

Thank You!

Thank you for showing your support of the animals:

Amy Ritter	Lucky Clover
Barbara Tarvin	Mary Mahan
Carmel Travis	Michael Anderson
Cheryl Mitchell	Mountain West Kennels
Colleen Bergh	Oxarc
Donna Sydow	(Jana Nelson & Mari Wrenn)
Doug Mohney, DVM	Pat Dennison
Gordon Jewett, DVM	Patty Reeder
Jessica Miller	Rick Morris
Jim Durham	Rosemarie Asterino DVM
John Gastil	Sarah Duke
Joe and Betty Harris	Susan Hague
Katherine Burnett DVM	Suzanne Seifert
Kathleen Capettini	Tracy Huddleson
Kelly Morris	Vicky Hensley
Kerri Waller DVM	Vonda Sines
Laundrapet	Wendy Mathews

Thank you for your generous contribution to our 2007 campaign:

Andy and Jamie Smith	Mark Hinnebusch
Bruce Andre	Mary & Jim Costello
Carolyn Stevens	Mastery Sheets
Donna Sydow	Max Martin
Erik & Nancy Hinkle	Nancy Hill
Mountain Empire Veterinary	Nick Murto
Pat Dennison	Robin Redman
Jane Evans	Robert & Barbara Anderlink
Karen Anderson	Rita Snow
Kathleen Harthan	Tracy Martin
Kit Jagoda	Wendy & Dan Aeshelman
Liza Vonrosenstiel	Wendy & Thomas Rauenswinder
Lois Richards	
Lynda Watson	
Lynne B Evans-Sleeper	
Madeleine Durkin	

THANK YOU!

You too can, make a difference.

2008 PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

Every Easter hundreds of rabbits are sold as Easter pets in the Spokane and Coeur D'Alene area. And every year, many of those rabbits end up abandoned in local shelters, in the streets or neglected in backyard hutches. We at Rabbitron and Thumpqua Sanctuary, intend to help change that. We believe that with public awareness and through education we can make a difference. We plan to continue the public education campaign but we need your help.

Advertising is expensive, we purchase space on local billboards, newspaper ads and TV spots to help spread the message to think twice before impulse buying a rabbit for Easter. Please send what you can. Any contribution you make will go directly to the campaign fund and help reach people who directly affect the lives of rabbits. Thank you so much for making a difference!a

clip & send

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE: help rabbits and it's tax deductible!

Please make your checks out to River's Wish Animal Sanctuary

Billboard: \$500 _____ Inlander ad: \$350 _____ TV Spot \$50 _____ Other \$ _____

name _____

address _____

city _____

state _____ zip _____

email _____ phone _____

Send your contribution to:
River's Wish Public Education
Fund c/o Tracy Martin
1618 West Wilson,
Spokane, WA 99201

News and Stories from

RIVER'S WISH ANIMAL SANCTUARY

ISSUE 2 SUMMER/FALL 2007

& Thumpqua Rabbit Sanctuary



Earl Grey and Annabelle

Gimme Shelter: Rabbits Deserve Better

By Kit Jagoda

2006 and 2007 have been busy years for us at River's Wish Animal Sanctuary in terms of helping neighborhoods with feral rabbit populations. In the fall of 2006 we helped gather feral rabbits running loose in north central Spokane. Unfortunately, an individual was allowing unaltered 'pet' rabbits to run loose in his yard, thereby repopulating and expanding to nearly 40 rabbits. He was ordered by the city to resolve the rabbit situation. We were able to help the majority of these bunnies by taking them in, spaying and neutering them and providing them with a predator proof and comfortable home. They are extremely feral and want nothing to do with people but fortunately they have one another.

Recently a person in the Spokane Valley was taking 'rejects' from a breeder and allowing them to run loose in his yard and neighborhood. Consequently, the rabbits and their offspring were being killed by dogs, cats, and cars. In addition to this threat, the neighbors did not welcome the lagomorphs in their gardens. We have four of these beautiful little 'rejects' who will be looking for a forever home soon.

In northwest Spokane city another feral warren had been running loose. We have a dozen of these bunnies who are now spayed and neutered and bonded. This fall they will be going to their new home where a 12' x 30' predator proof enclosure is being built complete with shelter, heat and a misting system for those hot summer days!

Along with our foster homes we have taken in several 'stray' rabbits over the years. Gypsy, Earl Grey, Annabelle, Peter and Theo are just a few of these brave little rabbits. These are individual rabbits who were turned loose by people either because the novelty wore off or the kids weren't taking care of them or any other number of excuses. These strays are often found by individuals who recognize the threat facing domestic rabbits.

Allowing a domestic rabbit to run loose is neither cute nor kind to the bunny. Simply put, it is cruel neglect. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning how to create a predator proof home for feral rabbits we would love to hear from you. *Contact us at* petekit@earthlink.net

Adopt a rescued rabbit!

Visit us at
www.petfinder.org

Did you know?

- After cats and dogs, rabbits rank third in shelters.
- Domesticated rabbits cannot survive long being "let free". It is inhumane to release a rabbit to fend for itself.
- Rabbits can live for 10 years or more.
- * Rabbits make great house pets and can be litter box trained.
- Rabbits are considered "exotic pets" and not all veterinarians can treat them.

Read more about rabbits at rabbit.org

'Until he extends his circle of compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.'
-Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

River's Wish Animal Sanctuary and Thumpqua are a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 2004. It is home to dogs, cats, goats, sheep, horses and donkeys, and rabbits which is the primary focus of the sanctuary.

For more information visit riverswishanimalsanctuary.org

Our 2007 Easter Campaign

By Tracy Martin



“Real rabbits are not Easter toys” was the message of the 2007 Easter Campaign. This campaign helped to spread the word that rabbits are a 10-year life commitment and not just a seasonal Easter amusement.

With generous donations from many of you we were able to acquire 3 billboards on Sprague and one on the Northside on Hwy 2. The 4 Inlander ads ran consecutively for an entire month. And for the first time we added a television public service announcement narrated by Rich Little on both KHQ and KREM.

Our message was seen by thousands of people all around the Inland Northwest. We know our campaign has made an impact as many people have contacted us directly and visited the rabbitron.com website for more information on rabbit care.

We would like to thank all of you who were able to contribute to this worthwhile campaign. Thank you everyone for helping to make the '07 campaign a great success!

Rabbitron and River's Wish Animal Sanctuary team up every year to make a difference for rabbits in the Spokane Area. If you want to know more please contact Tracy Martin at rabbitron@comcast.net

Ollie: a Goat for all Seasons and Reasons

By Kit Jagoda

Ollie was a white nubian who brightened the lives of those around him. He was friendly, charming and very dignified. Ollie came to us from Donna Sydow, who had rescued him originally. Donna writes:

“I found some old news letters from the Timberline Sanctuary in Ford, WA. Marion Thompson started it. She passed away 3 years ago. It got to be too much for her.

In May 1997 I got together a group of volunteers and we went to Ford. Had chain link fencing and gates delivered and adobe dog houses. Had a picnic afterward. We all worked hard to get the place in better shape. It was sad though, as she did not have much help up there and she was in her late 70's at that time. We even had a 200 gal water tank delivered and a neighbor was to keep it filled, as it sat on a trailer and could be taken out to fill. She did not have a well. That was the day of a fierce rain/wind/lightning storm. We all made a run for our vehicles and my granddaughter grabbed Ollie and put him in the rig with her uncle Bob and away they went. We had trees over the road and heavy rain and it was a scary drive back to Spokane. In the rig Ollie was going to sit on Bob's lap and help him drive!

Once he got to his new home, with me, he settled in just fine. I would tie him out to be my weed eater and he loved that. He would try to play with Baron, my German Shepherd, but did not have much success.

He loved all visitors and would show off by running and bucking and of course begging for whatever he could get from them. I am sure he was very happy to go to Rivers Wish and be with other goats and his girl friend Ginger!!!”

Ollie crossed over on March 23, 2007 at eleven years of age due to complications from CAE (Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis). CAE is a virus which is contracted through nursing from an infected doe. It is not curable. CAE may show clinical signs through a rough hair coat, weight loss, pneumonia, muscle wasting, weakness and arthritic joints. We learned Ollie had CAE through a blood test. Ollie was a joy and is dearly missed.



Ollie smiles for the camera

The Hoof Beat: Paloma's Journey

By Pete Jagoda



Paloma is a 5 year old black Percheron mare who was headed to slaughter until she came to River's Wish in the fall of 2005. She had not been handled much and would shy away from people and not even accept treats of gentle touching, preferring to keep a good distance from anyone who tried to approach her. Before she was sent to the feed lot she was destined to be a Premarin mare. Premarin is an estrogen replacement drug made from the urine of pregnant horses. The draft breeds were popular choices for this because of their size and the large amounts of urine they would produce. These mares were kept pregnant and confined to small stalls in order to maintain constant production and enable collection of urine. Unfortunately many of the horses and their foals from these farms end up going to slaughter. In the last few years many of the Premarin farms have closed because of advances in synthetic medications.

After three months of training and handling Paloma overcame her fear of people and her true gentle nature came out. She no longer shied away but rather would walk up to anyone who approached her and eagerly accept scratching and attention.

Paloma was leased to a trainer on a maintenance basis. Because she was so gentle she would be a great horse to help larger people who had fear of horses gain confidence around them.

We received a call from the trainer on April 11 informing us that Paloma had begun to colic and even though the vet had been there and all the standard procedures to treat colic had been tried, she was still in trouble and would have to go to the School of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University in Pullman if there was any hope to save her.

We hooked up the horse trailer, picked up Paloma and headed to WSU. It was around 11:30 PM when The equine emergency team began working. We were faced with the decision to either have her euthanized or go into surgery because whatever was causing the obstruction in her was not resolving and she was in a great deal of pain.



Because she was young and had become such a trusting gentle horse the choice was obvious. They began surgery around midnight and three hours later had removed twelve feet of small intestine which had become lodged in a small hole in her diaphragm. The surgeon said the hole had been there a long time, probably from an injury which occurred when she was very young. Now it was a waiting game. This was a very serious surgery and the healing process would take several months.

Paloma was confined to stall rest for one month with a carefully programmed diet designed to wean her back on to grass hay. After one month she could be in a small paddock for another month and after that a large paddock for another month. All this time gradually increasing her grass hay ration up to a point which would maintain her dainty weight of 1700 to 1800 pounds.

Paloma has been through a lot but is more trusting and friendly than ever since she has received so much attention during her recovery. We are very thankful to The College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University for saving her.



Savannah and Scud, Lifetime Companions

By Kit Jagoda



Savannah and Scud

Savannah and Scud came to us in 2004 after their person passed away. Savannah, a golden retriever, and her companion Scud, a gray tabby were both eleven years old when they arrived.

When Scud arrived at the sanctuary he had feline asthma which required a nebulizer. After the first few treatments he readily accepted it as it made him feel better. Scud and Savannah slept together and Scud shared his bed with foster kittens who looked up to him with great admiration. Scud crossed over in 2006. Savannah enjoyed the simplicity of rolling on her back in the grass and laying by the warmth of the fire in a wood stove on winter nights. She was a gift to everyone she met. Savannah crossed over in the spring of 2007.