

Animal Haven of Asheville: Upcoming Happenings

Sept 2025



Big events at Animal Haven of Asheville!

Hello friends! With the fall arriving soon, we thought you'd want to know about three events coming soon:

- Our annual Fall Fundraiser on Sunday October 26,
- Our annual ThanksLiving potluck on Saturday November 8, and
- PLANT's 30th annual PlantsLiving celebration.

We also have some fun pictures and news from our 25th Anniversary Celebration event we held in May.

Enjoy reading and we hope you can join us for our upcoming events!

Fall Fundraiser

Sunday, October 26

Join us for our Animal Haven of Asheville Annual Fundraiser on Sunday October 26 from 2-6pm. Early-bird tickets are \$37.50 per person. After October 19, tickets are \$45.00 online or you can purchase your ticket onsite.

Come enjoy a full vegan buffet with dessert, beer/ wine/ non-alcoholic drinks, live entertainment, and a silent auction. Explore information stations where you can interact with and learn about the animals, plus shop at our thrift store. Children under 12 can attend for free.

Your Fall Fundraiser Ticket includes:

- Catered vegan food and dessert
- Drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic options)
- Live entertainment: Southern Style Band
- Silent auction
- Onsite parking
- Shuttle bus service for off-site parking (location to be announced)

Every ticket you purchase directly benefits our animals, helping fund food, shelter, medical care, and enrichment programs. Our theme this year is a Barn Raiser in Honor and Memory of Barbara Bellows, co-founder of Animal Haven. All proceeds will go towards the building of a 30 x 40 barn in Barb's memory. A matching grant of \$10,000 has already been awarded towards this endeavor so please join us, have some fun, and help us reach our goal!

Reserve your tickets now and be part of a day full of community, fun, and compassion for animals!

Get your tickets for the Fall Fundraiser: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-fundraiser-5>

ThanksLiving Potluck Saturday November 8

Join Us for Our Annual ThanksLiving Potluck, with Special Guest, Gene Baur, President and Co-Founder of Farm Sanctuary

- Only 300 spots available
- Don't miss this exciting day!

Join us for our Animal Haven of Asheville Annual ThanksLiving potluck on Saturday November 8 from 11am-4:30pm. After the potluck, you can spend some time with our animals and then hear our special guest and presenter: Gene Baur, Farm Sanctuary president and co-founder! Early-bird tickets are \$37.50 per person. After October 27, tickets are \$45.00. ***Tickets are limited to only 300 participants for this event so sign-up early!***

We're thrilled to host Gene Baur at our sanctuary for this year's 4th annual ThanksLiving Event. Gene is the co-founder of one of the first farm sanctuaries in the U.S., The Farm Sanctuary. He is a well-known international vegan and animal advocate, and bestselling author. Animal Haven Volunteer, Cam MacQueen, is delighted that Gene, her longtime friend from their DC animal advocacy days, will be the keynote speaker on ThanksLiving. Gene is widely recognized as a pioneering figure in the modern farm animal sanctuary movement. You won't want to miss Gene's inspiring message!

Tickets must be purchased in advance, either for this event or as a package ticket for both our Fall Fundraiser on 10/26 and ThanksLiving on 11/8.

Enjoy a peaceful, beautiful day with friends, family and our 70+ animals at Animal Haven of Asheville! Each attendee should bring a VEGAN potluck dish or dessert (enough to serve 8-10) with serving utensil and ingredients list. Vegan means no animal products of any kind (no flesh, dairy, eggs, honey, gelatin, conventional mayo, etc.). Additionally, to cut down on waste, please bring a plate, utensils, and beverage for your personal use. We will have Carolina Veg Discount Cards for sale too. The Thrift store will NOT be open so please do not bring donations on this day. Tables and chairs provided.

The goats don't mind a little drizzle, and neither do we! This event is rain or shine—no baaa-ckup date.

Schedule:

- 11am-1pm: ThanksLiving potluck
- 1-2:30pm: Spend time visiting our 70+ rescued animals (ducks, pigs, chickens, goats, rabbits, dogs, cats, and sheep) on site. Enjoy watching the animals celebrate ThanksLiving!
- 2:30-4:30pm: Gene Baur (Farm Sanctuary president and co-founder) presentation and Q&A

For the animals, we always appreciate donations of unbleached pumpkins, cantaloupe, honeydew, apples, and watermelon. 😊

Get your ThanksLiving tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/thanksliving-potluck>

PlantsLiving Celebration at Plant Wednesday, November 27

Join us on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 26 from 5–9 PM for the 30th annual PlantsLiving celebration at Asheville’s beloved Plant Vegan Restaurant. Enjoy a delicious three-course vegan meal with a glass of wine – all in support of Animal Haven!

Proceeds from the evening will be generously donated to help us care for our rescued animals.

Pricing will be announced soon, and reservations are required.

Follow Plant on [Facebook](#) or visit their [website](#) for updates and reservation info.

Let’s celebrate compassion, community, and incredible food together!

Recap: 25th Anniversary Event

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, we marked a major milestone – our 25th anniversary – with a joyful celebration that was as much about resilience as it was about reflection.

Last year, our farm animal sanctuary suffered significant damage from Tropical Storm Helene, which caused flooding that washed out the bridge connecting the parking area to the sanctuary grounds. The storm also eroded parts of the creek bed, making access difficult and threatening the safety of the animals and visitors alike.

But thanks to the unwavering support of the community, generous donors, and tireless volunteers, we not only recovered – we came back stronger. As part of the anniversary festivities, we proudly cut the ribbon on a brand-new bridge and reinforced creek bed, symbolizing a fresh chapter in its ongoing mission of compassion and care.

Our anniversary celebration brought together longtime supporters, new visitors, and animal lovers of all ages for a day filled with plant-based food, drinks, and heartfelt moments.

Guests enjoyed guided tours of the sanctuary, where they met cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, goats, and geese – each with a unique rescue story. Children delighted in meeting animals and learning about their care, while adults reflected on the sanctuary's enduring impact.

A special dedication and blessing ceremony honored the sanctuary's founders, Trina Hudson and Barb Bellows, along with the many volunteers who have helped sustain its mission over the years. "This place is a labor of love," Trina shared. "After the storm, we weren't sure how we'd recover. But the community showed up for us – just like we've always shown up for the animals."



The event also featured a time capsule where guests shared stories, photos, and messages of gratitude. Many spoke of how Animal Haven has touched their lives – through adoptions, volunteer work, or simply finding solace in its serene setting.

We'll ask visitors to add more content to the time capsule at our annual Fall Fundraiser on October 26, where Trina will read the messages and then bury the capsule on the farm to read again in the future.

As the sun set over the sanctuary, the message was clear: Animal Haven isn't just a place for animals – it's a place for healing, hope, and heart.

Thank you!

Thank you for standing with us for 25 years and counting. Your kindness, generosity, and belief in our mission make every rescue possible and every resident feel safe and loved.

With deep gratitude,

Trina, Andrea and the Animal Haven Team



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