shelter first. Your Pug, Shepherd, Boston Terrier, Corgi, or Labradoodle etc. may be homeless and waiting for you!

In the meantime if you need a “dog fix”, our senior rescues love the attention you lavish on them. We are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm for dog “pats”.

A Polka Dotted Pig in Heat

I was amazed way back when I learned that female potbelly pigs can get pregnant at three months of age! The males are sexually active at nine weeks! No wonder the animal shelters are full of potbelly pigs and that we receive calls weekly from owners wanting to surrender their pig. Or from people who have found a “stray” pig. And of course we know that “stray” pigs were once owned and since abandoned.

So recently one morning I walked up the hill to “Scarlett’s” enclosure to let her out for the day and feed her breakfast. I unlocked the door to her little barn and she jumped out as usual. I placed



LUIS THE BOMBSHELL

Luis is a small blue eyed Bombshell. He is a recent rescue from the great state of the Tennessee Titans. Luis was slated for the dinner table when he was rescued by a well-meaning family who wanted to save him from being slaughtered.

The first phone call we received concerning Luis was from the family who saved his life. A lot of background noise was heard with people yelling, while the caller exclaimed that they were being attacked by this baby goat. I replied that I have never heard of a baby goat ever attacking anyone and that he must be a “kid” and he’s just playing. His family didn’t agree and said he just bit her husband on the finger and he was mad! They did not want to keep Luis but wanted him to go somewhere where he would be safe and not Sunday dinner. After several more phone calls back and forth to us and no options for Luis in Tennessee, it was decided Luis needed to come to our sanctuary for safe keeping.

An animal advocate from Asheville volunteered to drive half-way to Tennessee to pick Luis up and transport him to Animal Haven. It was evident as soon as Shaun, the volunteer who picked him up, opened his hatchback that Luis smelled like a Billy Goat, an odor that lingers well past the time you would wish it would! We carried Luis from the car to his new “digs”.



Saturday morning volunteer Kasey with “Luis”

He was snorting and carrying on the whole way across our foot bridge. This pint size pygmy goat was all about being a “stud” and he didn’t care if you weren’t a goat! Luckily for us, “Scarlett”, our polka dotted potbelly pig who was our latest pig rescue, had an upcoming appointment to be spayed and our veterinarian was agreeable to our bringing in Luis as well.

In the meantime, Luis, who is chocolate brown with Brad Pitt blue eyes, attracts visitors at the sanctuary right to him and then the show begins: snorting, spitting, hackles up, tongue lolling out of his mouth. This surprises the visitors once they realize what he’s up to and they exclaim that Luis “really likes us!” He’ll be available for adoption once he has healed from his surgery.

Polka Dotted Pig-Continued from page four...

her bowl of food on the ground, she walked over to it, gave it a sniff, turned her head and came trotting over to me and attempted to bite my leg. NO interest in eating her breakfast. She was all about biting the back of my leg all the way down the hill to the cat building! I locked myself in to get away from her.

In the meantime, Trina and volunteer, Valerie are finishing up “Elsa’s” barn chores and they are driving “CC”, our club car out through the sheep gate when Scarlett appears. She goes on the attack trying to bite their legs and I hear them shouting at Scarlett while I am still safely in the cat building! Next I see Trina and Valerie running around the hill with the “Rattle Paddles” trying to corral Scarlett back into her enclosure. They finally succeed. I emerge from hiding to meet Valerie walking down the hill. She’s laughing and exclaims: “These Rattle Paddles should be called Battle Paddles!”

Poor Scarlett had to stay in “time out” the entire time the sanctuary was open that day in order to protect the visiting public. She was pitching quite a fit about it with soprano squeals of protest especially when she thought she was missing out on treats from the visitors milling around. I posted a notice on her gate: *Please Do Not Open My Gate or Enter My Enclosure Today. Maybe I’ll Be In A Better Mood Tomorrow. Love, Scarlett* Scarlett has now been spayed and has not been in time out since.

Spaghetti for Three-Species That Is

I started cooking for the animals starting last October when we took in 18 malnourished animals that needed extra groceries and something to help keep them warm. Nothing fancy, spaghetti and oatmeal with maple syrup mainly.

Our friend, Lori bought a Palm Pot for me after she saw how many pots and pans I needed to cook the meals. It's amazing-easy to clean and the spaghetti and oatmeal cook in half the time.

The pigs smack their lips when eating grain but they slurp when eating their oatmeal and spaghetti. The chickens like spaghetti too but not the oatmeal so much. "Basil" our duck used to love "spaghetti picnics" with "his" chickens.

I never really thought goats would be interested in the spaghetti, except for maybe Juno who will eat pretty much anything especially if he shouldn't! So I was surprised when "Dusty" (the goat with a beautiful colored coat like that of a Golden Retriever), grabbed a mouthful of spaghetti out of the bowl intended for the chickens! When I reached down to pick it up, "Dusty" lowered his head into the bowl of noodles and with his lips he sucked up one long spaghetti noodle, just like he knew exactly how to eat it. Now I know spaghetti is not a good food for goats to be trying to digest so if anyone runs across Timothy Hay spaghetti noodles, I'd be happy to cook them their own Palm Pot full.



Basil and Opal enjoying their spaghetti. Dusty waits.



Volunteer Liz Burns has her hands full. She is the sole caregiver for her ailing father and the rescuer of two very large pigs that she is trying to accommodate on her property. Liz also recently rescued a senior dog that spent fourteen years existing on a chain. He now has free reign of Liz's home which he shares with other rescue dogs and cats. How she found time to paint this gorgeous oil painting of our beloved Ram, Gulliver, is amazing!

Liz had originally painted Gulliver's portrait to be part of the silent auction at our Fall Fundraiser. Due to the pandemic, there was no fundraiser or silent auction. Instead we are offering this "masterpiece" for sale at this time for \$750.00. If you have met our sweet Gulliver, it's a must have or if you feel you'd love to add this to your art collection contact us. Until then we are delighted to let it "hang" around to enjoy! Thank you Liz.

Please visit lizburns.com to see more of her amazing works of art.

Funny Things This Week

This past Sunday afternoon I had the opportunity to sit down outside and do nothing but sit for thirty minutes. I was immediately joined by “Juno” the goat who was born here at the sanctuary six years ago. His mother “Ariel” was rescued by animal control in Yancey County after she was discovered in poor condition locked in a stall with a donkey. “Ariel” surprised us one morning with the arrival of “Juno”. Trina saw him first from a distance and at first glance thought he was a cat, snow white with beautiful black markings. “Ariel” was an excellent mother and “Juno” flourished. Sadly, a year after “Juno” was born, “Ariel” was diagnosed with cancer and we lost her. “Juno” acts more like a “goat dog”! He follows me everywhere on the farm and is quite demanding of my attention.

So “Juno” and I are hanging out together when “Scarlett”, the newest potbelly pig comes over to us, flops on her side and goes to sleep. “Mark”, another goat that has a head that looks more like a Buffalo than a goat, wanders up. Soon, goats “Duff” and “Dusty” join our little group. After some petting and words of encouragement from me, all the goats wander off except “Duff”. “Scarlett”, the pig, is still sound asleep on her side when “Duff” starts sniffing her back all the way down to the end of her tail. He then grabs the tip of “Scarlett’s” tail in his mouth and pulls it straight up in the air, pulling her rear end up with it! “Scarlett” squeals, “Duff” lets go and leaves to join the other goats. I asked “Scarlett” if she was ok and she had already flopped back down and gone back to sleep.

It was all pretty funny and reminded me of the boys in school who would pull on ponytails from behind!/?

ACORNUCOPIA

Solves our Nut Problem



You’ve heard the song by B.J. Thomas, “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head”. Well, this fall especially it’s been look out for the walnuts falling on your head at the farm.

Walking on them and dodging them from above has been challenging with the numerous Walnut trees dotting our landscape. Much to our relief and surprise, volunteers from Acornucopia were willing to collect and harvest our walnuts that even our squirrels have had their fill of.

Acornucopia has walnut processing equipment at the Organic Growers School in Candler. Volunteers Beverly, Levi, and Chloe spent a beautiful afternoon at the farm recently using their harvest rake. This rake is an interesting tool that rolls the walnuts into its wire basket for easy pickup and emptying.

Ground up walnut shells are used to clean aircraft engines. They are just abrasive enough to clean but not damage them. The outer parts of the walnuts are ground up to make dyes. What a great way “to recycle our nuts”!

Winter Wish List



Bales of dry straw

Timothy Hay Pellets

Potbelly Pig Food – Mazuri Active or
Nature's Best Organic

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds

Rolled Oats

Chicken Scratch

Kale, Apples

Animal Crackers

Corn Tortilla Chips

Laundry Detergent

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