

# POPLAR SPRING Post



**Summer 2007**

A Newsletter from  
Poplar Spring  
Animal Sanctuary

Daisy the sheep, at right, was  
Found wandering on a street  
In Philadelphia as a tiny lamb

## POPLAR SPRING TURNS TEN!

By Terry Cummings

This year Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary celebrates its ten year anniversary of rescuing and caring for animals. On January 1, 1997, we officially opened the sanctuary gates, and began rescuing and providing a permanent home for abused and abandoned farm animals, and offering a protected refuge for wildlife. The past decade has brought many changes to the sanctuary, and hundreds of animals, many who were rescued from the worst neglect and treatment imaginable, have found a safe and loving home here. After ten years, Poplar Spring and its rescued residents are continuing to thrive, thanks to the help of our many friends and supporters. We celebrate this milestone by relating the story of why and how the sanctuary came to be.

### How it all Began

In 1987, Dave and I, recently married, moved to Poplar Spring Farm. We decided to rent the historic house on this beautiful 400 acre estate after hearing from a friend that it was available. We intended to stay only a year, thinking that we would soon purchase a small farm of our own, but in the meantime nothing could beat this incredible property. The beautifully restored colonial farmhouse sat up on a hill overlooking the Potomac River. Surrounding the house were ponds, pristine woods hiding crystal clear streams, and long open fields with tall, waving grass.

And cows. Over one hundred of them. While we were renting the house and one of the barns, a local farmer was renting the surrounding farmland to keep his cattle on. How fun to be living next to cows, we thought! We loved animals, and we were thrilled to think of waking every



Lucy the pig, one of the original sanctuary animals, celebrates her first birthday in 1997

morning to the sound of mooing cattle. Little did we know that these very cows were about to change our lives.

The first several months of living on the farm were idyllic. We spent hours exploring the woods and pastures, while the cows grazed in the fields. We were surprised to find that the majority were frightened of people, and would not let us approach them. Determined to change that, we worked hard to make them see us as friends. Talking softly and

offering apples and other treats, gradually some of the braver ones allowed us to touch and pet them. The easily identifiable cows we gave fancy names to, like Violetta Verbena and Cinnamon Sprinkles, and we enjoyed observing the antics of the many adorable calves that were born each month. The two bulls in the herd, despite their reputation, were very calm and gentle, and seemed unfazed by our presence. Watching these intelligent and sensitive animals interact with each other, we witnessed remarkable behaviors. Every mother instinctively knew her own baby's cry over that of a hundred others, and would come running from a great distance if her young sounded an alarm. Calves of similar age would gather together in groups, playfully butting heads, often running and leaping in the air with the joy of being alive. The babies would frequently be left for periods of time during the day with a "babysitter" cow, one of the mothers or a young female who would watch over the youngsters, while the other moms took a much needed break. It seemed like heaven on earth for the cows, and for us.

Until one day, when the trailer came.

It was a beautiful sunny Fall day, and I was alone in the house, folding some laundry upstairs, while Dave was off at work. Suddenly hearing a great deal of commotion outside, I ran to the window. A large truck with a long trailer attached to it was backed up to the barn, and I could see men with electric prods,

*continued on page ?*

## Blind animals get by with a little help from their friends

This year the sanctuary has taken on the challenge of caring for two blind animals – Darcy, one of our longtime resident horses, who slowly became blind due to uveitis (an eye disease of unknown cause), and Emily, a young calf who was born blind. Emily was rescued

status with the herd, and to freely move in and out of the barn, grazing in the large pastures, and even galloping around the fields with the other horses and mules.

Emily, who was born blind, came to the sanctuary this past March. She is a young Angus calf who was being raised



Tally (right) wears a bell so that Darcy can hear where she is walking

this spring when her owner abandoned her in a vacant field during an ice storm.

Both are doing amazingly well, thanks to the assistance of their very special friends.

Darcy, a 21 year old Standardbred horse, had been having difficulty with his vision for many years, as he unfortunately acquired an incurable eye disease. His best friend Tally, a Thoroughbred mare, has always been bonded to Darcy since they arrived a few years apart. They are both ex racehorses, and both were rescued from being sold for horsemeat at auctions years ago. When Darcy completely lost his vision a few months ago, Tally seemed to sense that he needed help, and would stay close to him and nudge him away from objects that he would otherwise run into. We put a bell on her halter so that Darcy could hear her, and with her cooperation and his much more attuned senses, he has been able to find his way around the entire 400 acre farm, only rarely getting lost. His quality of life has not suffered and he has been able to maintain his



Emily the calf finds food and friendship with cows like Beulah, who help care for her

for meat on a local farm. During a severe ice storm this past winter, Emily became separated from her mother and the rest of the herd, and ended up stranded on an adjoining property, on the wrong side of a barbed wire fence. She spent days walking up and down the fence line, cutting her legs on the ice, mooing and calling for her mother, but nobody came to help her. A kind worker at the farm rescued her, but when the owner realized she was blind and sickly, he decided he didn't want her, and the employee brought her to Poplar Spring.

When Emily first arrived at the Sanctuary she was in very bad shape. She was emaciated and had terrible diarrhea. Her lungs were very raspy and the vet diagnosed her with pneumonia and malnutrition. After lots of good nursing care, a warm straw bed and nourishing food, Emily began to thrive and grew healthy and strong. She began to explore her surroundings, and soon joined the 17 other rescued cows, who all accepted her, and took her into the herd.

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### OUR MISSION IS TO:

- offer care, rehabilitation, and permanent sanctuary for rescued farm animals
- provide protected habitat for wildlife
- furnish information to the public regarding farm animal and wildlife issues
- promote compassion and humane treatment for all animals



A Newsletter from  
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary  
P.O. Box 507  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
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Teresa Cummings

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# Sanctuary News and Notes

This past winter and spring has proved to be very “pig friendly” for Poplar Spring. Over the last few months we have taken in several young pigs from different situations,



**Maddie and Flossie enjoy grazing on the lush grass in their new pasture**

who all desperately needed homes. The most recently rescued are Maddie and Flossie, two friendly Yorkshire cross pigs who were found along with six other piglets in the middle of a wooded area in a trash-strewn pen in Prince Georges County, Maryland. There was no food or water available for the emaciated pigs, and only a broken piece of plywood perched on a corner of the fence to act as “shelter” for all eight pigs. One of the pigs had already died of starvation when animal control officers were called to save the remaining animals. Maddie and Flossie are now happy and healthy and enjoy lots of special treats like watermelon and kiwis. (A big thanks to our local grocery store, Selby’s Market, for donating

leftover fruits and vegetables every day for the pigs and other animals!) Other recently rescued pigs include Holly and Harriet who were used for bone marrow extractions at a research facility, and Missy, who fell out of a tractor trailer on a major highway in Pennsylvania.

This year we again offered educational tours to thousands of visitors. Many groups and individuals volunteered, sponsored, and helped to care for the more than 200 animals that call the



**Jonathan Balcombe speaks at Open House**

sanctuary home – thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters – we really could not do this without you! Several large projects and barn cleanings were completed with the help of local groups. Julian Lucarelli completed his Boy Scout Eagle Leadership Project by building three ramps for the turkey and chicken barn and a large hay feeder for the goats and sheep. (See our Kids Corner for other unique ideas that

kids had to help the animals.) One of our most exciting projects is the new Infirmiry, which will house sick and



**– a new Infirmiry was built for those needing special care**

recovering animals, along with a treatment room and small office, so that staff can work while observing animals that need special care. This building, which we have desperately needed for many years, was purchased and built solely due to the incredible generosity of Dave and Jan Bundy, who funded the entire project.

Our special events over the last year went very well. (See back page and page 5 for dates and info on this year’s events.) The 2006 Open House and Fundraiser was our most successful event to date, and raised an amazing \$55,000. for the rescued animals. Jonathan Balcombe of Physician’s Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) was our keynote speaker, and generously donated proceeds from his wonderful book, *Pleasurable Kingdom*. Our good friends at Java Green, Thyme Square,

and many other local restaurants contributed fabulous food for the event, and a good time was had by all. In November, we had another record attendance for our Thanksgiving With the Turkeys. The weather was perfect and over 300 people attended the outdoor event. The huge potluck offered dozens of delicious vegan dishes, but watching the turkeys enjoy chopped fruit and other treats at their



**Off to a good start at the Run for the Animals**

special table was the highlight of the day.

Our 4th annual Run for the Animals, held in May, was a great success. Over 400 people participated in the 5K Run and one mile Fun Walk, which was held again in beautiful Wheaton Park. In July we held our annual Farm Tour. Visitors to the farm enjoyed hay rides, refreshments and our giant yard sale. A huge thanks to everyone who attended or generously donated to all of these events, and helped us to make this our most successful year ever! ■

“And I am by brother’s keeper  
And I shall fight their fight  
And speak the word for beast and bird  
Till the world shall set things right”

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## KID'S CORNER

Many thanks to all the kids who helped the sanctuary in lots of unique ways:

■ **Poolesville Elementary School** raised an amazing \$1,500. by doing a school wide "Coins for Caring" campaign where they collected money at school and in the community for the animals.

■ **Jr. Girl Scout Troop #81567** from Middletown, MD earned their Bronze award by soliciting from patrons of their local Safeway and Southern States feed stores. Their informative posters and enthusiastic efforts resulted in donations of many items from our wish list and hundreds of dollars credited to our feed bill at Southern States.

■ **Cameron Ishee, Gabriel Esptein, Carroll Ishee, Haley Nugent and Sydney Litts** of Wyngate Elementary School in Bethesda and Girl Scout Troop 5587 sold beanie babies at the Run for the Animals and raised over \$600.

■ **Kaia Diringer** sold cookies and lemonade on the Capital Crescent bike trail to benefit the animals.

■ **Maddie McDermott** saved up her money and donated \$70. for the animals.

■ **Jonah Goldman** donated \$90 which he earned from shoveling snow and participating in a survey.

■ **Sophie King, Gabrielle Hodor, Eva Kirsch, Ellie Forman, Madeline Melch, Alayna Hendrix, Avery Witt, and Kelly Maloney**, all requested donations to Poplar Spring in lieu of gifts for their birthdays.

■ **Bethesda Elementary School 5th graders** raised \$223. for the animals by holding a bake sale and working in the bead booth at the school's Mayfair.

■ **Anna Huttner's 4th grade class** at the Jewish Primary Day School visited in the Fall, then raised \$370. for the animals.

■ **Shoshana Yun** baked and sold vegan organic cookies to benefit the sanctuary at her synagogue's Mitzvah Day.

■ **Students from the Ridge School Helping Hands group** raised \$877.13

■ **5th graders from Darnestown Elementary School** volunteered and had a hot chocolate stand to raise money for the sanctuary.

■ **Girl Scout Troop #3467** had a yard sale and raised \$348.71



Poolesville Elementary School held a 'Coins for Caring' Campaign

■ **Ariana Levinson and Jamie Lazarus** requested donations for the sanctuary for their Bat Mitzvahs. **Eli Perper** did the same for his Bar Mitzvah. **Joshua Kashkett** made gift baskets full of items from our wish list, along with information on Poplar Spring for the



Cameron Ishee and friends sold Beansies to help the animals



Girl Scout Troop # 81567 displays some of the items they collected for the sanctuary

tables at his Bar Mitzvah, then delivered the baskets to the sanctuary afterwards.

■ **Brownie Troop # 5511** from Gaithersburg MD raised \$84. to sponsor a rabbit

■ **11 and 12 year olds** from the Torah School at Adat Shalom gave donations and planted flowers in front of the pig barn.

■ **The Baldwin children** made sea shell boxes and sold them to benefit the animals.

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar"

—Bradley Miller

## W I S H ★ L I S T

Funds

Gift Certificates from Southern States (for animal feed and supplies)

Good quality hay

Folding chairs

Stamps

6 or 8 ft folding tables

Portable winch

Donations for silent auction

Glossy Premium Photo Paper

Paper Towels

AA, AAA or D Batteries



# PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US!



You are invited to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary's tenth annual Fundraiser and Open House, to raise funds to continue the organization's important work of rescuing abused and abandoned farm animals. Please bring a friend and join us for an educational and entertaining afternoon with delicious catered food, a live band, silent auction, clowns, and an opportunity to visit with the Sanctuary's many rescued residents.

James LaVeck, Producer of *The Witness* and *Peaceable Kingdom*, will be our keynote speaker

Sunday, September 30, 2007  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine  
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary  
15200 Mt. Nebo Road, Poolesville, MD 20837

*Donations will be accepted throughout the day of the event, or may be sent in the enclosed envelope. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 organization, and all contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.*

RSVP to Poplar Spring at 301-428-8128 or e-mail [info@animalsanctuary.org](mailto:info@animalsanctuary.org)  
or by returning the form below

No Dogs, Please

Yes, I will attend the Open House on September 30.

Total number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend, but I would like to support the rescued animals at Poplar Spring with my tax deductible contribution of:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500   Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have an item I would like to donate for the silent auction

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing a check \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my donation to  VISA    MC   Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, P.O. Box 507, Poolesville, MD 20837.  
All donations are greatly appreciated and fully tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!

# Help Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary by Becoming a Farm Animal Sponsor!

**A**re you someone who would love to bring a farm animal home but just don't have the room? Then a sponsorship of your favorite animal is the answer! For a small monthly donation you can help support the animal of your choice—your sponsorship will help cover food, bedding and veterinary costs. You will receive a framed photograph and your animal's story, along with the opportunity to visit in person. Sponsorships also make a unique gift for friends and relatives! With your support we can continue to rescue even more animals who desperately need a home.

## Monthly Sponsorship Rates

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Chicken ..... | \$5.00  |
| Rabbit .....  | \$7.00  |
| Turkey .....  | \$8.00  |
| Goat .....    | \$15.00 |
| Sheep .....   | \$15.00 |
| Pig .....     | \$20.00 |
| Cow .....     | \$25.00 |
| Horse .....   | \$30.00 |

If you would prefer, sponsorships can also be paid on a quarterly or yearly basis.

## Thank you for helping us to save animals!

Please make check payable to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

Please mail your completed sponsorship form to:  
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary  
P.O. Box 507  
Poolesville, MD 20837

Phone: 301-428-8128  
E-mail: [info@animalsanctuary.org](mailto:info@animalsanctuary.org)  
Web: [www.animalsanctuary.org](http://www.animalsanctuary.org)



## Yes! Please sign me up!

Please print all information clearly.

I would like to sponsor a \_\_\_\_\_ (type of animal).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Monthly  Quarterly  Yearly

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my Visa/MasterCard  Monthly  Quarterly  Yearly

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Sponsorship

Name of Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information on:  Volunteer Opportunities  Gift Donations



# In Honor and In Memory Of

**T**hank you to all those who remembered a special person or animal with a donation to Poplar Spring. This is a wonderful way to honor someone special, and to help animals at the same time! Special thanks to Dr. Monique Maniet of Veterinary Holistic Care for her many donations in memory of her client's companions. ■

## In Memory Of People

|                 |                   |                  |                 |                   |            |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Andrea Alpert   | Jim Dawson        | Jon Hall         | Erwin Mayer     | Betty Rogers      | Dee Willet |
| Nancy Asch      | Lee Feeley        | Joyce Hoover     | Carolyn Michael | Dawn Claire Sears |            |
| Margie Bloom    | Sophia Folus      | Gertrude Ifshien | Joe Mullen      | Otis B. Spence    |            |
| Shirley Brown   | Ann Cottrell Free | Irving Kalish    | Joseph Prokop   | Robert Stout      |            |
| Carlyle Cochran | Michael Ha        | Cliff Kaminsky   | Irene Rakowski  | Mrs. Lila White   |            |

## In Memory Of Animals

|           |             |         |         |              |                            |
|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Abigail   | Buster      | Elton   | Jamie   | Mandalay     | Ollie                      |
| Ace       | Buttercup   | Emma    | Jazzy   | Margot Magee | Omega                      |
| Addie     | Caesar      | Emmett  | J.D.    | Max          | Pantera                    |
| Ali       | Casey       | Felicia | Jeb     | Meili        | Pebbles                    |
| Allie     | Casimir     | Fred    | Jersey  | Misha        | Pee Wee                    |
| Amy       | Casper      | Frisky  | Jessye  | Miss Getto   | Pepper                     |
| Annabelle | Chaco       | Fritz   | Jody    | Miss Kitty   | Peppermint                 |
| Annie     | Charlie     | Georgia | Katie   | Misti        | Pete                       |
| Arrow     | Chas        | Gigi    | Kelly   | Misty        | Pippi                      |
| Baby      | Chester     | Ginger  | Kelsey  | Moet         | Popi                       |
| Bambi     | Chewy       | Gracie  | Keno    | Molly        | Prickett                   |
| Bandit    | Christopher | Grover  | Kinsey  | Mom          | Puckett                    |
| Baron     | Claude      | Gus     | Kodi    | Morgan       | Pumpkin                    |
| Basie     | Clyde       | Hank    | Kona    | Moses        | Quincy                     |
| Bear      | Coco        | Harley  | Kramer  | Mozart       | Raisin                     |
| Bear-Bear | Corri       | Harvey  | Landis  | Murphy       | Randy                      |
| Becka     | Cory        | Heidi   | Leah    | Mutik        | Rascal                     |
| Benny     | Cosey       | Henry   | Lily    | Nat          | Reba                       |
| Biscuit   | Cruiser     | Hobbes  | Loti    | Nelson       | Ripple                     |
| Blackjack | Daisy       | Honey   | Lupa    | Nero         | Robbie                     |
| Bliss     | Dante       | Ilsa    | Mae     | Nicholas     | Rocky                      |
| Boo       | Daphne      | Iris    | Maggie  | Nikko        | Rosie                      |
| Botero    | Davie       | Isaiah  | Malish  | Nutmeg       | Sadie                      |
| Bubba     | Ella        | Jake    | Mamasan | Olivia       | <i>continued on page 8</i> |

# Special Ways to Give to the Animals

## Poplar Spring Joins United Way/Combined Federal Campaign!

**P**oplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is now a proud member of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the United Way of the National Capital Area Campaign. We invite Federal employees and those who work for corporations that participate in the United Way campaign to consider us when selecting agencies to support in the Fall Campaign. Our **CFC code is**

**#62455** and our **United Way code is #8899**. Please use these numbers to designate Poplar Spring as the organization you would like to support. Your contributions will help us to rescue and provide a permanent home for many more animals.

**Stock Donations** – If you would like to make a stock donation, please provide your broker with the following information:

Broker: Smith Barney

DTC# 0418 for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary

Acct.#028-23506-17-320

Stock donations are tax deductible and can reduce your capital gains tax

**Bequests** – Help to leave a legacy for the animals by making a provision for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in your will or by designating Poplar Spring as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy. Please contact us at 301-428-8128 or [info@animalsanctuary.org](mailto:info@animalsanctuary.org) if you have questions.

## Animal Profiles overflow

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She began following them when they would walk around the property. At first, she would frequently become lost, but as time went on she became more adept at keeping up. One of the cows, a young steer named Carlyle, would often return for her if the others moved too quickly, and moo to her until she was able to catch up. She now frequently accompanies the group on their very long walks around the entire farm, spending her days splashing in the cool creeks, and grazing on the lush hillsides.

Both Darcy and Emily have shown us that even with severe disabilities, animals are able to amazingly adapt and live a very full life; that is, with a little help from their friends!



Emily grazes happily with her new friends

## In Memory Of Animals continued

|          |           |           |             |        |            |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Samantha | Sebastian | Spencer   | The Colonel | Tourou | Winchester |
| Sammie   | Shadow    | Stella    | The Girls   | Toute  | Yancey     |
| Sammy    | Shelby    | Star      | Tiger       | Trixie | Yogi Bear  |
| Sasha    | Sid       | Stumpy    | Tigger      | Tuck   | Zeek       |
| Scarlet  | Skye      | Suki      | Toby        | Turbo  | Zoe        |
| Scarlett | Smudge    | Sweet Pea | Tonto       | Tuvok  |            |
| Schmidt  | Sparky    | Teak      | Tony        | Twill  |            |

## In Honor of People

|                   |                 |                   |                  |                  |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| John Kenneth Asel | Jaclyn Franzak  | Jackie Howell and | Cam MacQueen     | James Pizzirusso | Sue Spence        |
| Lisa Barbar-      | Grace Froelich  | Randy Huwa        | Kelly Maloney    | and Kimberly     | Paul Stern        |
| Barnette          | Caitlin Furlong | Dr. N. Jani       | Betsy and Mike   | Nevitt           | Vicki Stevens     |
| Rebecca Bell      | Ethan Fye       | Adam Jones        | McFarland        | Beth Plowman     | Marianne Merritt  |
| Nancy Bleil       | Steve Garron    | Hilary Jones      | Suzanne McMillan | Sylvia Rackstraw | Talbot            |
| Danny Book        | Jerry Gegan     | David Kuemmerle   | Madeline Melch   | Jack and Janet   | Odin and Nancy    |
| Lisa Borghesi     | Marsha Goldberg | Jamie Lazarus     | Mira Millar      | Read             | Tidemand          |
| Michele Carsrud   | Jonah Goldman   | Betsey Lehman     | Andrew Milsten   | Susan Ringland   | Emily Turner      |
| Sheila Cochran    | Carole Hamlin   | Jeff Leitner and  | and Kim Ockene   | Jane Roberts     | Lila Wadwani-     |
| The Cowdens       | Norbert         | Kate Mindlin      | Amy Morgan       | The Ruffieux-    | Smith             |
| Irene Crowe       | Henninger       | Jacob Lennen      | Dr. Carole       | Konecke family   | Robin Walker      |
| Bonnie Davis-Isom | Alayna Hendrix  | Ariana Levinson   | Nicholson        | Joe Rucker       | Abby Williams     |
| Peggy Dennis      | Alora Henry     | Galya Levinson    | Ida Pangrazzio   | Heidi Shalom     | Avery Witt        |
| Bill Dollinger    | Ray Hodge       | Jonathan Lewis    | Penny Peerce     | Paul Shapiro     | Sandra Yarrington |
| Howard Edelstein  | Gabrielle Hodor | Wade Lindsay      | Rich Peppin      | Skeath Family    |                   |
| Bonnie Erbe       | David Hoof      | Gary Loewenthal   | Noah Pierce      | Adam and Lila    |                   |
| Jessica Fomalont  | The Howards     | Ryan MacMichael   |                  | Smith            |                   |

## In Honor of Animals

|         |                  |                |                |                  |         |
|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Benny   | Duke and Duchess | The Howell and | Kiwi, Honeydew | Perky, Aster and | Scarlet |
| Chessie |                  | Huwa animals   | and Domino     | Quincy           |         |

## Poplar Spring Turns Ten!

continued from page 1

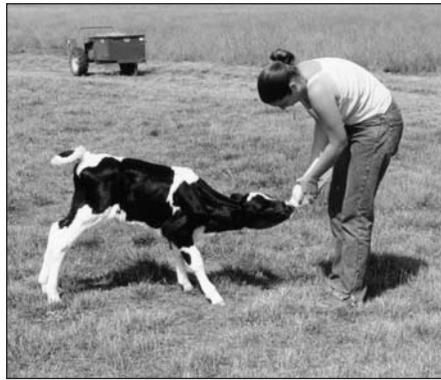
stabbing at and shocking the cows, and forcing them into the trailer. The cows were trying to turn around and go back into the barn, but the men were yelling and beating at them, forcing them forward. Mother cows were frantically calling for their babies and calves were bawling desperately. I couldn't believe my eyes – what was happening? Then it finally hit me. These were BEEF cattle. And they were going to slaughter.

I sat on the floor in my bedroom and cried, holding my hands over my ears, trying to block out the noise of the terrified cows. These were the same cows who I had named, and fed, and whose trust I had worked so hard to gain. I had honestly never considered what their fate was to be. Despite having a degree in animal science, I had somehow managed to deny the reality of where my meat came from. I conveniently elected not to take the meat processing courses at school, and decided early on that I could never be a farmer, as I did not want to kill animals. But now I was faced with a personal dilemma – the idea that the next hamburger I ate could be one of my friends. After several hours, the trailer full of wailing cows drove off, leaving a few “breeder” female cows and two bulls behind, but taking all the rest. When Dave came home I told him the terrible news. That day was a true awakening for us, and we suddenly began to think and see things differently. We decided to stop eating animals, and became vegetarians. Three years later, after learning how dairy cows and chickens raised for eggs are treated, we gave up all animal products and became vegans.

Over the next few years, we watched over the remaining cows on the farm, and visited other farms and auctions where the local farmers would sell their animals. We saw many disturbing acts of cruelty – animals left to die with no food or water, animals dragged by chains when they couldn't stand up, and animals having surgical procedures performed without painkillers. We tried

to report these things to the authorities, but were shocked to find out that farm animals were exempt from the anti-cruelty laws in every state. We started thinking that we needed to do something to help animals. And farm animals seemed like they needed our help the most. Although there are many organizations that rescue dogs and cats, there were only a few that dealt specifically with farm animals. After long discussions with our wonderful and very supportive landlords, they agreed to allow us to begin leasing the entire 400 acre farm, and so after careful research and much planning, we formed Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

In 1995 I left my job as a veterinary technician at the National Zoo, where I had worked for 12 years. I traveled to



**One of the perks of the job – A volunteer bottle feeds a 2 week old Charlotte, who fell off a truck when she was only one day old**

other sanctuaries to volunteer and learn as much as I could. In March of 1996, we incorporated as a non-profit organization, and created our first brochures to distribute. We sent them out to local humane societies and shelters, and soon after, the needy animals began to arrive. Up and down the East Coast, word quickly spread that there was a new sanctuary opening.

Our first official sanctuary animal was Petunia the pig. A woman in southern Virginia, who lived near a small pig farm, had rescued Petunia. She found the tiny piglet half frozen, trapped beneath a heavy barn door that had fallen on her.

She tucked the pig under her coat to warm her, and went to the farmer. He scoffed at the woman when she held Petunia out to him, and told her to “just let nature take its course”. She was horrified, and took the piglet home, raising her in a laundry basket in her bedroom. When she became too large to be a “house pig”, we drove ten hours round trip to retrieve her. Petunia had a broken jaw and a permanent leg injury, which caused her to walk with a limp. Despite this, she lived a long and happy life at Poplar Spring, before passing away from old age last year.

In 2000 Dave left his job in printing and began working full time for the sanctuary. We continued to grow and gain support and now have over 100 volunteers and seven paid staff members. Our humane education and tour program is expanding yearly, and we have provided educational tours at the sanctuary and traveled to dozens of schools in the area to inform thousands of school children and adults about farm animal issues. We have built many new barns and fences and repaired old ones, mowed, painted, and maintained the farm to house the growing number of rescued animals, which at last count was more than 200. We have released many wild ducks, geese, baby birds, mammals and reptiles into the sanctuary's diverse and protected habitats. Over the years we have had the pleasure of knowing and caring for many special animals, all who have had the best life we could possibly give them, after coming from situations where they were starved, beaten or neglected. An adorable three week old chick named Hermie, who was saved from being snake food at a reptile show in Maryland, is our most recent rescue. (See photo back cover)

Originally intending to live here a year, it has now been almost 20. Although we were not able to save Violetta, Cinnamon, and the others who we loved and who taught us how special cows are, we plan to work hard for the rest of our lives in their memory, to help farm animals everywhere for many

# Silent Auction Donations Requested

**D**o you have new or antique items that you would be willing to donate? Why not help the animals by giving your donation for our silent auction which will be held at the Fundraiser on Sept. 30? All donations are very much appreciated, and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes. If you own or know of a business that might be willing to donate any goods or services for the auction, we would be very grateful, and the animals will thank you too! (see pg. 5) ■

# Upcoming Events

To ensure fun and safety for all, No Dogs at any events, please!  
Events will be held rain or shine, and all proceeds benefit the rescued animals.

## Tenth Annual Open House and Fundraiser – Sunday, September 30, 2007 1-5 p.m.

Our biggest event of the year – and everyone's invited! Come enjoy a live band, delicious catered food and drink, a fabulous silent auction, clowns and face painting, speakers, and the opportunity to stroll around and visit the rescued animals. No admission fee, but donations (of any amount) are very much appreciated.

RSVP requested.

Note: Due to the time overlap with this newsletter, we will not be sending out separate invitations this year. Please see p. 5 for Open House invitation and more details. Hope to see you there! ■

## Thanksgiving with the Turkeys – Saturday, November 17, 2007 12 noon – 4 p.m.

Come celebrate Thanksgiving WITH the turkeys – join our eight friendly turkeys and all their friends in celebrating a cruelty-free Thanksgiving potluck. Please bring a vegan (no meat, dairy, or eggs) dinner or dessert item to serve 8. \$10.00 suggested donation to benefit the animals. No charge for children under 16. ■



**Poplar Spring  
Animal Sanctuary**  
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Hermie, rescued from a reptile show in MD, contributed to this issue of the Poplar Spring Post.