SPRING / SUMMER 2009

An update from

River's Wish

Dedicated to caring for animals in need

Winter is finally over

This has been a long winter for all of us in the Northwest. We received record snowfalls and clearing roofs became like the movie 'Ground Hog Day' where it seemed to just repeat over and over. With the fear of roofs collapsing, as many buildings were in our area, we finally hired a roofing company to come in and help. As you can imagine, this was an unplanned expenditure, but one that was absolutely necessary for the safety of our animals and the longevity of our facility.

Now that the ground is starting to show green and the sun is out, the animals are lounging and loving it. Volunteers Wayne and Bruce Harala, a father and son, are helping us with fencing repair and maintenance. We're always looking for donations and volunteers to help with much needed maintenance. If you or someone you know has some handy skills and a heart for animals, let us know!

In this issue

Jefferson students pitch in

Read about the compassion and commitment of Jefferson's Montessori class.

Art for animals

Purchase a greeting card made by River's Wish artist.

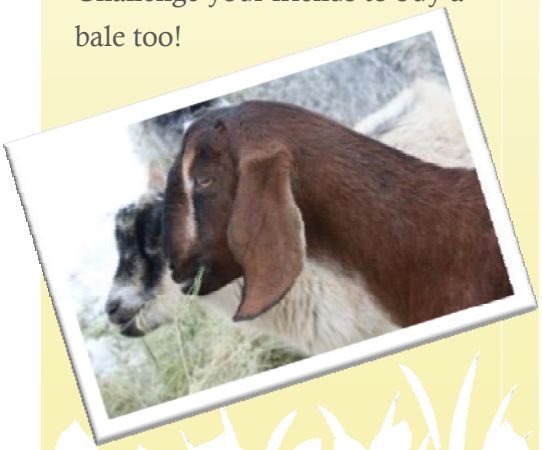
Medical fund needs help

Read about Holly's eye injury and her safe life with friends.

Buy a bale!

Hay season is right around the corner. We are happy to report that the price of hay is expected to be about 15% less expensive this year, but we are still facing a big bill when it comes to buying 90 tons. Fortunately, we buy our hay from our neighbor and are able to save a bundle on delivery, as he brings it over on a harrow bed straight into the barn. Larry's hay is excellent and the animals thrive on it.

We welcome hay support. Perhaps you'd like to raise funds at work or among your family to support this effort? Every $9 goes toward one bale of hay! Buy a bale today! Challenge your friends to buy a bale too!



Jefferson Montessori steps in to help

Compassion and commitment to animals demonstrated by students

Building bunny boxes

The Jefferson Montessori students have contributed so much to the sanctuary this year. In November, we had a group of 140 students visit and what has followed has been remarkable. The students earned $420.00 through doing chores at their own homes and generously donated this money so we could purchase a hot water heater for the bunny house.

The students also built 10 bunny boxes for the rabbits to hide in and perch on top of. They are designed with a circular hole at each end and the rabbits immediately started using them. They love those bunny boxes! Thank you to the students, teachers Sharon Bowman, Linda Bradley, Paula Gibson-Smith, Claudia Start and Gayle Waner and principal, Mary-Dean Wooley.

Birthday party fundraisers

And their generosity didn't stop there. Montessori student Maddie requested to celebrate her 10th Birthday at River's Wish on February 22. Maddie invited her friends and family to join her for an afternoon of volunteerism at the sanctuary. Rather than receive gifts, Maddie asked that her friends donate money or needed items to the sanctuary. Through Maddie's generous spirit, the sanctuary received $145.00 plus gift cards, equine wormer and toys for the animals. Thank you Maddie and friends!

Another wonderful Montessori student, Alison, asked her friends to donate to the sanctuary in honor of her April birthday. Thank you Alison and friends for your donation of $100.00!

The actions of the Jefferson Montessori community makes me think of Dr. Jane Goodall and the emphasis she places on the involvement of young people in service when she was quoted as saying: "*And what would be the point of my devoting all my energy to raising money and raising awareness to save the chimpanzees in the forest if, at the same time, we are not raising young generations of people to be better stewards than we have been?*"

We need your support!

Yes! I'd like to help support River's Wish in the following way:

- ☐ I'd like to purchase _____bales of hay at $9 per bale for a total of_____.
- ☐ I'd like to support the medical fund for animals in the amount of _____.
- ☐ I have supplies or skills to donate. Please contact me.
- ☐ I'd like my contribution to go where needed most.

My check for $_____is enclosed.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____State/Zip:_____

E-Mail/phone:_____

Cut and mail to: River's Wish, PO Box 18371, Spokane, WA 99218

River's Wish is a 501 c3 non-profit organization, and as such, your tax donations are deductible.

Art for Animals

Cards make great gifts for animal lovers

As many of you know, there are artists among the animals at River's Wish, and you never know what inspiration they'll see. With great compassion, a series of cards has been developed and are for sale to benefit the sanctuary. When you purchase these cards, 100% of the proceeds go toward the care of the animals at River's Wish. Each card depicts an animal that has been rescued by us. The cards sell for $3.00 each or two for $5.00. Price includes shipping within the U.S.

The collage above shows the animals featured on each card. These cards make great gifts for fellow animal lovers! You can purchase them online at www.riverswishanimalsanctuary.org.

Healing Holly's Eye

Unfortunately, many of the animals that find their way to River's Wish come with injuries or are in ill health. Our goal is get them healthy, so they can lead long, happy lives surrounded by companionship and love. Holly is one such animal. She is an older Appaloosa who came to us in March with an injured eye. After further examination by our veterinarian, we learned that the injury must have happened sometime within the past year, and was left unattended the entire time. Poor Holly! It must have been so painful for her! The veterinarians at Mt. Spokane Veterinary Hospital removed what was remaining of the eye and sutured it closed to prevent infection.

We are happy to report that Holly, on the left, is doing very well as she shares her space with other senior equines at River's Wish. We are always in need of funds to cover the veterinary care of our animals.

Rabbits make great house pets

You may not know this, but rabbits make great house pets. We love it when we can find committed, loving homes for our rabbits and we are always in need of more families. You can find our rabbits for adoption on PetFinder (www.petfinder.org) website under Thumpqua, which means 'rabbit' in Spokane Indian. On the left, you'll see a picture of a new rabbit adopter bonding with her pets. For more information on house rabbits go to www.rabbitron.com and www.rabbit.org.

Easter campaign support

We'd also like to thank everyone who supported the Easter campaign. You can read more about the 2009 campaign designed to eliminate the purchase of rabbits as pets during this holiday at This is an important campaign in the reducing unwanted pets and your support is vital to its success.

Spokane Humane Society supports our rabbits

A big thank you to the Spokane Humane Society for including our rabbits in the adoption section of animals needing homes in the April 19 edition of the Spokesman Review. Their help with spay and neuter vouchers to get our rabbits altered are a much needed and appreciated act. SHS provides a vital service to the community.

River's Wish Animal Sanctuary

PO Box 18371
Spokane, WA 99218

To our animal loving friends: