

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary

A Voice For Those Who Cannot Speak For Themselves

by Annette Fisher, Happy Trails Founder and Director

Witnesses watched in horror as Scarlet the pig fell off a meat truck doing 60 miles per hour on a highway in Trumbull County. Mac, a big Clydesdale draft horse, was 500 lbs underweight and so weak he could barely hold his head up. Natasha the goat was discovered abandoned on the side of a road in Summit County when she was only a day and half old. Five goats were removed from the basement of a drug house in the city of Cleveland. 31 cock-fighting roosters were rescued during an animal fighting raid in Lorain County. Two ten-day-old baby calves suffering from malnutrition were not expected to survive the night. Rachel the pot belly pig had acid burns over 85% of her back and sides.

What do these animals and about 3,000 more have in common? Over the past 12 years they have all been rescued and taken to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary located in Ravenna,

Ohio, for rehabilitation and recovery. In order to accept a horse or other farm animal into the Happy Trails rescue program it has to have been abused, abandoned or neglected,

and it has to have been removed from its situation by a humane officer or other law enforcement official. But that's not all. We also require that the owner or caretaker has animal cruelty charges filed against them.

Why, you ask? Otherwise we would be part of the problem and would be enabling owners to continue a cycle of abuse. Otherwise we would be rewarding bad behavior by removing all responsibility from a person who should be held accountable for the suffering they have inflicted on a helpless animal.

Part of the role that Happy Trails plays in court cases is to document all veterinary care and medical procedures, provide photos of the animal before, during and after their recovery, give testimony and serve as a witness during the trial, and provide as much information as possible to assist with the prosecution of the case. When the court cases are finished and the animal is signed over to the sanctuary, he or she is then available for adoption as a farm pet. If the animal has been treated badly enough to find its way to Happy Trails, it now has a ticket to a kind, caring and compassionate life and will not be placed back into food production.

Farm animals such as pigs, goats, sheep, poultry and horses are often the types of animal that usually falls through the cracks here in Ohio. Most county humane societies don't have the facilities available to remove a large animal from a situation of abuse or neglect. Some may have never had to deal with a farm animal cruelty case and might not even know how to even to care for the animal it removes. That's why Happy Trails offers assistance with transportation, foster care, veterinary treatment, court assistance and eventually, placement of that animal in a permanent home.

Happy Trails promotes treating ALL animals with kindness and compassion, and encourages each county in Ohio to bring our state up to a higher standard regarding the way we treat and protect our farm animals and horses.

Sponsor animals like Kachina, a special-needs mini horse!
Go to www.happytrailsfarm.org, or call us at 330-296-5914.



"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
Mahatma Gandhi

