

The Highs and the Lows

Reflection upon this past year in regards to Animal Haven of Asheville and our surrounding communities brings a mixed bag of highs and lows. The lows outweigh the highs when one takes into account “Helene” and the horrific devastation she inflicted upon families, the environment, local businesses, and more. Some of the lows, unrelated to “Helene” at Animal Haven involve the loss of “Domino”, “Blue”, “Laura”, “Matt”, a few of our beloved animals at the sanctuary. We grieve, I grieve, but we find the strength to pick ourselves up. It isn’t a matter of “moving on” as it is a matter of “moving forward”. Moving forward because we carry with us the sorrow and the laughter, the tears and the smiles, the highs and the lows of all that we have experienced.

Animals as we all know are sentient beings and therefore have their highs and lows as well. We see so many examples of both at the sanctuary. For example, Clyde, when he lost his mate Bonnie, started losing/pulling his feathers in his grief. We were able to find him a mate, Lizzie, whom he now follows everywhere. Tulsi, our cow, kicked her heels up in joy when she was finally on a pasture with ample grass to eat and abundant springs to drink from. JT, a potbelly pig, who brought his brother, Jasper, sticks everyday to his stall while he was recovering from a back injury. And then there is “Elsa”, our blind cow when she heard music for the first time – head swaying, ears forward, ears back. (see her video on our Facebook page)

What amazes me most though about all animals is their ability to forgive, to trust again, and to love again. This is particularly amazing when the animals were rescued from an abusive and cruel environment. Given time, 99% of these animals come towards you with tails wagging, lay their head in your lap, or give you a big slobbery kiss on your face. The best part of this “job” is being instrumental in the rescue, the rehabilitation, the recovery, and seeing the animal evolve to a healthy and happy one. Your support, whether through volunteering or financially, is the reason for this. You are why their lives are full of love, happiness, and sunshine. This is why we’re in it, this is our reward, and this is why it’s an “honor” for me that the animals at the sanctuary entrust their well-being to me and all the volunteers at Animal Haven of Asheville.

Peace, Trina Hudson, President



Pictured l. left to right: Wilma and Bubbles; Lizzie and Clyde’ and Tulsi



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.

“Tulsi”



The phone rings and you never know what type of animal may need help. This phone call was concerning a dairy cow whose owner had just undergone a medical procedure. The owner was unsure about her ability to continue caring for the cow and asked if Animal Haven would help. It wasn't that long ago or at least it seemed like it that Animal Haven had lost our sweet, blind cow “Elsa”, which broke our hearts. Hearing about another cow whose name was “Tulsi”, brought a lump up in my throat and a lot of emotions but I told the owner we would go see Tulsi and figure out the best solution for all.



Upon our arrival where Tulsi was living, we were shocked at the conditions that she was being subjected to. Tulsi was literally knee deep in mud wherever she walked in her extremely small enclosure. There was no solid ground for her to stand on. The shelter for Tulsi was partially collapsed and wouldn't have been adequate in size even if it was upright for this big girl. There was no hay or water present. We found a plastic container with a bit of rainwater in it and Tulsi immediately started drinking it.

I called the owner right away, informing her of the deplorable living conditions for Tulsi and that Animal Haven would take her to our sanctuary where she would live out her life.

Her first day at the sanctuary, Tulsi was kept in a separate stall and pasture until our veterinarian saw her. In an adjoining pasture were six sheep, one of them named Penelope. She immediately went up to Tulsi's stall and followed Tulsi back and forth until nightfall. Penelope had a very close bond with Elsa, our blind cow, and had established another bond with Tulsi.

It never ceases to amaze me how forgiving animals are of humans. Tulsi has been nothing but sweet, lovable, and playful despite her past. We should all be so.

Thrift Shop Cats and Kittens

Wild Willie, Gumdrop, Pebbles, Malcolm, Iris – these are just a few of the kittens and cats rescued by and adopted from Animal Haven of Asheville. You may be thinking “Wait, I thought they were a farm animal rescue”. That's correct we are but when there is an animal in need, when there is a 1500 square foot thrift shop, and when the thrift shop volunteers and our customers love felines greeting them and playing with them, it's a “no brainer”!

Granted there are many times when you may see Gumdrop batting at the necklaces for sale, Wild Willie trying to tear up the sales receipt, Pebbles perched on top of the dressing room wall giving her approval or disapproval about your choices but knowing their backgrounds it's very comforting to see them having fun and enjoying life. Stop by our on-site thrift shop: Wednesday-Saturday from 11am -5pm for some great deals, to donate gently used items, to play with the cats and/or kittens, and visit with the farm animals! Remember, the proceeds go to and directly benefit all the animals in our care.





Anna 1 year



Bailey & Andrea 4 years



Beth 2 years,
Valerie 9 years



Bob 3 years



Dana 5 years



Claire 1 year



Cecil (15) & Beth (



Cynthia 19 years



Dawn 20 years



Debbie 3 years



Diane, Lyn, and Aubry
From the beginning



Fred 5 months



Joe 5 years



Jacqueline 2 years

VOLUNTEERS ARE WHAT MAKES OUR HAVEN POSSIBLE



Hunter 3 months



Jan 20 years



Jennifer 4 months



Jill 3.5 years



Justin 8 years



Judy (3) and Laurie (2) years



Joe 5 years



Jodi 24 years



Virginia 6 months



Leonora 2.5 years



Michael 5 months



Mary Lou 14 years



Vick 2 years



Kim 3 years



Suzanne (3) Mary (3.5) & Nickole (8)



Kathleen 5 years

Winter Wish List

- Mazuri Potbelly Pig Food
- Chicken Scratch
- Black Oil Sunflower Seed
- Laying Crumbles
- Postage Stamps
- Sweet Feed for Cows, Goats, Sheep
- Timothy Hay Pellets
- Gift Cards – Lowes, Office Depot, Chewy
- Fresh Produce



Janet From the beginning



Cammie 7 years



Jenna 10 months

Our Turn to Be Rescued

Normally as a 501(c)3 animal welfare organization, we are the ones known as the “rescuers” but that all changed this past September when Hurricane Helene roared through and we were the ones now known as the “rescued”. The little creek that runs through the sanctuary rose to heights never seen in the past 25 years that Animal Haven has been here. The water washed away our bridge to the other end of the property where it came to rest in a tree. Over a dozen large trees were totally uprooted and crushing the fences wherever one looked. The water was over two feet deep in the large field where the thrift shop is located and it moved a 12 x 24 storage building across the parking lot to within inches of the thrift shop. Part of Lower Grassy Branch Road was washed out and in our field. Power lines down, power poles snapped in two, and contents of people’s lives were evident when the water finally started to subside. BUT, we were fortunate – all the animals were safe, no trees fell on structures or animal habitats, and we survived.

And we are recovering, thanks to all of you, the “rescuers”. Your response, from all over the country was and still is incredible and humbling. We had a building full of animal feed, hay, heaters, people food, cases of water, a generator, a dozen or more 5 gallon cans of gas, a chainsaw, t-posts and fencing, fresh produce, and more. Volunteers from Ohio, Virginia, Georgia, Florida were rolling in with truck loads and trailers full of supplies. From Charlotte, Winston-Salem, New Bern, it was just unbelievable. The monetary donations were also from the West Coast to the East Coast and in staggering amounts.



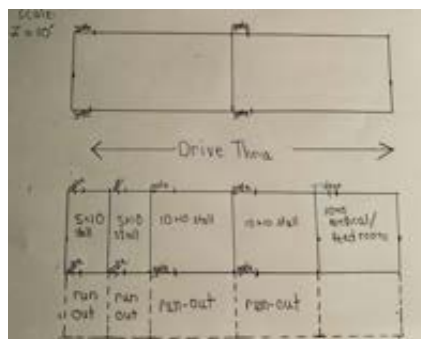
You all gave us hope, you inspired us to keep putting one foot in front of the other, you allowed us to make repairs, and you put a smile on our faces, and some laughter in the air.

You rescued us, every single one of you, and there are no words to express our heartfelt gratitude. We shall never forget your kindness and generosity. Continue to think of us and WNC as we still have a long road ahead.

We Thank You!

As most of you know, one of the founders of Animal Haven of Asheville, Barbara Bellows passed away in March of 2023. Her biggest dream became a reality when she and Trina founded Animal Haven in May of 2000. Unfortunately, one of her dreams did not come to fruition before she left us and that was a state-of-the-art multi-purpose barn. A barn with power, water, heat, fans. A barn with stalls with runouts for quarantine, vetting, sickness. A barn with a combo feed/storage room, medical room. A barn which one could drive through to unload supplies or pick up an animal for transport. A barn in honor and memory of Barb.

We have started our capital campaign and have two matching grants: one for \$10,000 and a second for \$100,000. Our goal is \$200,000 and to be built within a year of funds being procured.



Help Us Build a Barn for Barb!



animalhavenofasheville.org

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