

News & Stories from

River's Wish

Dedicated to caring for animals.

Our Wish List

- Enough hay to keep our animals fed for the winter—hay angels wanted!
- Paper towels.
- Wood stove pellets (used for litter).
- Homes for all the animals who need them.

Be a Hay Angel this holiday season...

Donate in increments of \$9 and you can be a “**Hay Angel**” We purchased 90 tons of hay this past hay season to keep all our animals fed. The cost for hay alone exceeds \$16,000. You can help support our animals with the “**Hay Angels**” program. Every \$9 you donate equals one bale of hay. You can fill out our donation form in this newsletter or you can visit us online to donate via Pay Pal at riverswishanimalsanctuary.org.



Santa Paws pet & family photo event coming to Five Mile Prairie!

Mark your calendars for this fabulous holiday event!

Saturday, December 10 | 12-5pm

Five Mile Prairie Grange Hall | 3024 W. Strong Rd.

\$5 donation suggestion -- photos will be sent via e-mail!

Stocking stuffers and yummies available for your last minute holiday shopping!

Santa Paws Photos are all about including the whole family. So bring the pets, children, parents and grandparents for a very special photo with Santa this Christmas.

All money raised will go to the care of the animals at River's Wish Animal Sanctuary, a 501c-3 nonprofit organization

In this issue

Happy Tails

Page 2

Hear about some of our happily ever after adoptions.

Art for Animals

Page 3

First art auction event a huge success.

A Letter to You

Page 4

Kit Jagoda reflects on the past 16 years of River's Wish.

Healthcare Fund provides vital support

Proper care for our animals is a critical part of our mission

Learn more about how you can help:

Today we are calling on you to support the 'River's Wish Healthcare Fund'. Contributions to our healthcare fund enable us to provide for support and medical needs for animals such as:

- Joey, a very sweet young cat who developed a benign tumor in his ear canal that required an \$1,800 specialized surgical procedure at Veterinary Surgical Specialists. The surgery was a great success.
- Zoey, a young netherland dwarf rabbit who was seized in a neglect case and had a dislocated hip requiring a \$950.00 FHO (femoral head osteoectomy). Zoey recovered amazingly well!
- Jasper, a cat who had been adopted out some years ago and recently returned. He came back with an unusual oral condition requiring extensive testing and medication. Jasper is recovering nicely.
- Cotton the rabbit who has overgrown molars requiring filing and maintenance at the veterinary clinic.
- Cocoa the rabbit who required surgery for entropion, a condition in which the eyelid turns inward.
- Bryce the 30 something burro and his senior companion Jesse, require special supplements and feed, especially through the winter months.
- Marley Rabbit's incisor-removal due to his severe malocclusion.

This fund offers a lifeline to help these animals and others. Thank you for your continued support and care.

Happy Tails: Adoptions

The next time you're looking for a loving companion, visit your local shelter or contact River's Wish.

We're so happy for the following animals who found their forever homes—safe from harm and neglect:

- Rabbits Snowy and Windy, saved from single digits, are now living in comfy room temperature.
- Rabbits Sundance and Nora are loving life with Heidi and Heath.
- Rabbits Cassidy and Butch have their own family.
- Rabbits Nigel and Penelope found love with each other at Pat's.
- Rabbit Starly went to live with Marvin.
- Rabbits Francis and Paul are doing great at Sara's home.
- Rabbits Buttercup and Saffron were saved from a petting zoo and are living with Jo.
- Rabbit Snowflake is Sandra's new friend.
- Rabbit Tofu sharing life with Jenny Bun.
- Rabbit Skyler went to live with Clio and Lynn.
- Jezzabelle, Teakwood and Charms, three guinea pigs, are living in their new home with Marcia and Jon.
- Horses Graciella and Cody have been adopted into new homes.
- Bella went to live with Max.



Snowy and Windy

When placing rabbits, we follow the House Rabbit Society Philosophy and have many wonderful rabbits available for adoption as house bunnies. Each of the rabbits are spayed and neutered and trained to use litter boxes. To learn more about the House Rabbit Society philosophy go to www.rabbit.org. When we place other animals, potential families go through a careful screening process to ensure they are able to meet the animal's needs and can commit to providing a permanent, loving home. If you're interested in adopting, contact us today.

Watch for Rabbitron campaign this Spring

Every year, many thousands of rabbits are abandoned to shelters or released outdoors (a sure death sentence for a domestic rabbit) often because of misunderstandings on the part of the parents who bought them for their kids. Rabbits are not the cuddly creatures people assume they are. To combat the Easter rush on rabbits, Rabbitron, in partnership with River's Wish, runs a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate would be rabbit purchasers about the commitment rabbits need. To learn more, go to rabbitron.com.



Art for the Animals a huge success—thank you from River's Wish co-founder Peter Jagoda

Artists from our local region as well as from far away as the east coast generously donated their work for Art for the Animals in July 2011. The media varied from two dimensional painting and photography to three dimensional sculpture and jewelry. The pieces were whimsical, narrative and exquisite.

There are too many exceptional artists to mention here as I drew from 40 years of working in the jewelry and metal field. We are grateful for the contributions from many distinguished and well-known artists. Among these are Maine Master, Fred Woell, Robert Ebendorf, recipient of 2011 Governor's Award of North Carolina and our own Washington State Living Treasure, Harold Balazs.

The Tin Man established a month long silent auction while keeping ten pieces for the live auction. I want to thank Sue Bradley, Jodi Davis, Chris Bradley and the Tin Man Gallery, Dan Wenger our auctioneer and everyone who donated their time and energy to make this a successful event for the animals. And special thanks to the musicians who donated their talent and time. To see the art from the Art for Animals benefit, go to www.riverswishanimalsanctuary.org.



Mare Nostrum by Peter Presnail



A perfect evening...

by Jessica Schultz-Leyk, J.D.

Art. Food and wine and beer. Music. And the most perfect weather a goat and pony could wish for. Yes, the first Art for the Animals summer auction had a little something for everyone, and all of these special details added up to a great evening for animal and art lovers.

We came together to raise money for a good cause, but as the night progressed, it took on greater significance as it became apparent that the “coming together” was just as important as the “raising money.” Inching through the packed gallery, one could overhear conversations of passionate people, some happily reunited, and others meeting for the first time over a stunning original watercolor and a glass of merlot. Guests arrived from right up the street, across the state, and as far away as San Antonio, TX. They attended this event not just to donate money, but to celebrate the work and spirit of River’s Wish Animal Sanctuary. Artists met animal foster families. River’s Wish volunteers mingled with gallery regulars.

Kit saw this community-building opportunity and took full advantage of it, making introductions left and right. Several times that night she pulled me through the crowd to put me face to face with someone new: the animal control officer who rescued two of the rabbits that my husband and I had cuddled in the bunny barn and wound up adopting; another 20-something couple as rabbit-obsessed as us. Once a connection was made, Kit instantly disappeared into the crowd, her eye caught by another pair she needed to put together and announce, “You two should know each other.”

The night also had plenty of pleasures for guests brand new to the River’s Wish community – even those who just saw a fun party going on at the Tinman Gallery and stopped in on a whim were glad they did. The amazing collection of artwork provided by generous artists fueled a charged, excited atmosphere inside the gallery, while the less frantic pace of the back lot enabled guests to sit back and enjoy the wonderful vegan tapas, live music, and warmth of the fading summer sun.

By the end of the evening, the food was polished off, the bottles drained, and the artwork bound for its new homes, carefully wrapped and gently tucked into trunks and backseats. The fundraising net total was an impressive \$11,500.00, which is more than any of the organizers expected to raise at the inaugural auction. This money will go toward the monthly costs to care for River’s Wish’s rescued rabbits, horses, goats, dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, turkeys and geese. Hay, feed, produce, supplements, medicine and farrier costs exceed \$2500.00 a month. This doesn’t include the veterinary expenses which can be quite significant.

Every dollar of these donations is enormously appreciated, so THANK YOU to all who donated and/or attended the auction. It was wonderful to spend the evening with such a generous, animal-loving crowd, and I can’t wait to do it again next summer!

A Letter to our Supporters

by Kit Jagoda, Co-Founder, River's Wish

Dear Friends to the Animals,

As 2012 draws near we reflect on the past 16 years of helping animals in our community.

Traditional animal shelters care for dogs and cats. While River's Wish has been able to save and re-home over one hundred dogs and cats, the mission includes helping animals in need such as rabbits, goats, horses and fowl to name a few.

In 1995 we welcomed our first little unwanted goat, Chile, who was a throw away in the dairy production. Sadly, there are so many like Chile, but with no safe place to go. In 1996 we brought home our first horse in need. Joseph, an ancient pony, came to live out his days at River's Wish far away from the tree he had been tied to and the neglect he suffered.

While working with our local animal protection agency, SCRAPS, we have been able to help hundreds of rabbits. Every rabbit is spayed or neutered and litter box trained. We adopt rabbits into homes following the House Rabbit Society philosophy. For those who are not adopted they have a safe, forever home. In 1996 Pete built an 1800 square foot rabbit house, complete with heat, air and a lot of light just for the rabbits.

To have a glimpse of the work at River's Wish visit the segment that KSPS Northwest Profiles created called "Some Bunny to Love" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQKuNgoPGoY or Google NW Profiles: Some Bunny to Love.

This life saving work would not be possible without the generous donations made by you. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the animals in our community.

We wish to dedicate this newsletter to Chris Anderlik, a lifetime animal advocate, Bill Gerhart, animal advocate and to Kay Rivera, who saved so many lives. Each were wonderful supporters of River's Wish and inspirations to us all.

Kit Jagoda



Developing your pet trust

Planning for your pet...

by Jessica Schultz-Leyk, J.D.

What will happen to your pets when you are no longer able to care for them?

This fall marked the ten-year anniversary of RCW 11.118, Washington's law recognizing animal trusts. Simply put, a pet trust is money that you set aside for your pet's care after you pass away, along with the designation of a trustee (to manage the funds), and a caregiver.

It is very important with any trust to speak with the potential trustee and caregiver, and to make sure they are willing and able to perform their roles. With caregivers, especially, you want to discuss whether your pet will be a good fit in his or her household and any special needs or care instructions. Specific care instructions should also be detailed in the trust's language. Make sure you



designate at least two alternate caregivers, in case your first choice is unable to perform when the time comes.

Another important consideration is the amount of money to set aside for your pet trust. Consider your pet's life expectancy as you calculate vet costs (with extra added in for end-of-life care), food, bedding, toys, and other incidentals, and then be sure to pad the final amount with some extra in case anything unexpected comes up later down the road. Make sure to include a provision for dispensing any trust funds that remain when your pet passes away.

These funds would always be greatly appreciated by your favorite animal sanctuary.

A trust can be a great tool to give you peace of mind and ensure that your pets are cared for after you're gone, but they aren't for everyone. All trusts are complex legal instruments and should only be constructed after consulting with an attorney.

The importance of Humane Education

"If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

-- William Penn

These two brave little rabbits both survived horrible ordeals and are now bonded with one another at River's Wish.

Jane is a one eyed rabbit who was rescued by a kind-hearted person after reading about her on Facebook. Young people were joking about giving her alcohol. Fortunately, one responsible and caring person did not find that funny and stepped in to save Jane.

Francis was caught in a neck snare this past summer and rescued by an animal protection officer from SCRAPS. Neck snares are illegal in Washington State and SCRAPS is pursuing criminal charges. Thank you SCRAPS!

Recently Jane and Francis met with a group of young people as part of our Humane Education Outreach. This pair survived the cruelty of humans and their stories speak to the need for humane education. Through education we strive to develop the compassion and empathy necessary for a more humane world.



Volunteer Spotlight

River's Wish is fortunate to have so many helpful, generous and handy friends. We'd like to feature two special volunteers for their recent efforts.

Two wonderful volunteers have been helping the horses and cats of River's Wish.

Rebecca has been maintaining the grooming equipment, blankets, and horsey items while giving the horses plenty of TLC. She recently adopted Cody, who came to us when he had no place to go.

Joanie IS the Cat Girl. Joanie dedicates each Saturday to working with the cats. She cleans, grooms and gives the cats plenty of TLC!

Thank you Joanie and Becky! Our animals are even more loved because of your efforts.

Planned Giving

by Jessica Schultz-Leyk, J.D.

You can leave a legacy of compassion...

Including River's Wish Animal Sanctuary in your estate planning is an excellent way to leave behind a legacy of generosity and compassion for animals. There are several ways to include us in your planned giving. You can leave a bequest to River's Wish, which can be either a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset. Or you can designate River's Wish as the beneficiary of any remainder of your estate once all other bequests are distributed. River's Wish can also be designated as a beneficiary on any insurance policies or retirement plans.

In addition to the satisfaction you will get from knowing that your money is going toward something wonderful, a planned gift may earn you several tax breaks. To learn more about your planned giving options, consult with an attorney with experience in estate planning. And please be sure to let us know if you have included River's Wish in your estate planning so we can thank you for your generosity!



We need your support!

Cut and Mail

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: _____

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.

Happy Holidays to you & yours!



*May your holidays be spent in the company
of loving friends & animals*

River's Wish Animal Sanctuary

PO Box 18371
Spokane, WA 99218

To Our Friends at: