

THE BRIDGE TO HEALING

BEGINS WITH YOU

Meet Odin



One bitterly cold day during the last winter we received a call from a woman who had been feeding feral and stray cats. She had found one of the cats in the colony with a horrific eye injury. She hadn't been able to find anyone who could, or would, help him, and she was desperate.

You were the bridge that allowed this cat to cross to safety. Because of you, we were able to provide the expert and expensive help that he needed. Expert and expensive because, when our staff veterinarian Dr. Christine opened the cardboard box in which the cat arrived, she knew immediately that the eye couldn't be saved. It had ruptured. It would have to be removed. We quickly got him to a surgeon for that delicate operation, and also for neutering while he was "under."

Once he returned to us to be cared for as he healed, it became clear that he was not feral after all. It took him a while to let us handle him, but when he felt safe enough, he very obviously began to crave human interaction. Most of all, as soon as he was well enough to be introduced to some of our other cats, he came alive. He absolutely loved other cats.

We named him Odin. Since he wasn't feral, he wouldn't be returned to his colony. And it's a good thing that he wasn't. We found that he had a bad dental disease called stomatitis. More surgery was necessary. His teeth had to be removed. He also tested positive for FIV. Today, however, he is comfortable and pain free. He happily plays with his cat friends and chases toys around his room. Here in sanctuary at Spring Farm Odin is living the good life -- thanks to you.

YOU ARE THE BRIDGE THAT BROUGHT ODIN TO SAFETY

Through The Home Stretch - The Story of Bunny and Mister



Mister

Knit within the story of each and every animal that comes into our sanctuary is the story of humans whose lives are also in turbulence. Which is why we always say that we are here for people as well as animals. We do not judge here at Spring Farm CARES. Instead, we regard the hearts and souls involved in any situation with compassion. Both animals and people end up in unexpected life-situations. And we live in a world that has become increasingly quick to judge. In our sanctuary however, we try to provide peace, healing, and safety for both animal and human hearts.

Bunny and Mister were Standardbreds, both in their late 20's. They had been retired from racing years before due to foot and leg issues, and for years they had lived together. Their human family loved them, but recently that family had been plagued with troubles. The horses' main caregiver was diagnosed with and fought cancer. The farm house burned down. And finally, in the fall of 2023, while dealing with hospice care, etc., the family was losing the farm itself...and so the horses their home. We were asked to help. Sadly, their human friend succumbed to his cancer just days before we picked them up. But he was able to leave knowing that his beloved horses would be safe.

Bunny had been dealing with founder for many years, and one look at her feet told us that she would not be with us for long. Mister was ceaselessly by her side. They couldn't be separated. So we put them in adjoining stalls. X-rays confirmed what we suspected. The bones in Bunny's front hooves had deteriorated so badly that we could only keep her comfortable, until, to honor her grace and dignity, we would have to let her go. We started her on palliative and hospice care. Whenever throughout the winter we opened the stalls between the two friends to let them walk around in the arena, Bunny chose to stay in her softly bedded stall while Mister never wandered out of her sight. In fact, he usually went into her stall and stood beside her. Their bond was deeply felt by all of us. He knew what was going on. His sadness was palpable.

In February, we honored our promise to Bunny that, when the day came that we could no longer keep her pain in check, and she could no longer bear to stand on her feet, we would help her leave. She left surrounded by love. The last words that she heard were "Good girl, Bunny. Good girl!"

Thankfully, Mister had his new herd for support. These equine friends reached out to him, letting him know he was not alone. Horses feel things deeply. Incredibly deeply. The way that they emotionally support one another never ceases to amaze and touch us.

And both Bunny and Mister also had you. Without you, we would not have been able to take them off of a farm that was about to be sold, with major health issues, their caretaker gone, and give them comfort, love and care - still together - during Bunny's last days.



Bunny

You also allowed a family facing incredible loss to know that the horses they had loved and taken care of for so many years were going to be ok. It was one less tragedy to endure.

The power of your generosity reaches out in ways that you can't always see. You change lives. You ease pain. You bring hope and second chances. Because of you, the world is a kinder and gentler place.

The Story of Lady Gray

Lady Gray was found aimlessly wandering in a parking lot behind a local restaurant. She was extremely thin and looked very ill. When a compassionate patron saw this poor cat walking around looking desperate for help, she stopped and called to her. Much to her surprise, the cat responded and came to her. She picked her up and put her in her car. She was willing to help this cat, but Lady Gray was in need of much more care than the woman could give. With your help, we stepped in to provide what would be needed in order for the cat to survive.

She tested positive for Feline Leukemia Virus. She was very sick and in rundown condition. But, with a lot of TLC and treatments from our staff veterinarian Dr. Christine, and our caretaking staff, Lady Gray found a reason to fight to live.

Treating these animals is not just about medications or the healing of physical wounds. Healing is also about the emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects in these animals' lives. Lady Gray learned to trust in humans again. And she not only got stronger and gained weight, but we had a front row seat in watching her blossom and unfold into her own light and mission in life.

Today, Lady Gray is a robust, healthy, and obviously happy cat. All she needed was a chance. Your help gave her renewed hope, and a path forward off the streets - where the path had led only to suffering, despair, and a sadly lonely death.

Kindness is the gift that keeps on giving. Your kindness and generosity brought Lady Gray safely into our sanctuary. And she now passes along that kindness to human hearts looking for healing too.



Lady Gray - November 2023



Lady Gray - Today



**Because of you, the world is a kinder
and more gentle place.
You are deeply needed and appreciated.**

Heroic Hearts - Animals Helping Veterans

We are honored to partner with the Utica Center For Development Inc. Veteran Peer Program. Veterans have given so much of themselves while serving our country. Many of them emerge from the experience in need of emotional support and understanding. Your generosity enables us to offer a unique and wonderful space of peace and healing.

Animals are born with an ability to reach human hearts, no matter how toughened or hurt those hearts might be. It is heartwarming to watch the magic happen. All three of the animals pictured to the right have gone through their own traumas, suffering cruelties and abandonment. They understand what it is to have a heavy heart. They understand pain. They understand despair. They understand fear and terror. But they also understand healing and the power of being present with one another. They stand solid in their peace here at the farm and they love to share that peace with humans. They know exactly how to reach out in subtle ways. They know just what to do.

In the case of visiting veterans the results speak for themselves. These veterans ask to come back and spend more time with the animals. There are big smiles on their faces while they are here. We are told that those smiles continue when they leave. Smiles. Smiles are what healing is about.

In so many ways your gifts to Spring Farm CARES reach farther than you know. Not only do your gifts bring animals to safety and out of darkness, but those angelic healers then “pass it on,” sharing the healing and the peace with humans who come to them in need. Things then go full circle, and we are able to “pass it on” back to you, gifting you with an understanding of what your continuing support allows us to provide and to give to others. We look forward to sharing more of these gifts with you in future newsletters. Thank you for all you do!

(Special thank you to Lazore Photography for the use of photos for this article.)



Brandy sharing her heart



Nala holding a space of peace



Cora connecting in the silence



Ways You Can Help

Donate Securely On-Line: bit.ly/3TKtpO3

Become A Monthly Donor: bit.ly/3TKtpO3

Sponsor An Animal - \$100 for one Year: bit.ly/3DdHivI

Donate Items From Our Wish Lists: bit.ly/3gyrcaf

**Please keep us in mind for your estate planning -
Let your legacy live on through the animals and nature.**