



Summer 2004

A Newsletter from
Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary

Eliot the turkey, at right,
was rescued from a cage
behind a restaurant in D.C.

Behind Closed Doors

On a small farm in Caroline County, far from view inside a dark barn, a young Yorkshire pig named Otto sat dejectedly in a broken-down wire cage. The farm owner had gone out of town, and Otto had not been given any food and very little water for more than two weeks. His backbone and pelvic bones stuck out sharply from his emaciated body. Two horses, also forgotten and thin, were the only other occupants of the closed and shuttered barn who were still alive. A chicken, tied by her leg to a post, had finally succumbed to starvation several days before.

Into this misery came, finally, a ray of hope – a visiting neighbor looked into the barn, and was shocked by what she saw. She alerted the humane society, who inspected the property. Upon observing the condition of the animals, humane officers immediately removed them and took them to safety.



Otto waits in his cage for help

Released from his cage, Otto lunged frantically to drink from a bucket of water. Severely dehydrated, he gulped

down large mouthfuls, desperately trying to quench his thirst, and then vomited. It would be several more weeks before he would learn to eat and drink without panicking. The horses were taken to a local horse rescue and Otto was boarded temporarily at a humane society board member's farm, where he was neutered before being transported to Poplar Spring.



Otto after months of love and care

Over the months, Otto slowly gained weight and has grown to be a very friendly and healthy pig. He loves belly rubs, and enjoys taking a refreshing mud bath after a leisurely breakfast, and walking around in his four acre pasture with his many new pig friends. He truly must feel as if he has gone to heaven!

The farm owner was charged with four counts of animal cruelty and pled guilty to two counts. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, a \$1,500 fine, and two years of probation, during which time he cannot own or house any farm animals. A big thanks to the Caroline County

Humane Society, for their hard work on this case.

Saved from Slaughter – twice

In Lexington, Virginia, meanwhile, another group of pigs were not so lucky. The farmer who was raising them for meat inexplicably stopped feeding them, causing 11 of the 18 pigs on his farm to die of starvation before help arrived. By the time the local animal control was alerted by a concerned relative, the smallest pig, Dina, was so weak that she could no longer stand, and had to be carried off of the farm. The pigs had been kept in a collapsed barn and the photographs the investigators took told a terrible story. Skeletons and body parts of the animals who had lost their lives littered the rotting floor boards.

While they were now free from the negligent farmer, the surviving pigs were unbelievably still in danger. Despite the fact that they had just been rescued from starvation, the County planned to sell the pigs at auction to the highest bidder, to recoup some of their costs for the rescue effort. Sadly, this is considered standard policy in some jurisdictions. Because pigs are considered “food animals”, they are treated differently from dogs or cats. Thankfully, the shelter workers who were keeping the pigs while the case went to court fell in love with them, and put out an e-mail alerting animal groups of their plight. Funds were raised and the shelter outbid several farmers who wanted to eat the pigs.

Heidi the Cow



Heidi relaxing at the sanctuary

Heidi was born on a factory dairy farm in Georgia, a sprawling industrial complex set back from the road, one of 2,000 calves born to the milking herd that year. A beautiful soft cream colored baby, Heidi was separated from her mother as soon as she was born and taken to a small pen with other newborn calves. She was not allowed to nurse - all of her mother's milk would be saved for humans.

In this part of the country there was no market for young dairy calves. The farm disposed of the unwanted offspring in a very cruel manner - as soon as they were born they were taken to a large trench in a field, shot, then dumped in a pit. This horrible scenario seemed to be Heidi's fate - to be born and to die in the same day.

But miraculously, on this day, Heidi's fate took a turn.

A man happened to be visiting the farm that day, a goat farmer who had come to teach some of the employees how to make cheese. As payment for his services, he was given his choice of four calves to take with him, which he planned to raise for beef. He looked in at the crowded pen of shivering newborn babies, and chose Heidi.

Heidi and the three other calves went to live at the goat farm in Virginia, and for a time, life was good. She and her friends had a large grass filled pasture, which they shared with a few dairy goats. They ran and played with each other, enjoying the sun and the grass and being alive. They were fed lots of grain, so they

would grow big and fat. As she matured, Heidi blossomed and became a beautiful sleek Jersey cow. But after 18 months, suddenly, once again, it was time to go.

One morning the cows came out of the barn to see a big black trailer parked near the fence. The farmer called to the cows, shaking a bucket of feed, and one by one they cautiously entered the trailer. But Heidi stayed far away. She did not like the look or the smell of the trailer. The farmer got other men to help him, to try to corral Heidi into a corner, but she ran and bucked and kicked until all the men were tired of chasing her. Finally, they gave up and took the trailer away with Heidi's three friends, leaving her all alone. "Stupid cow - we'll get her later", they said.

For the next few months, Heidi shared her pasture with only the goats. She was very lonely, and walked around the fields, mooing and calling for the other cows. The farmer filled his freezer with meat from Heidi's friends, and scheduled a smaller trailer to come back for Heidi. This time he would lock her in the barn, so there would be no escape.

When the day came, Heidi heard the noise of a large vehicle backing up to the closed barn. She became very nervous and ran around inside her stall, looking for a way out. The trailer was backed up and gates put on either side of the barn door. Heidi was prodded with sticks by the farmer and his friends, and driven towards the entrance to the trailer. When she got to the opening, her eyes grew very wide, and she shook with fear. The trailer was a bad place, and she did not want to go on. She looked around and did the only thing she could - she jumped over the four-foot gates, and ran away, into the fields. For now, Heidi was free.

This made the farmer very angry. He was tired of playing games. Heidi was here for one purpose only, and she was making his life very difficult. He went to his other job that day, and remarked to a friend that he would now have to slaughter his cow himself, on the farm,

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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
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 Poolesville, MD 20837
 301-428-8128
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 Web: www.animalsanctuary.org

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

Help Save Black Bears in Maryland

Black bears, once nearly extinct in Maryland, have made a remarkable comeback. The small population now includes approximately 300 to 400 bears in the state. But after 50 years of protection, the Maryland government has proposed a bear hunting season to begin this October.

Bears do not pose a public safety threat - there has never been a single bear attack in Maryland. Simple, effective solutions already exist, such as removing food and trash that attracts bears, installing electric fencing around crops and beehives, and using aversive conditioning to teach bears to behave. The DNR already has the authority to

euthanize “repeat offender” problem bears if aversive conditioning and relocation are ineffective.

The threat to public safety is not bears, but rather is the expansion of hunting, which already causes dozens of injuries and even some fatalities each year in Maryland.

Please write to the governor and ask him to prevent the black bear hunt in Maryland from going forward. ■

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Source: The Fund for Animals



K I D ' S C O R N E R

A Big THANK YOU to all the kids who helped the rescued animals in many unique ways:

Paula Dawson and **Kerry Fitzpatrick**, who handcrafted beautiful dried flower bookmarkers for sale in our gift shop.

Jonah Goldman, who won a local race and donated his prize money to Poplar Spring (and thanks to dad Seth for matching his gift!).



Hannah Sangillo (center) sells lemonade and magnets for the animals

The **Save the Earth Club**, a home school group from Frederick who raised \$77.50 selling flowers

Hannah Sangillo, one of our faithful volunteer “chicken sitters”, who took photos of the animals and made magnets out of them. She then sold lemonade and had a magnet and bake sale for the animals in front of her house.

The students of **Poolesville Elementary School’s Student Government Association** who held a garage and candy sale and gave part of their profits to Poplar Spring

All the kids who had birthday parties and very generously asked guests to donate to Poplar Spring in lieu of gifts: **Jordyn Chace, Grace Embrey, Atalya Ha, Emily Lucas, Madeline Melch, Emilio Mendez, Josh Milstein, Ellie Shein, Maddie Turner, and Sheehan, Muirgheal and Caislin Wheeler.**

Girl Scout Troop #2881 from Annandale, VA, who gave a \$200. donation from money raised selling cookies.

And last but not least, all the students at **Seven Locks Elementary School**, who once again very generously raised funds for the animals, this year sponsoring a sheep and a horse and raising over \$375. (special thanks to 1st grade teacher Mrs. Molter, for her continued support!). ■



Seven Locks Elementary 1st graders visit the sanctuary

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

Nancy Alexander
Susie, Jesse, Roger and Owen Berliner
Rob Blizard
Susan Burke
Michele Carsrud
Glenn Camp
Jordyn Chace
Mickey Cook
Grace Embrey
Steve Garron
Phyllis Goldstein
Lynn Grubb
Atalya Ha

Anne Holder
Hilary Jones
Chris and Kirsti Kerr
David Kuemmerle
Julie Lehman
Wade Lindsay
Emily Lucas
Dr. Monique Maniet
Kelly Mathieu
Madeline Melch
Bruce Mellett
Emilio Mendez
Josh Milstein

Lisa Musgrave
Ellie Shein
Jerry Simonelli
Ann Marie Stringer
Maddie Turner
Lila Wadhvani
Caislin Wheeler
Muirgheal Wheeler
Sheehan Wheeler
Warren Wigutow
Mark and Maureen Williams

In Memory Of

Mona Ducret	Bob	Daisy	Jasper	Muffin	Sarah
Joseph	Boo Kitty	Dakota	Jessie	Mullin	Scout
Michael Yung-	Boots	Dandy	Junior	Nathan	Spartan
Joon Ha	Bubba	Daphne	Katrina	Nike	Surfie
Abby	Buddy	Dido	Kitty	Nolan	Taggart
Abner	Cajun	Dixie Lee	Kodi	Nora	Taz
Abu	Carrie	Dudley	Kylie	Oliver	Tegi
Albert	Casey	Ella	Lex	Otis	Thaddeus
Alexis	Chance	Emily	Libby	Ozzie	The Dude
Alice	Charlie	Fiona	Linus	Palmer	Thunder
BJ	Chili	Fred	Maddie	Pebbles	Tucker
Bandit	Clinton	Frito	Mamasan	Perkins	Tuna
Barkley	Coco	Garbo	Margot	Pinky	Wally
Baron	CoCo	Gorgi	Marigold	Puccina	Wanda
Ben	Cocoa	Gretal	Max	Puff	Winkie
Benny	Cognac	Hogan	Millie	Rascal	Winnie
Bettina	Colette	Imani	Mistri	Rose	Wrigley
Betty	Cosmic	Jack	Molly	Rusty	Zoe
Bijou	Coty	Jake	Mosby	Sachi	

“Throughout history there have been people who have chosen to be vegetarians because they did not feel it was right to kill animals for food when this was not necessary, when there was other nourishing food available. But today, because of the way animals are raised for market, the question of whether or not to eat meat has a whole new meaning, and a whole new urgency. Never before have animals been treated like this. Never before has such deep, unrelenting, and systematic cruelty been mass produced. Never before has the decision of each individual been so important.

—John Robbins, *Diet for a New America*

Special Ways to Give to the Animals

Stock Donations – Poplar Spring can now accept donations of stock. If you would like to make a stock donation, which is tax deductible and will reduce your capital gains tax, please provide your broker with the following information:

Broker: Smith Barney
DTC # 0418 for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary
Acct.#628-23506-17-320

Bequests – Help to leave a legacy for the animals by making a provision for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in your will. Please contact us if making a stock donation or bequest, so we may thank you for your generosity

Sanctuary Sponsors – Sanctuary sponsors are those donors who have made a major contribution to Poplar Spring (\$1,000 or more). These generous donations make it possible for us to continue our important work of

rescuing abused and abandoned animals into the future. Sponsors will receive unique benefits such as special recognition and personal invitations to special tours and sanctuary events, along with open visiting opportunities. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference for animals! ■

Behind Closed Doors

continued from cover

Three of these wonderful animals came to live at Poplar – Dina, the tiniest pig, and her good friends Fred and Ethel. The remaining four pigs found loving homes at other sanctuaries. After an initial adjustment period, Dina, Fred and Ethel began to show their playful personalities. Because they were so small, they were able to squeeze out of tiny openings in the pasture fence. They would happily run, play, and stroll around the grounds of the sanctuary every day, stopping at each barn to check for other animal's leftovers. We would



11 pigs starved to death on this farm

often return home after running errands to find them calmly grazing in the lush grass of our front yard. When we called their names they would slowly walk back to the pig yard gate and politely wait to be let back in. After they started "rototilling" our flowerbeds, though, it

was time to patch the fence. These three little pigs are always front and center when treats are being handed out – they especially love apples and melons of any kind. It is hilarious to see these small pigs running off eagerly with a giant cantaloupe in their mouth, trotting far enough away so they won't have to share.



Dina, Fred and Ethel (center) meet some friends at their new home

The owner was ordered to spend 30 days in jail, had to pay restitution, and is not allowed to keep animals for food consumption in the state of Virginia. Thanks to the White Pig B&B and MiniPigs, Inc. who helped with transporting the pigs to PSAS, and the Rockbridge SPCA who initially sheltered them and raised the money to save their lives. ■

Heidi the Cow

continued from page 2

since she refused to go on a trailer. A co-worker overheard the conversation, and asked about Heidi. When she heard her story, she told the farmer that she would purchase Heidi from him and find her a home, because even though she had never met her, she thought that Heidi deserved to live.

The woman contacted Poplar Spring, and after hearing about this brave and intelligent cow, we knew that she had to come and live at the sanctuary. After making arrangements to pick her up in our horse trailer, we worried about how in the world we would get her home. Here was a cow who was obviously terrified of trailers, and even several large men had been unable to load her from a barn. We were traveling in the middle of the night, just the two of us, and Heidi was loose in the dark in a huge field. It did not seem like a good scenario, and we wondered how we could possibly be successful.

But Heidi knew. We backed the trailer up to the pasture fence, and like magic a grey cow appeared out of the dark, softly mooing. She looked at the trailer, sniffed us, and stared intently at both of us for a few moments. And then she walked right in.

And so, now, Heidi the cow is finally home.

Sanctuary News and Notes

Another year has come and gone – our eighth year as a sanctuary! We've been busier than ever rescuing many new animals and, as word has spread, offering many more tours to thousands of visitors.



Photo credit: Tom Kucsera

Thyme Square serves visitors at Open House

Our special events last year went very well. (See back page for dates for this year's events.) The weather cooperated and over 800 people visited the farm for the Montgomery County Farm Tour. Everyone enjoyed meeting the animals, our giant yard sale, hay rides and refreshments.

Even with Hurricane Isabel descending three days before, our 6th annual Open House and Fundraiser in September went off without a hitch, thanks in large part to our wonderful volunteers, especially the incredible Rich Peppin who helped us in a pinch, and our great friend Memar Sadhegi, owner of

Thyme Square in Bethesda. Despite the fact that his restaurant had been out of power for days from the hurricane, Memar came through once again (he has catered our event every year since the beginning), and provided a delicious feast of freshly prepared pasta, along with fresh fruits and vegetables for our guests. Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns gave an inspirational talk, and visitors enjoyed the performance of Dave Kitchen and the Demolition. The fundraiser and silent auction were a great success - over \$35,000 was raised for the rescued animals. A huge thanks to all the generous businesses,



At Thanksgiving, Ann Marie can't decide what to eat first

friends and supporters who made it all possible.

In November, our Thanksgiving with the turkeys had the best attendance for this event ever

– the temperature was a balmy 70 degrees, and over 200 friends and supporters came to mingle with the animals and sample the huge amount of incredible vegan dishes at the potluck. Watching the rescued turkeys eating treats at their own special table was the highlight of the day.



Photo credit: Gary Kaplan

Starting out at 1st annual Run for the Animals

In May, we held our 1st annual Run for the Animals. Organized by a fabulous team of volunteers headed by Howard Edelstein and Naomi Dyer, the race was a fun and successful event. Almost 200 people turned out for the 5K Run and 1 mile Fun Walk, and over \$7,000 was raised for the animals.

Our Adopt-A-Road program has been going strong, thanks to organizer Lynda Cozart and dedicated volunteers Franklin Wade, Jessica Fomalont, Liqin Cao, Jamey West, Eliot Gang, and others. Once a month this

dedicated crew comes to pick up trash on the road bordering the sanctuary – thanks to their hard work the road looks great!



This winter we received a wonderful gift from the very generous El Ghandour family – a new barn for the chickens. Built by Amish workers and delivered to the sanctuary, this beautiful barn now provides desperately needed extra space for many happy chickens. ■



A new barn for the chickens

“The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That’s the essence of inhumanity.”

—George Bernard Shaw

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

Donations Needed for Yard Sale and Silent Auction

Do you have good quality items (anything except clothing or shoes) at home that you don't need? Why not help the animals and donate them to our giant yard sale on July 24 or, for new or antique items, to our silent auction at the Fundraiser on Sept. 26. 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! ■

Upcoming Events

To ensure fun and safety for all, No Dogs at any events, please!

Montgomery County Farm Tour – Saturday, July 24, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come on out and meet the animals and enjoy hay rides, ice cold lemonade, and veggie burgers and dogs. Shop for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and handmade crafts in our gift shop. Leave extra space in your car to pick up a few items at our giant yard sale to benefit the animals.

Seventh Annual Open House and Fundraiser – Sunday, September 26, 1 – 4 p.m. Our biggest event of the year – and everyone's invited! Come enjoy a live band, delicious catered food, a fabulous silent auction, Candy Cane the clown, speakers, and the opportunity to stroll around and visit the rescued animals. RSVP requested.

Annual Thanksgiving with the Turkeys – Saturday, November 20, 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. ■

W	I	S	H	★	L	I	S	T
Funds		Donations for yard sale			Electrical help			
Gift Certificates from		Good quality hay			6 or 8 ft folding tables			
Southern States (for		Folding chairs			Portable winch			
animal feed and supplies)		Stamps			Donations for silent auction			



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

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Organization
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Permit No. 480
Poolesville, MD 20837

Address Service Requested



Nap time for Clover the lamb