

# ANIMAL HAVEN OF ASHEVILLE    DECEMBER 2021

We'd love to start out with a photo of a cute puppy, but due to the circumstances surrounding this puppy, we cannot show her face. She is a cutie. She is only seven weeks old and already needing our help! A neighbor witnessed (in her words) "a very scary looking man" whom she had never seen before repeatedly grab this three pound puppy by the scruff of her neck and throw her to the ground. After being abused repeatedly, the puppy ran and hid. The very scary man left in his vehicle. The neighbor who was a witness to this abuse was afraid to go outside and approach the man. She did know where the scared and now limping puppy went to hide. With the scary man gone and with the help of her daughter, they were able to rescue the pup.

The residence where this puppy lived is a scary place, with drug activity and neighbor disputes on going. The future for this puppy if left in that environment was dismal.

Thank goodness for those of you out there still willing to reach out and help these innocent animals. "Maybelline" is on her journey to another state, kind of like the witness protection program. She is safe!

Thank you for supporting our cause. Best wishes for 2022.

—Barbara and Trina

## "Bobbin Robin"

This past July our wild bird population at the farm was exploding. Doves, cardinals, blue jays, and crows to name a few were chatting away, always hungry, and very busy raising their young in the tree tops.

I've always been aware of the antics of birds especially the crows. It was the first time a robin started attracting my attention. She was making her presence known to me for a good week. Perching nearby while I did my farm chores, flying close to me, and landing a few feet from me whenever I was outside especially in the front yard, was becoming a daily occurrence. This was the first time I have had such a close encounter with a robin.



One particular day our neighbor Autumn came over to mow the front yard. While we were getting the mower through the front gate my "robin" started screeching and flying fast from tree branch to tree branch above us. A few feet from the front gate sitting on the ground was a baby bird! It was my "Bobbin Robin's" baby, unable to fly back to mom. "Bobbin Robin" was frantic that her baby had fallen to the ground and it was obvious that "Baby Bobbin" would have to be rescued.

"Baby Bobbin" took up residence in a cardboard box in the new shower. All glassed in, it was a safe haven from the dogs and the cats. After several days of morning, noon, and evening feedings "Baby Bobbin" took flight in the bathroom. It was time to try and reunite "Baby" and "Bobbin"

I perched "Baby Bobbin" on the back of an Adirondack chair in the front yard. It was near to where I found her on the ground. Within minutes "Bobbin Robin" appeared. She talked to her baby, flew to the ground near her, going up and down until "Baby Bobbin" flew over the fence with mom following.

The last time I saw "Bobbin Robin" and "Baby Bobbin" was in the spring in the front yard side by side.

Who knows who may fly or fall into our lives and for how long? Good luck "Bobbin Robin" and "Baby Bobbin".



**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.**

## THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

It warms our hearts when we witness young people demonstrate their love for animals. On July 17, 2021 Lisle (7) and his younger sister Zella (4) set up a lemonade stand at the sanctuary. They spent their Saturday afternoon selling glasses of their homemade lemonade to visitors at the farm sanctuary. They were all business and smiles as they sold one glass after another. Lisle and Zella raised \$288.00 for the animals and they had fun doing it!

Of course, our animals were excited, as they also received love and pats from these *amazing young animal advocates*. A portion of the money raised was used to resupply the treats for the animals.

Thank you Lisle and Zella. You restored our faith that the upcoming generation will be looking out for the animals that need help but cannot speak up for themselves. And a thank you to their Mom for teaching her children to respect animals.



Zella, Lisle, and friend, Leo, selling lemonade to help the animals

## HELP FROM AFAR



The United Methodist Church youth group from Decatur, Alabama, consisting of high school age students, traveled by bus with their two adult chaperones to Animal Haven. Every year the youth group travels to Asheville in order to provide two days of community service. The group stays at our local YMCA while in town. This year they chose our sanctuary for their project. This energetic group cleaned our creek of debris, cut vines, and helped remove old fencing on the property. The students were a great help in beautifying the sanctuary for our animals and visitors to enjoy! Thanks y'all – Hope to see you next year!

Our goals this winter include securing a new small barn for Lola, our eldest potbelly pig (19yrs) and her two bunk mates, Ash and Wiley. The other pigs, Split Rail, Jan, Wendy, and Caroline, that co-habitate with Lola, Ash, and Wiley have made it very clear that they will not share their building!

Another goal is to install heat in our thrift shop. Our thrift shop volunteers have to dress like polar bears to stay warm in the shop during the winter. We also need to keep any animals we may have to house in the shop comfortable. If you can help send some warmth this way for the pigs and the volunteers, we would love to hear from you!

## Wish List

Timothy Hay Pellets

Chicken Scratch

Rolled Oats

Apples

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds

Kale

Wheelbarrows

Brooms

Forever Stamps

Computer paper



### A Family of Six

This past September a young mother cat and her five five week old kittens sought refuge at our sanctuary. They were living outside of an apartment complex in Lenoir, NC. A kind woman fed this young mother cat and did her best to keep this young family safe. Coyotes were a threat to the entire litter and mom, as well as neighbors who were unhappy with their presence on their terraces.

Mom kitty is petite, white with gray patches and looks like a kitten herself. All five of her babies are black and white. This cat family settled in our thrift shop at the sanctuary. Mom was a very attentive mother to her five kittens. She nursed them, cleaned them, and protected them if they let out a mew.

The kittens, three boys and two girls, had a blast playing in our thrift shop. All five chased cat balls down the aisle ways between the clothes racks. They would swing on the clothes that were hanging up and pull the long scarves off the display rack. This family was thriving! Finding lifetime, loving homes for six cats can be daunting, especially when our local shelters are full to capacity with cats and kittens needing homes. To our delight, a wonderful couple

adopted mom cat, renamed “Josie”, and her shyest, smallest female kitten renamed “Molly”.

One brother kitten was adopted by a family of four who live in Old Fort. Sister kitten was next. She went home with her new family and new kitty friend here in Asheville. On Halloween it was truly a treat when the two remaining brothers were adopted together and now reside in Chapel Hill.

Thank you to Sissy, the kind woman who fed and protected this sweet family of six. She transported them to our facility and provided generously for them. Thank you to our supporters who continue to help enable us to rescue animals like this family of six.



### “Elsa” Update

Almost five years ago and I can still remember the phone call asking for help, followed by more phone calls to the farmer who owned the baby calf, getting directions, and driving to Cullowhee the next morning.

“Elsa” was four days old, a beautiful red/white Hereford who had the misfortune of being born with no eyeballs and because of this unwanted.

Now fast forward five years. “Elsa” has grown into a gorgeous cow, weighing 850 pounds, with a stunning red coat and the sweetest disposition. She is quite comfortable in her surroundings which she shares with “Lucy”, a two year old black Angus.

“Elsa’s favorite things are: music, visitors, minty muffins (treats), and a full body brush.

Visit our Facebook page, click on videos and watch “Elsa” listening to music for the first time. Then click on the video “Elsa” and “Lucy” meeting for the first time. One can’t help but smile!



Upper left is Elsa with her best friend Lucy. Lower left shows volunteer Jan Haynes and Elsa the day she arrived at the farm in 2017.



**Bronwyn and Bailey** are Irish Wolfhound puppies. They are sisters, just now turning a year old. Bailey is tall, long, and lean. She is the quieter of the two. Bailey thinks about what you are asking of her before she responds. Bronwyn is smaller and a little more compact than Bailey and has more of a shaggy coat. Bronwyn is wide open! She responds to everything without thinking first. She will bowl you over with her enthusiasm.

Wolfhounds do everything in a big way, especially chewing! You have to be careful of the type of chew toys you give them. They can shred even the most “durable” dog toys on the market.

Bailey and Bronwyn sleep in our old utility room. It was recently remodeled to accommodate dogs. Their new room has a tile floor and walls with tile halfway up. The exterior door to the outside deck is metal. The interior door leading from their room into the kitchen is metal. The pups have air conditioning. We don't. And they each have an elevated bed to lounge on. We added a stainless steel sink which sits between the metal washer and dryer. Plus we added a half bath. Everything was tiled or metal, nothing a big puppy should be interested in chewing. Everything that is except the bathroom door. It is or was a hollow core wooden door. Big mistake! When Bailey and Bronwyn finished with it, it had a hole chewed through it the size of their heads! Apparently when they tired of the door they started chewing the wooden trim that frames the door.

I thought I had secured everything inside and outside the house which they could chew up. Bailey surprised me tonight when I found her in our backyard chewing on a two foot long, large white PVC pipe, the cap and elbow still attached!

I hate to think what Joe, our neighbor, contractor, and plumber is going to call the puppies when I show him what they have done to his newly installed pipe. Joe refers to our rescued goats as “terrorists” because of the damage they have attempted to inflict on his equipment and him!

### “TURNER” IS TURNING HEADS



Turner is a young adult Heritage turkey residing at the sanctuary. He was raised and housed with chickens and ducks at his previous home. Turner was originally named Tina Turner because of his gorgeous legs as a “chick”. When he reached adolescence it was discovered that he was a “he” and not a “she”. Thus “Tina” was dropped to just be “Turner”.

Turner spent his first couple of weeks at the sanctuary “strutting” himself around within the chicken habitat. He was a gentleman with the hens and fit in quite well with them.

We decided Turner would benefit from having free range of the sanctuary when he was so inclined so we let him loose. Turner immediately had his sights on “Lizzie” and “Clyde”, our 2 rescued African Runner geese. Turner was like a third wheel. He tagged behind Lizzie and Clyde wherever they went. When Lizzie and Clyde took a dip in the pond, Turner would stand in the pond up to his ankles and wait for them to come out. After several days of being followed, Lizzie had had enough of Turner! She latched on

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“Laura” is Addicted to Vitamin C

Laura is a fat fuzzy Guinea Pig who resides in our home with us. She is white and orange and has several cow licks that make her fur grow out in all directions, (similar to my hair!). Laura, along with her brother Skip, were abandoned and left behind in a dirty cage when their “caregiver” checked out of their motel room. Luckily for Laura and Skip, the motel’s clerk is an animal advocate and called Animal Haven for help placing them. The motel where they were abandoned was located in a different county than ours. According to the motel clerk, she could not find any resources in her area willing to help these two cute pigs.

We really did not have a Guinea Pig habitat at the sanctuary when the motel clerk called us. It was decided that Laura and Skip

should come to the sanctuary and we would make accommodations for them.

A trip to the veterinarian for health checks revealed Skip and Laura had parasites and they were both underweight. They were treated for the parasites and returned to the sanctuary with dietary supplements including vitamin C wafers.

A good diet, clean habitat and soon Skip and Laura were healthy and ready to be adopted into their forever homes. Skip was adopted first by a couple who dote on him. Skip has his own room where he is free range and has every toy and treat a Guinea Pig dreams of having. I often see pictures of how well Skip is doing in his loving home. He kind of looks like a Beagle now. He is tri-color, has grown quite large, and he has learned tricks.

Laura was adopted by a mother and her son who have a Guinea Pig named Rosie. Rosie was introduced to Laura at the sanctuary and they did well together. Laura went home with Rosie, mom, and son. A week later the mom called to say Laura was being a bully to Rosie. It was decided that it was in Rosie’s best interest that Laura be returned to the sanctuary.

Well, we fell in love with Laura. She is very similar in many ways to the 19 potbelly pigs who call our sanctuary home. She squeaks with delight whenever she hears a plastic bag being opened. Laura knows that her kale, cantaloupe, and timothy hay all come from inside those noisy bags! She receives treats at different times of the day. Like all pigs, big or small, she is quite intelligent and very food motivated. We soon noticed that Laura was especially fond of her vitamin C wafer. She will turn her nose up at her kale, melon, and hay until she gets that vitamin C wafer! She will snatch it out of your hand, bring it into her hay hut house and chomp away. Only then will she check out her other treats. If you don’t produce the wafer and try to offer something in its place, she will give you a “Laura Look” and squeal in protest until she gets that wafer!

Vitamin C is a necessary supplement for Guinea Pigs. It is relatively cheap to buy so we can stock up on it to keep our little Laura happy!

“Turner” ————Continued from page four

to Turner and wouldn't let go! We had to pick Lizzie up to calm her down and rescue Turner from her grasp. Lizzie continued to latch on to Turner whenever he came close to Clyde or the sanctuary entrance gate.

One Saturday morning, several of our volunteers were preparing to clean the straw out of the goat building. Lizzie and Clyde of course showed up to supervise the goings on. Turner followed them and Lizzie again latched on to Turner and wouldn't let go. A volunteer picked her up to calm her down. When she was released, Turner ran over to Lizzie and bit her once in the chest. Lizzie's reaction was one of disbelief. Since her arrival at the sanctuary, Lizzie has intimidated the goats to the point they are afraid of her as are some of the visitors.

Lizzie has not latched onto Turner since. Now when visitors attempt to enter the sanctuary entrance gate and Lizzie is waiting on the other side to bite them, Turner will strut over and Lizzie will immediately leave her post.

Now Turner is waiting for the visitors at the gate. He struts back and forth, pivots, spreads his wings, and begins the whole process over and over for anyone willing to watch him! He's quite a sight to see!

## GOATS GALORE!

As this goes to print, we have 18 goats residing at the sanctuary. This is a larger number of goats (now a herd) than we are normally caring for so early in the winter. We have had continuous calls to the farm this year from people needing help rehoming goats for one reason or another.

Sadly, many farm animal “caregivers” are unwilling to spend the money for the hay and feed it takes to keep a large animal healthy and warm during our coldest months. After the brush has been cleared and the baby goats have been born, many goats are no longer considered to be “earning their keep” and off



### Goat Facts to Consider

Goats are browsing animals – their diet includes fresh or dried grasses, foliage of trees, shrubs, and various plants. Goats don't have upper teeth. Instead, they have a strong dental pad and their upper lip helps them sort through food. Similar to cows, goats have a four chamber stomach to help digest tough roughage.

Goats communicate with other goats by bleating.

Their life span is 15 years.

The domestic goat has cloven hooves, a long beard on its chin, a short and upturned tail, and horns that grow upward from the head.

Goat's pupils are rectangular which gives 320- to 340-degree vision without moving their head.

Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if left without goat companionship.

There are over 210 breeds of goats in the world.

.....and.....

Abraham Lincoln loved goats!



This past October, Animal Haven held its annual fundraiser at the sanctuary. Complete with live music, vegan food, silent auction, and over 80 animals to visit, it was a huge success. Thanks so much to all of you who came and supported us and heartfelt thanks to Liz Lesegne, Jesse, Sally, Marti, Dave, and the band the Candleers for the food and entertainment.

### For The Love of Dogs

Although Animal Haven is better known as a sanctuary for farm animals, we also care for dogs and cats at the farm. Over the years we have adopted dogs to new families through The New Leash on Life program at Craggy Correctional Center for Men and Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. We chose dogs from our local animal shelter for this program for a combined total of eighteen years.

Some of our rescue dogs found their way to Animal Haven through volunteers with the Meals on Wheels program. Their volunteers deliver nutritious meals to seniors in our community every day. They also look out for the pets they may have. They deliver donated pet food to them as well. Several times the Meals on Wheels volunteers have contacted us when one of these pets needs to be re-homed. Maddie, a young Boston Terrier, was our first Meals on Wheels rescue. Maddie was tied to a curtain rod inside an elderly client's apartment. The woman was in a wheelchair and on oxygen. Maddie, being a puppy, was all about chewing the plastic tubing lines to her oxygen tank. The woman loved Maddie but realized this young, energetic Terrier needed a new home. We had every intention of finding Maddie a new home, until this little black and white whipper snapper stole our hearts. She could maneuver a soccer ball around as well as Megan Rapinoe on the USWNT. Teenage boys would visit the sanctuary after school just to play soccer with Maddie. She became our little ambassador. Maddie loved visitors, young and old. She would play ball for hours with anyone willing, but also she would sit quietly beside any seniors that may have taken a seat on the front yard bench. Maddie made us laugh for nine years. Since her passing, we have rescued other Boston Terriers in her memory. There have been many. We currently have two Bostons living with us at the sanctuary. Bruce, whose owner died and Marvin, who was a Meals on Wheels rescue. Both were seven years old when they joined our family at the farm. Marvin is a bed bug, spending most of his day sleeping on the bed. Marvin was nicknamed "Spinner" for the 360s he performs when he wants a dog treat. Bruce is all about stealing our volunteers' gloves for a game of tug and war to get them back.

Boston Terriers are fun loving dogs, quite athletic and great with people. They will put a smile on your face with their antics. Being a brachiocephalic breed (smooshed in face) they snore quite loudly. They are also notorious for passing gas.

We love dogs of all shapes and sizes and have shared our home with many different kinds. But, Boston Terriers will forever be extra special to us.



Can you send two more pictures of Bostons? And then we could put another small article at very bottom

## Shop for the Animals

If you're looking for a bargain, check out our thrift shop. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5p.m. and is located at the sanctuary.

Cold Water Creek, Columbia, LL Bean, Northface, Talbots, are just a few of the name brand items donated to the shop and sold at bargain prices.

You can equip a kitchen with the dishes, mugs, silverware, place settings, pots and pans, and utensils in the housewares department.

Picture frames, electronics, books, CDs, notecards, gift bags, kids' toys, and of course those "special finds" are just a few of the items at the shop.

Come visit, have fun shopping for great stuff at low prices and help the rescued animals at our sanctuary all in one trip!



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