

Summer 2003

**A Newsletter from
Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary**

Chester the rooster, at
right, was found as a stray
in Rockville, Maryland

POPLAR SPRING Post



FINDING SANCTUARY AGAINST ALL ODDS

Alone and scared, little Lily waited in the dark stall at the livestock auction. All around her were the loud noises of the auction - metal gates slamming, frightened cows mooing, pigs squealing, and men yelling and hitting the animals with sticks. Lily stood shivering, a four month old Holstein calf, unwanted because of her undersized body and the large umbilical hernia which caused a loop of intestines to hang from her belly. A dairy farmer had brought her in, not wanting to deal with her medical problems. Suddenly a woman and a worker appeared at her stall. "How much for the calf?" the woman asked. "She's worthless - but you can have her for a dollar." replied the man. Lily was hopeful - she was tired and so hungry. Maybe the woman had come to help her.

But this woman was no friend to animals. She was what is known to humane officers as a "collector", someone who takes in many more animals than they are able to care for. She had been given citations four times in the past few years for starving animals and confining them in deplorable conditions. The week prior to the auction, the situation was so bad that all of her animals were confiscated. The local animal control removed dozens of starving calves, goats, dogs and adult cows, and the woman was fined and charged with animal cruelty.

But nobody knew that she now had Lily.

The woman drove Lily to her home, an out of the way farm in rural Pennsylvania. There she was placed



Lily before her surgery

inside a round pen surrounded by metal bars which prevented her from running away, though she tried many times to escape her prison. There was no roof or shelter of any kind. It was cold and snowing, and she was forced to lie on the frozen, manure covered ground with no protection for her tiny body. Over the next few days she was not given the nourishing feed that she needed, only occasional buckets of cold milk and no hay or grain. As time went on, she became weaker and more depressed - it seemed that her struggle for life would soon be over. Finally, in desperation, she tried again to squeeze through the bars of her metal cage- this time she had lost

so much weight that she could just get through. She was free! Lily ran, away from the woman and the metal pen, and stumbled straight into the road. A car was coming, and it swerved to miss hitting her. This time Lily was lucky - it was a police car and the officer inside got out to help the little calf. Seeing that she had come from the collector's farm, he put Lily back, but reported the incident immediately to the Lawrence County Humane Society, who came out to rescue her the next day.

Our friends at OohMahNee Farm Sanctuary helped to transport and give initial care to Lily, and reported that her condition was very poor. Her entire body was completely covered in old crusted manure, and her hernia was infected and would require immediate surgery. We drove all night to pick her up, and after arriving at Poplar Spring she collapsed in exhaustion in a warm stall piled high with a soft straw bed. Lily was finally home.

Over the next week, Lily was thoroughly bathed, treated for parasites, and hospitalized for her hernia repair. The infection had spread to her bladder, which had to be partially removed. Due to malnutrition the growth plates on her leg bones were enlarged, and she had very poor muscle tone and body condition from her long-term confinement. She was given plenty of fresh hay and small amounts of grain,

continued on page 3

Mother Goose



Ulysses guards her adopted goslings

Ulysses sounded like a good strong name, worthy of this goose who had survived severe starvation in a barren pen on a horse farm in Maryland. Her companion was not so lucky, and had died within hours of her arrival at the Sanctuary, so emaciated that she was little more than bones and feathers. The woman who rescued the geese had finally convinced the neglectful owner to release them, but it was sadly too late for one, as they had only been fed occasional scraps and little else for more than two years.

Ulysses, obviously the stronger of the two, adapted well to life at the Sanctuary, immediately taking a long bath in the pond, relishing the cool water after years of living on bare dirt and wire. Pairing up with the other domestic geese, Ulysses waddled around the farm, nibbling the lush grass and quickly locating every feeding station around the barns and bird feeders. It wasn't until spring that we discovered, upon seeing her newly laid egg, that Ulysses was actually a female. Formerly very mellow and tame, she now became very defensive of her territory, a nest made of small twigs and grass, which she unfortunately chose to build directly outside our back door. Anyone who dared to come near would be hissed and honked at severely, and if these warnings were not enough,

she would get her message across by biting the unsuspecting victim on the leg, or more often, the rear end that was retreating as quickly as possible.

This posed a problem, as we, for obvious reasons, do not allow the domestic animals at the sanctuary to reproduce. So her egg was routinely collected each day, with the hope that she would soon tire of the routine and abandon the nest.

But Ulysses was not a quitter. When the eggs continued to disappear she resiliently created her own, a piece of an old iron hinge, painted white, that she found buried in the dirt under the middle of the circular nest, she stopped laying her daily egg and instead remained constantly on the nest, turning the hinge gently and talking softly to it. She would spend several minutes each day carefully covering the hinge with grass to keep it warm, after which she would rush off hurriedly to eat a few quick bites of corn. Her boyfriend Earl, a large grey goose, would assist her by stationing himself at the corner of the house to chase off potential intruders. At night she refused to leave the nest and sleep on the pond where she would be safe from raccoons and foxes. We tried carrying her to the pond in the dark and tossing her in the water, but to no avail. She usually outran us back to the nest. We had no choice but to carry her down and lock her in the chicken barn at night for her own safety, a task which was always accomplished as quickly as possible. Squawking in protest and biting us in tender places the whole way, she let us

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
E-mail: info@animalsanctuary.org
Web: www.animalsanctuary.org

Editor and Writer
Teresa Cummings

Graphic Designer
Gary Kaplan
GK Graphic Designs

Original design concept donated by
Dennis & Sackett Design, Inc.

Printing services donated by
Printing Images

FINDING SANCTUARY AGAINST ALL ODDS

continued from cover



Lily, now healthy and growing, gets groomed by Charlotte

which she ate hungrily. It would be many months of recovery, but Lily's spirit was very strong.

After a few weeks she was able to meet the fourteen other rescued cows for the first time. The adult cows were very excited, especially Charlotte, another Holstein who was rescued as a one day old calf when she was found injured on a highway after jumping from a truck. The cows mooed loudly and gathered at the fence to look at the new baby. Charlotte, now four years old, looked much like Lily's own mother would have, and Lily and Charlotte bonded immediately. Lily followed her everywhere, and Charlotte spent lots of time licking and grooming Lily and teaching her how to be a cow. The others accepted her completely as a new member of the herd.

Lily is now ten months old and is doing remarkably well. She runs and plays in the tall grassy fields and spends her days meandering around the farm with Charlotte and the other cows, taste testing the maple leaves, munching on locust blossoms in the woods, and drinking fresh water from the rain-filled creeks. The woman who neglected Lily spent time in jail, and was convicted of several counts of animal cruelty. She is not allowed to own any animals for several more years. And Lily, the brave little calf who managed to win her freedom against all odds, will now live happily ever after at Poplar Spring. ■

W I L D L I F E W A T C H

Mute Swans Win Reprieve in Maryland



Amanda the mute swan swims with her rescued friends at the Sanctuary

After unnecessarily slaughtering 100 wild mute swans this spring, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has surrendered their permit to kill 1400 more of these majestic animals on the Chesapeake Bay. Thanks to a lawsuit filed by the Fund for Animals, the agency decided to discontinue their activities of indiscriminately shooting and killing the swans, after being asked to do so by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, granters of the original permit.

The swans were being targeted for their consumption of bay grasses, which have declined due to various factors, including pollution and runoff from farms and housing developments. The USFWS permit allowed for the swans to

be killed at any time and in any location of the state, despite the fact that they are protected under federal and international laws and that their numbers have actually decreased since 1999. Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. backed the plan to cut the state's swan population to only 500 birds. Please contact the governor to let him know that you do not support lethal methods for controlling these beautiful birds. ■

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-974-3901
Fax: 410-974-3275
governor@gov.state.md.us

"Very little of the great cruelty shown by men can really be attributed to cruel instinct. Most of it comes from thoughtlessness or inherited habit. The roots of cruelty, therefore, are not so much strong as widespread. But the time must come when inhumanity protected by custom and thoughtlessness will succumb before humanity championed by thought. Let us work that this time may come."

--Albert Schweitzer ■

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. ■

In Honor Of

Lisa Borghesi and Jonathan C. Lewis
Judy Cahill
David Chandler and Joan Levy
Peggy Dennis
Chris Fontecchio and Stacy Schulz
Karen Hafer
Chris Heyde
Ariana Huemer
Dave Kuemmerle and Hilary Jones
Wade Lindsay

Cam MacQueen
Dr. Monique Maniet
Suzanne McMillan
Marianne Merritt
Jacob and Gabriel Oppler
Laurie Paul
Rich Peppin
Rachel Revis
Charlotte Rizzi
Adam Roberts and Stephanie Shain

In gratitude to Murray and Molly, two vegan dogs who, in spite of their former abuse, chose to be peacemakers and live out their lives with us. We thought we had rescued you guys, when in actuality you became our wise and playful caretakers. We know we will romp with you and all the others again, and are just as sure that you are with us, even now.

Soulmates forever, Steve McCormick, Carol Elsmann McCormick, Chessie and Rosalita

Eliana Samuels
Elaina Smith
Stephanie Smith
Odin and Nancy Tidemand
Radha and Harri Vaidyanathan

In Memory Of

Benjamin Roy	Ashley	Duke	Mamasan	Rosebud Gorenflo	Sweeney
Dieudonne	Ashling	Edgar	Max C.	Rozy	Taddy
Mona Ducre-	Attila	Ellie	Maxine	Rupert	Tessa Brenner
Joseph	Belle	Fluffy	Mikie	Sam	Theo
Michael Yung-	Betsy	Frisk	Misha	Sammy	Tiny
Joon Ha	Bities	Glory	Miss Kitty	Samson	Ulysses
Elizabeth Hazard	Bob	GoGo	Missy	Sasha	Ursa
Yvonne Lacroix	Boo	Hamlet	Mouse	Scott	Vincent
The Harlan and	Britches	Heidi	Mr. Boggs	Sheila	Watson
Gilmore Family	Brownie	Juanita	Mr. Rose	Sibele	Wellington
Pets	Bruiser	Keeper	Nikki	Sizzle	Willow
A Bear	Bubba	Kitness	Oliver	Snoopy	Woodley
Abner	Buster	Kringle	Pat	Sophie	Yasmin
Ace	Cal	Lily	Pirate	Speedy	Zelda
Alexander	Claude	Loki	Prema	Splash	Zonda
Anushi	Cocoa	Lucky	Puppy Dog	Spud	
Archie	Darby	Mae	Rodolfo	Steven	
Arlo	Dozer	Magic	Roo	Susan	

Mother Goose

continued from page 2

know that she did not appreciate our interference. She would pace in the barn until daylight, at which time we would open the door for her. Running as fast as her legs could carry her and honking desperately, she would return to the nest and spend the next several hours rearranging it while cooing softly to the hinge.

When it appeared there was no end to this situation, we made the harsh decision to remove the beloved "egg". One morning Ulysses made her panicked run to the nest only to discover it was empty. She searched the area for a long while, calling and digging at the ground with her beak (perhaps hoping to uncover another hinge!) After a few hours, she made

her way back to the pond. We sighed in relief, thinking all was well, until we heard a loud commotion coming from a group of Canada geese. Ulysses, unable to hatch her own children, was trying to steal a wild couple's babies. The wild geese fiercely defended their goslings, and would not allow her to make off with them. But the next day we saw an amusing sight. The goose family paraded past the house, with one Canada goose in front, one behind the juveniles, and Ulysses proudly strutting alongside. Since then, she has taken her place in the family as a surrogate mom, happily taking on babysitting chores, chasing off strangers, and allowing the parents to rest and eat more frequently. Ulysses has had her wish come true - in her own unique way she has finally become a real mother. ■

Goodbye to Alice: a Tribute



Debbie Duell

Alice and friend Max

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a very special friend, Alice the turkey. Alice was for many years Poplar Spring's unofficial mascot, and her outgoing personality and affection for people made her one of the most beloved animals at the sanctuary.

Alice came to Poplar Spring in 1998, after she was found strolling down a sidewalk in Frederick, Maryland. She was picked up by the Frederick County animal control in the fall, so we think she was probably being raised for someone's Thanksgiving dinner when she escaped. As we always said, Alice was a very smart turkey. She was initially shy but once she adjusted to life at the farm she began to show an amazing attraction to humans. She was often compared to a dog, as she loved nothing more than to be close to people. At night she slept in the chicken barn but during the day she followed people around, going from barn to barn, resting only when whoever she was following stopped walking. She loved large tour groups most of all, and would yelp anxiously in the barn until we would let her out in the morning. She would then waddle/run to the top of the hill, legs flying out to the side of her large top-heavy body, until she could get a clear look at the parking area. She

would scan the view for school buses, her favorite sight. If there was no bus, she would give a disappointed chirp, and walk slowly around, looking for someone to follow. On tour days she eagerly joined the group, tail feathers up in display, amazing young and old alike with her charming character. She would sit down on the ground so that small children could reach her and pet her feathers, and she would close her eyes in happiness when her neck and head were stroked. Her affinity for people often placed her in amusing situations. Once when a group of students on a tour were misbehaving, their teacher ordered them to line up in single file in front of the bus. The children dutifully walked to the bus, with Alice in tow. When the teacher walked over to discuss the children's behavior with them, he was quite surprised to see that Alice had taken her place in the lineup, directly between two of the errant youngsters, waiting patiently for the teacher's lecture. She often even climbed into the school buses with the children, not wanting them to leave.



Alice in her element

One of Alice's personality quirks was her great love of anything with wheels. For this reason she was highly attracted to strollers and wheelchairs, much to the delight of some and the distraction of others. Mothers who did not know Alice were initially concerned when she was jogging excitedly next to their baby's stroller, afraid that she was "after" their young child, then were puzzled when we assured them that Alice was only trying

to get closer to the stroller's wheels. Elderly and handicapped visitors delighted in the fact that they could reach down and pet this incredible turkey who would lay literally on top of those attractive extra large wheels.

Alice was always the life of the party. She once danced to the live band at our Open House and Fundraiser, pirouetting, strutting and spinning to the Elvis Presley song which apparently put her in the mood. She was the favorite hostess at our annual "Thanksgiving WITH the turkeys" vegan event, and she and the other turkeys enjoyed celebrating the holiday with their own special table loaded with cranberries, grapes, pumpkin pie, and other goodies. Alice enjoyed being a star, and was featured on several local news stations over the years, most recently even appearing on Animal Planet's Pet Psychic.

In her later years, Alice was stricken with arthritis, and could no longer make the long trips to the various barns on the tours. She still enjoyed interacting with visitors who would come to her barn to visit her, but her dancing days were over. In the end, she never suffered, and after a lively morning of pecking at the scrub brush with which we were cleaning the barn ramp (one of her favorite activities) she died quietly in her sleep. Alice was at least six years old, a geriatric age for a domestic turkey, bred to grow heavy and large for her breast meat, which is preferred by consumers. Normally turkeys are slaughtered at only 16 weeks of age, so Alice the amazing turkey beat the odds, and had a wonderful full life that all turkeys deserve. She is survived by her turkey friends Olivia, Ann Marie, Eliot, Gobbles, and Gertrude, and she will be greatly missed by the many people who came to know and love her. We buried Alice on the highest hill overlooking the sanctuary. Her most lasting achievement was her demonstration to countless visitors that turkeys can be so much more than food - if given the opportunity, they would love to be our friends. ■

Sanctuary News and Notes

We are now in our seventh year as a sanctuary, and we are busier than ever rescuing and rehabilitating farm animals and giving educational talks and tours both at the farm and in classrooms around the Washington D.C. area. Our annual events last year had the largest attendance to date, with both the Farm Tour and Open House and Fundraiser welcoming over 800 visitors each. (See pg. 8 for dates and times for our events this year)

This past winter was quite an ordeal with the two feet of snow we received in February. Luckily, all the animals were able to stay warm and dry in their barns, and everyone is now enjoying the warm weather. Many of you remembered us, and helped out by sending donations, which we were able to use to purchase the huge amounts of hay, straw and feed we needed to make it through. Thanks to the generous contributions of all of our



Pumpkin, looking adorable a few weeks after his arrival



Daisy the sheep and Kerry the goat show off their winter jackets

caring supporters, we have been able to help many new animals this past year. Two of the cutest additions are Daisy and Pumpkin the sheep. Daisy was found as a six week old lamb walking down a street in a high-crime area in Pennsylvania. She was picked up by the local animal control, and needed lots of TLC to regain her health. Found a little closer to home was Pumpkin, a young Karakul sheep who was spotted in a backyard in Arlington, VA. He was severely dehydrated and emaciated, and had to be treated for maggots under his tail and between his hooves. The residents who had him tied up said they had just "found" him. Pumpkin and Daisy are now healthy and happy and are enjoying grazing and frolicking in the large sheep pasture with their rescued friends. Thanks to all of you who have made it possible for us to continue our important work to make a difference for animals! ■

Suzanne McMillan



KID'S CORNER

Many thanks to all the kids who pitched in to help the sanctuary animals:

Fourth Graders at **Temple Beth Shalom Religious School** who collected money to help care for the animals.

Seven Locks Elementary School, who once again collected donations for the animals, and sponsored a pig and a goat with their contributions.

Fallsmead Elementary School, who set up two "piggy banks" in the school's front hallway, and collected over \$160. for the animals.

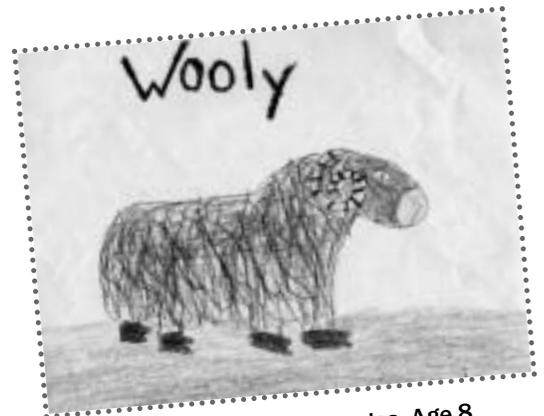
Eliana Samuels, who celebrated her birthday at Poplar Spring, and asked guests to donate instead of giving gifts.

Brownie Troop #3899 and the Concord St. Andrews School, who both collected money and sponsored rescued pigs.

And last but definitely not least - the amazing first graders at **Sandy Spring Friends School** who held their annual Spell-a-thon and raised a whopping \$4,800 for the animals. ■



by Emily, Age 7



by Jessica, Age 8

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.org
Web: 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

"CHICKEN SITTERS" NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer, but prefer doing something enjoyable and non-physical to help the animals, we have the perfect job for you! Due to an escalating predator problem (foxes, hawks and eagles often hunt during the day and consider chickens a delicacy) we have been forced to restrict the chickens to limited time outside their barns. We hate to keep them "cooped up" so much of the time. Even 1-2 hours once in awhile would be a help, and volunteers are welcome to bring reading material, a vegetarian lunch and/or a favorite comfortable chair or blanket. Sessions must be scheduled in advance -volunteer applications are available on our website at www.animalsanctuary.org. Come on out and spend a fun and relaxing time with the sanctuary's friendly chickens and turkeys! ■

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 26, 2003 10:00**

a.m. - 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, sweatshirts, and handmade 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.

**Sixth Annual Open
House and Fundraiser -
Sunday, September 21,
2003 1:00 p.m. - 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, speakers, and of course strolling around to

meet the rescued animals. RSVP requested.

**Annual Thanksgiving
with the turkeys Saturday,
November 22, 2002 12
noon to 4 p.m.** Come celebrate Thanksgiving WITH the turkeys - as our guests. Join turkeys 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 8. \$10.00 suggested donation per adult to benefit the animals. (Children welcome!)■

W I S H ★ L I S T

Funds

Gift Certificates from

Southern States (for animal feed and supplies)

Donations for yard sale

Good quality hay

folding chairs

Stamps

Electrical help

6 or 8 ft folding tables

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



Tom Kucsera

Odie the pig enjoys a relaxing mud bath