

Summer 2002
A Newsletter from
Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary

*Priscilla, at right, is one of
167 pigs rescued from an
abandoned truck in 1998*

POPLAR SPRING Post



A Leap of Faith

Driving the long flat stretch of road that makes up Route 16 in Delaware was never a pleasant experience for Carolyn Halleck. Dozens of dead chickens always lined the shoulder, their battered bodies relegated to nothing more than pile after pile of limp white feathers and legs. This was a main route for the many tractor-trailers carrying the young chickens from the packed barns where they were raised to their ultimate destination—the slaughterhouse. Carolyn had never seen a live chicken on this road. The ones who managed to make a last minute escape did so at their own peril—leaping from a speeding truck and falling many feet onto packed gravel and asphalt seemed hardly survivable. Trying to keep her eyes on the road, Carolyn hurried along as she always did. But on this day, something caught her eye. Looking in the rearview mirror in amazement to be sure, she saw that yes, it was true. On this day, one of the dead piles lifted her head.

Polly

This is the story of a “broiler” chicken named Polly, who against all odds, managed to survive what billions of her brother and sister chickens could not. Taken as an egg from her mother and hatched in a sterile incubator, Polly was raised in an immense windowless barn with thousands of other chickens. She was never allowed outside, and never saw the sun or grass. Lights were kept on day and night in the barn, to encourage the young chicks to eat constantly. After only five weeks, Polly had grown from a tiny



Polly on arrival at Poplar Spring...

chick to a hefty three pound young hen. She had barely lived, but now it was time to die. On a cold morning in December, she and her friends were roughly grabbed by their legs and shoved into wire cages, which were then stacked high on the back of a large truck. As the vehicle sped along to the slaughterhouse, Polly, terrified, struggled wildly to escape from her crowded cage. She somehow squeezed through the wires, plummeting swiftly to the highway below.

Badly injured, Polly was too weak to move. She lay on the road face down for hours in the hot sun, bleeding from the large open wound on her side where she had skidded across the gravel. Her wing was broken and her face was scraped and bruised. When Carolyn found her she was severely dehydrated and in shock. Wrapping her in a towel and placing her gently in the car, Carolyn continued her drive another three hours to her daughter's home, where she was finally able to examine the hen more closely.

Having assumed that she would not survive the journey, she was surprised to see her still breathing, and greatly encouraged when Polly weakly drank the water and soaked dog food that she offered in a syringe. After a day and a half of calling local rescue groups, Carolyn finally found Poplar Spring, and we agreed to take Polly in.

The wound under Polly's wing was fairly extensive. The skin was gone and her muscles were totally exposed in a

...and after several weeks of intensive care.



large six inch area that was filled with dirt and dried blood. Her left wing was fractured and the bone was exposed. Exhausted, she had little response to being handled. A trip to the vet confirmed that her wounds could not be sutured because there was too much skin loss. So we cleaned and flushed them and bandaged her side and wing, and started her on antibiotics. Since she was unable
continued on page 3

Wooly, The Sheep Who Thought He Was a Horse

It was a late afternoon in January when Wooly the sheep arrived at Poplar Spring. Peering into the trailer, I gasped at his appearance. His wool was severely matted and tangled, and hung like long dirty dreadlocks sweeping the floor; his hooves were cracked and overgrown. He turned to look at me, and I wondered how anyone could let such a beautiful animal



Wooly and his friend Darcy.

get in this condition. His head was magnificent; he had large thick horns, which curled around his ears and a wonderful face with big, intelligent eyes.

Wooly was rescued by the Humane Society of the U.S. after being discovered at a Pennsylvania horse farm. He had originally come from a petting zoo, but was given away because he was not friendly enough with children. The farm owner turned him out with her horses, basically ignoring him for several years. She had not ever had him sheared, and because of this his wool grew long and matted, and was crawling with lice. He was very thin, and appeared terrified of people. The owner admitted that she would shock Wooly with an electric shocker whenever he tried to come into the barn with the horses. She said she was hoping he would “just die” over the summer, and was more than willing to give him to a Sanctuary.

We led Wooly to an area separated from the other animals, where he would stay until he was vaccinated and free

from parasites. After a few weeks of proper feed and veterinary treatment, he appeared to feel much better. He definitely seemed lonely, though, and I was anxious for him to have the company of other animals. We still had a few more weeks of quarantine, though, before he could go with the other sheep.

We had a thought—why not let Wooly stay with the horses? Whenever he saw the horses he would call to them, and we guessed that he must have bonded with them at his previous residence. We let him out of his yard and he sprinted over to Darcy, the largest horse, and stood under his legs. He looked as though he were in heaven. From then on, Wooly became one of the herd, never letting the horses out of his sight. It was a comical scene, especially viewed from a distance—three large horses grazing out in the fields, and one very small, very funny looking animal, resembling Cousin It (from the Addams Family) with horns. Wherever the horses wandered on the 400-acre property, little Wooly with his short stumpy legs trotted behind. This frequently meant passing through the woods, and he would often return from these excursions with a large tree branch or part of a bush stuck in his wool and dragging behind.

When spring came, we decided Wooly would be better off with his own kind. He always seemed so exhausted, trying to keep up with animals with much longer legs. But one look at the sheep, and he ran the opposite way. At first he cried and paced the fence line, calling out to the horses. We had to “wean” him by leaving a horse with him for several hours a day and in his stall at night. Gradually, over a two week period, he came to realize that maybe he was not a horse, after all. He became calmer and more relaxed, and took a special interest in Greta, one of the female sheep, even though he was neutered long ago. All the sheep were sheared, and when Wooly’s matted coat

continued on page 4



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

POPLAR SPRING
Post

A Newsletter from
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary
P.O. Box 507
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-428-8128
info@animalsanctuary.com

Editor and Writer
Teresa Cummings

Design donated by
Dennis & Sackett Design, Inc.
info@dennisandsackett.com

Printing donated by
Printing Images, Inc.
Rockville, MD

A Leap of Faith

continued from cover

to eat or drink on her own we began administering fluids under her skin and tube feeding her. Polly became a little stronger each day as we continued this routine. After several days she finally began eating on her own.

Milton

Only a week after she was rescued, another injured broiler chicken was found on the side of a busy highway on the Eastern Shore. He was a young rooster, about the same age as Polly, and we named him Milton. Milton's comb was bloody and raw, where he had obviously fallen and scraped his head. Polly and Milton began their recovery together, in a warm corner of our kitchen, and formed a close bond that has made them inseparable to this day. Their wounds slowly healed, and they are both now happy chickens who love to spend all their time together. They cry whenever they become separated or can't see one another. They perch together every night side by side, and spend their days in front of the large barn fan when it is hot. Polly and Milton enjoy being outside eating



Polly and Milton enjoying their new life.

grass (in fact, they simply enjoy eating!) and are now tipping the scales at over 10 and 20 pounds respectively, which is unfortunately normal for this breed.

The chicken industry has genetically manipulated broiler chickens to grow very fast and to have large heavy breasts, which is the primary part of meat desired
continued on page 4

WILDLIFE NEWS AND NOTES

Humane Ways to Live with Deer

Despite reports of increasing deer herds in suburbia, most communities experience only minor problems. Many people enjoy observing and feeding deer, and welcome seeing these beautiful animals in their yards and nearby parks. The most common complaint about living with deer, however, is damage to landscaping. Deer enjoy snacking on many of our favorite flowers and shrubs, but the following varieties are “deer-resistant” meaning most deer don't particularly care for them, and “deer-repellent” which may actually repel deer.

Repellent plants—Catnip, Chives, Garlic, Honeybush, Lavender, Onion, Sage, Spearmint, Thyme, and Yarrow

Resistant flowers and groundcover—Black-eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Daffodil, Foxglove, Hyacinth, Poppy, Iris, Lavender, Lily of the Nile, and Zinnia



Twin Fawns relax and graze at the Sanctuary.

Resistant trees, shrubs, and vines—Bottle brush, Daphne, Douglas fir, Euonymous, Hackberry, Holly, Jasmine, Juniper, Maple, Oleander, Limber pine, Pinon pine, Pomegranate, Wild lilac, Rockrose, Santolina, Scotch broom, and Blue spruce. ■

Source: Animal Protection Institute

A New Reality

Remember our times under the
aging apple, Pop,
When you were out cutting hay
And Ma would send me up with your lunch?
How all the cows would lie with us under
that dying tree
Whose fewer leaves each year provided less
and less shade
But all the comforts of familiarity?
I remember the year you decided that
Strawberry
Wasn't earning her keep anymore;
How, when the truck came to take her,
You had to pry me from her neck,
How she called to us as they drove away.
You explained to me then about
slaughterhouses and profits,
And how the fact that Strawberry had
spent her whole life giving us all the
milk she could
Had no bearing in the ledger book;
How slaughterhouses were never meant
to be cruel
But only turned out that way
Because making a profit requires expediency.
You thought you had to be rock hard, Pop,
To help me face the world;
You made me stand like a man

And accept reality
I just didn't want it to be so violent;
If Strawberry had to die
I wanted her to lie down one day
Under the old apple,
To lay her head on the grass beside us
And not wake up.
But you told me to accept the world as it was.
A lot of years later
In a hospital after your heart attack,
Ma woke us all and we gathered around
your bed
If you had to die, Pop,
I didn't want it to be so violent
Or so soon.
You never got to meet my friend Angie
Or hear her ideas about veganism;
Would you have wanted to hear?
I stood like a man
When the undertaker came to take you,
And I accepted your reality.
But later Angie and I planted a young apple
over your fresh grave,
And vowed that for the family we were
planning,
We'd create a new reality.

Anonymous

In Honor and In Memory Of

Thank 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 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. ■

Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.

Albert Einstein

In Honor Of

Topper and Linda Crook
Peggy Dennis and Eric Sackett
Howard Edelstein
Mary Finelli
Carole Hamlin
Chris Hill-Byrne
Mary Hill-Byrne

Dave Kuemmerle and Hilary Jones
Maura McCormick and Kyle Novak
Susan Bateson McKay
Cam McQueen
Marianne Merritt
Josh Milstein
Natalie Perez

Nancy Perry and Jon Lovvorn
Susan Ringland
Jerry Simonelli
Alex Smith
Kitty Swick

In Memory Of

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Thomas Cratty | Cali | Gallant | Lex | Mr. Ben | Spartan |
| Alex | Calvin | Garbo | Lou | Muffin | Spice |
| Andy | Casey | Ginger | Lucy | Nigel | Spirit |
| Aristotle | Casper | Goody | Maddie | Nitangi | Spot |
| Arnold | Cinnamon | Harry | Maeve | Olga | Spotless |
| Attila | Charlie | Henry | Maggie | Ozzie | Stevie |
| Bandit | Chocolate | Herbie | Mamasan | Pete | Sumee |
| Becka | Chuck | Hobbs | Margo | Rosie | Tassia |
| Bevoo | Cody | Jasmine | Maverick | Rowdy | Ted |
| Blaze | Cooler | Jessie | Max | Russell | Teddie |
| Blithedale | Cricket | Julius | Mercy | Samantha | Terrance |
| Boots | Debbie | Katie | Merlyn | Schubert | Tommy |
| Boo-Yah | Dylan | Kato | Mica | Scottie | Trooper |
| Bronco | Fanny | Kia | Mikey | Sheba | Tussy Pat |
| Buddy | Floppy | Kitness | Milo | Shira | Watsie |
| Bugar | Fluffy | Kitty | Mimi | Shougui | Zack |
| Bur | Fritz | Kristan | Moonboots | Slippers | Zasu |

Wooly

continued from page 2

finally came off, his beauty was striking. His skin and wool were white with brown spots, resembling an Appaloosa horse. He had gained weight, and was now very healthy and handsome.

Wooly now spends his days with Greta and the other rescued sheep laying in the sun, grazing on the grass, and munching on timothy hay in their pasture. He is much more trusting of people, and enjoys eating carrot and apple pieces out of our hands. I know that he is grateful to finally have a home where he is appreciated and loved.

Unfortunately, most unwanted petting zoo animals do not have the happy ending to their story that Wooly did. Many end up at auctions to be slaughtered for meat, or are sold to other roadside zoos. These places continuously breed their animals, creating a large surplus, because the public likes to see cute little babies. Our wish is that someday these petting zoos will cease to exist, and people can come to know wonderful animals like Wooly only at a loving home or sanctuary. ■

A Leap of Faith

continued from page 3

by consumers. But this has resulted in birds whose skeletons often times cannot bear their own weight. They tend to have problems with arthritis and fractures, and will often die suddenly of heart attacks. The average life expectancy for the breed, even those who are rescued, is less than a year. We know we will not have Polly and Milton long, but we intend to give them the best life possible, to make up for their horrible beginnings, and in honor of the 9 billion other chickens killed annually in the United States, who will never have a chance. ■



KID'S CORNER

The We Love Animals Club from the St. Jane de Chantal School in Bethesda invited Poplar Spring to give a slide presentation on farm animal rescue this past Spring. The children then raised funds to sponsor Ebony the pony, and sent letters describing how they would help animals if they "ruled the world".



The We Love Animals Club and their mascot, Ebony.

Dear Ebony

One day I might rule the world.
I will make a safety house for animals. The features will be Big-screen TV, DVD player, VCR and hot tub there are more things to the house I think you will like the house.

From,
Mary Colleen Rajk



Dear Ebony,
How are you doing?
If I ruled the world
I would make the law say
that animals should get free
food, they should never be
killed, they should have shelter
and someone to love and take
care of them. Horses are my
favorite animal.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stubbs

Many thanks to all the other kids who helped to raise money for the sanctuary animals:

Natalie Perez and Josh Milstein, who celebrated their birthdays at the Sanctuary, and requested donations for the animals be given in lieu of gifts

Poolesville Elementary School's Student Government Association, who held a raffle of a stuffed cow and pig at their annual carnival, and Seven Locks Elementary School, who collected money from students and parents to sponsor a chicken and a horse.

Marcus Axelrod, who went door to door in his neighborhood, collecting donations for the sanctuary

Girl Scout Troop #1137, 7th graders at the Norwood School, who held cookie and bake sales and car washes, with Poplar Spring as one of the beneficiaries.

And a HUGE thanks to our biggest little fundraisers of all, the 32 first grade students at Sandy Spring Friends School, who for the second year in a row held a Spell-a-thon, and raised an incredible \$5,400 for the rescued animals. ■



First graders at Sandy Spring Friends School once again raise record amount for the animals.

Sanctuary News and Notes

The past year has been our busiest yet at Poplar Spring. Now in our sixth year, we continue to educate thousands of visitors annually about farm animals and wildlife, and the inhumane treatment that so many suffer from. We have opened our hearts and farm to many new animals who desperately needed a home, including chickens who were left to starve at a bankrupt egg laying facility, abandoned pigs who had fallen from trucks, a one-horned goat found wandering on a highway, and many others. Our newest arrivals are two mules, Hal and Gloria, who were rescued



Tom Kucsera

Gail Eisnitz speaks at fourth annual Open House.

and our annual Open House and Fundraiser in October, were both huge successes. Over 800 people attended each event. Farm Tour visitors enjoyed hayrides, refreshments, and the animals, along with purchasing donated treasures at our giant yard sale.

Our fifth annual Open House and Fundraiser was our largest ever, and raised over \$37,000. for the animals. In addition to meeting and interacting with the animals, children and adults alike had a great time, thanks to entertainment by Dave Kitchen and the Demolition, Candy Cane the Clown, delicious food, teas donated by Honest Tea, and a silent auction. We were honored to have Gail Eisnitz, of the Humane Farming Association and author of *Slaughterhouse*, as our keynote speaker, who captivated the audience with her inspirational talk. A big thanks



Members of Potomac Community Resources help build bluebird houses.

to all the businesses and volunteers who made this day possible, especially Memar Sadeghi of Thyme Square in Bethesda, MD who very generously donated his services, along with delicious appetizers and pasta.

In November we were lucky enough to have spring like weather for our annual Thanksgiving celebration with the turkeys. This year the vegan potluck event was held outside in the picnic area, and the turkeys clearly loved their special table filled with breadcrumbs, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapes, and kale.

Valentine's Day was a special time for the animals, too, after the wonderful Valentine Fundraiser held in their



Hal and Gloria the mules looking for handouts.

by a kind woman who witnessed their former owner punishing them by tying their head to their hoof. All these wonderful animals will now be able to live out their lives at the Sanctuary, with plenty of fresh grass and space to roam, nourishing food to eat, warm comfortable barns filled with hay to sleep in, and all the love and encouragement we can give them. This is only possible due to the incredible help and continued support from all our caring friends.

Poplar Spring recently joined with Potomac Community Resources, which provides opportunities for individuals with developmental differences, to host a project for National Youth Service Day. The group constructed and erected dozens of bluebird houses on the Sanctuary's protected grounds.

Our two big events for the year, the Montgomery County Farm Tour in July,



Marie Gleason

Alice, Ann Marie and Olivia have a special table at Thanksgiving celebration.



Tom Kucsera

Tally, a former race horse, enjoys meeting visitors on a tour.

benefit at the Capitol Hill home of Tony Rodham. A silent auction with items donated by Peter Max, Tony Rodham, and others helped raise over \$5,400 for the rescued animals. Thanks to volunteers extraordinaire Marianne Merritt, Nancy Perry, Kirsten Rosenberg, and Susan Solarz, who worked many long hours planning and co-hosting this event. ■

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

Are 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.com
Web: www.animalsanctuary.com



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

Visiting the Sanctuary

We are having several open houses this year (see Upcoming Events), but you can see the animals at other times too. Visitors to the sanctuary are welcome, but by appointment only. Tours are offered for groups, families, and individuals, usually in the late morning, which is the best time to visit the animals. Please make reservations in advance, but call early (at least a week ahead is best) For those who sponsor animals, you are welcome to visit anytime, but calling 24 hours ahead is mandatory, the gate will be locked at other times. The animals love to have treats, but to avoid overfeeding, please check with a staff person before offering any food to the animals during your visit.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we hope to see you sometime soon! ■

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for these fun opportunities to visit the Sanctuary and interact with the animals.

Montgomery County Farm Tour

Saturday, July 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visitors can meet the animals, enjoy hay rides, ice cold lemonade, veggie burgers and veggie hot dogs, and shop for t-shirts, sweat shirts, and hand made crafts in our gift shop. Yard sale to benefit the animals—donate your good quality items for the yard sale and receive a receipt for your taxes. No reservations necessary.

Fifth Annual Open House and Fundraiser

Sunday, September 29th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our biggest event of the year—and everyone's invited! Come enjoy live music, great food, a silent auction, Candy Cane the clown, a soon to be announced speaker, and of course strolling around to meet the rescued animals. RSVP requested.

Annual Thanksgiving with the Turkeys

Saturday, November 23rd, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Come celebrate Thanksgiving WITH the turkeys—as our guests. Join turkeys Alice, Ann Marie, Olivia, Gobbles, Eliot, and Gertrude and celebrate a cruelty-free Thanksgiving potluck. Please bring a vegan (no meat, dairy, or eggs) dinner or dessert item to serve eight. \$10.00 suggested donation to benefit the animals (children free). ■

| W | I | S | H | ★ | L | I | S | T | |
|-------|--|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Funds | Gift certificates from Southern State (for animal feed and supplies) | Donations for yard sale | Good quality hay | Digital camera | Stamps | Electrical help | Six- or 8-foot folding tables | Folding chairs | Portable winch |



**Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary**
P.O. Box 507
Poolesville, MD 20837

**Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID**
Permit No. 480
Poolesville, MD 20837

Address Service Requested



Lori Milstein

Spike the rooster and Emory the hen enjoy a relaxing rock on the porch.