



# Spring Farm CARES

## ANIMAL & NATURE SANCTUARY

September 2024

### You Gave Them The Gift Of Life

#### A New Life For Clarence

The trailer backed into our barn, the top doors opened, and all we could see were a big set of ears above the tailgate/ramp. As the ramp was lowered, there stood a magnificent donkey who was about to take his first step into his new life in our sanctuary. A new day of hope had arrived for this sweet donkey. For Clarence, it was as if it was all too good to be true. Clarence came from a life of neglect and trauma. In his five years that is all that he had known. When he stepped off of that trailer, he was greeted by new caretakers telling him - "You made it buddy. You are home." Then he saw all of the other donkeys and horses. He couldn't believe his eyes and ears. Clarence was a lucky one, who had survived a farm where more animals had been found dead than alive. He had witnessed things that living creatures should never have to see or experience. But that was over. A new life, of hope and healing, had begun.

Thanks to you, Clarence has a new vision in life. He is safe. He is loved. He is home. Although he is still trying to process all of that information, we can already see his gentle heart and the depth of character shining through. We are excited and humbled to watch that unfold.



#### Helping Carmela Find Safety



Lost, hungry, and desperate, Carmela showed up at someone's door trying urgently to get inside. She had been dumped out on the street and she hadn't the slightest idea how to survive. She went to the first house that looked inviting and begged for help. Although the woman wanted to help her, she was not able to take another cat into her home. This is a story we hear over and over again. Our community is in a crisis and the animals are paying the ultimate price. Because of your support of the Serenity Fund, we were able to help to at least get Carmela spayed and vaccinated. The plan was that a humane society that we work with would then take her for placement. Shortly after she came here, however, we discovered that she is positive for the Feline Leukemia Virus. She

could not, therefore, be put up for adoption. And so we made room for her here with us. She would not have survived on the streets -- but now she has found her loving forever home. And she thanks you for helping to make that happen.

### You Showed Up When They Needed You Most

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/springfarmcares](https://www.facebook.com/springfarmcares)  
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# From Surviving Together To Thriving Together - United They Stand



*Harley, Houdini, Harriet upon arrival - April 2024*

The call came in from one of our local humane societies – another animal cruelty case – this time with two mini-horses and a mini-donkey. All three had suffered horrific neglect of their feet. Their hooves had grown so long and misshapen that it was causing major damage to their legs. “The little mare is in really bad shape,” they told us. “If you can’t take her, she will need to be euthanized. There is no way she will ever be normal and able to be adopted out.”

She needed to come here – and it’s exactly for such desperate situations that we are here. Sadly, we’ve dealt with this sort of neglect and damage to equine hooves all too often. But because of that we knew what must be done if there was any chance of saving the little mare. And thanks to you we have the resources that would be needed to help her.

“Yes, we can take her,” we told them. We were then informed that the mini-gelding with her was her son and they could not be separated. An adopter who would take the little donkey, we were informed, had been found. Well, we had room

for both the mare and her son, so our staff veterinarian, Dr. Christine, along with our senior barn staff, went to pick them up. Just as they had loaded the two mini-horses onto our trailer and were about to shut the doors, however, the mini-donkey came running, braying frantically. Right up into the trailer to join his friends he ran. That little group had survived together. There was no way that that plucky little donkey was going to be separated from his soulmates. Somehow, he had managed to get out of the stall where he had been left behind, all by himself.

## The Three Friends Today



**Houdini**



**Harley**



**Harriet**

Needless to say, that deeply bonded trio came home together. And a new name for the donkey was obvious. Houdini. His two pony friends became Harriet and Harley. What a devoted trio they are. Harley and Houdini, each about 5 years old, play and romp endlessly together, while Harriet sticks as close to them as she can get without getting run over.

Only in her teens, just middle-aged for a mini-pony, Harriet’s legs are, unfortunately, permanently crippled. The neglect of her hooves was long-term. She has, however, made strides in recovering that have surpassed what any of us expected, and more quickly than expected. Special trimming of the hooves and good foot-care has helped enormously, allowing her to walk and even trot around her paddock with the others. Due to damage to her joints, the legs are permanently damaged, but she has become surprisingly functional and comfortable. Our job now is to continue to maintain this comfort and functionality for as long as possible. We hope that will be for many years.

Fortunately, the damage to the legs and joints of the younger Harley and Houdini was less, and rehabilitation work has worked wonders. Had they not been rescued in time, they would have suffered the same fate as Harriet. To watch the three of them graze together, rest together, and play together brings smiles to all of us every day. But even more moving is an understanding of Houdini’s miraculous escape and his wildly braying race to go home with his friends. Once again we understand how imperative it is that we listen to what these animals want, instead of what we humans decide. To have separated this group would have been a tragedy almost worse than the trauma that their neglect had already inflicted. The emotional loss might have killed them all. But, thankfully, united they still stand ... literally stand, on feet now lovingly cared for.

## Finding Joy Again

Joy was having a very good life. She was with a human who she loved very much. But, suddenly, her human fell ill and ended up having to be hospitalized for a long time. Joy was home with someone checking in on her, but she deeply missed her human.

Then, for Joy, the unimaginable happened. Her human was not able to come home and she was never going to be able to see him again. There were no other options or places where Joy could go. Joy found herself suddenly homeless. No one could take her. The humane societies and rescues are all full. Euthanasia became the only option left. It was a choice no one wanted to make. They called us. We are also always full. But, somehow, we made a place for Joy.

Your support enabled us to give her a chance. Adjusting to life without her human has been difficult for her though. There she was at 12 years old with a broken heart. This was something our caretaking team immediately went to work on, introducing Joy to a different kind of loving life in our sanctuary. Being on a farm, there's lots to look at out the windows. And in the summer, the cats get to go out on screened-in porches, where they can bask in the sun, watch and listen to birds and all the sights of the farm. Joy had never experienced anything like this before!

Slowly, she has begun to embrace her new life, to adjust. We are doing all that we can to support her. But you are the real hero in Joy's life. Without you, we would never have been able to give her sanctuary when all of her other options had run out.



*This is Joy on the first day we had her out on one of our cat porches and she looked outside at the farm. This was her first time seeing the tractor go by. And the birds. And all the smells. Can you see the wonder in her eyes?*



### Ways You Can Help

**Donate Securely On-Line: [bit.ly/3TKtpO3](http://bit.ly/3TKtpO3)**

**Become A Monthly Donor: [bit.ly/3TKtpO3](http://bit.ly/3TKtpO3)**

**Sponsor An Animal - \$100 for one Year: [bit.ly/3DdHivI](http://bit.ly/3DdHivI)**

**Donate Items From Our Wish Lists: [bit.ly/3gyrcaf](http://bit.ly/3gyrcaf)**

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

## We can't wait to see you at our Open House on September 14th!

Come meet the animals in person, check out our newly renovated small animal facility, and walk around the gardens and grounds and soak in the peace and beauty that the farm has to offer.

The animals can't wait  
to see you!



# YOU'RE INVITED

**OPEN  
HOUSE  
AT SFC**

Join us in celebrating our newly renovated small animal facility with live music, food, tours and meet & greets with our animal residents.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**



**SPRING FARM CARES**  
ANIMAL AND NATURE SANCTUARY

Spring Farm CARES | [www.springfarmcares.org](http://www.springfarmcares.org) | 3364 State Route 12, Clinton, NY 13323



We are participating in the 24-hour giving day with Mohawk Valley Gives on September 20, 2024. You can find out more details and even host fundraisers on your own for us.

**For more information:**

<https://www.givemv.org/organizations/spring-farm-cares>

Or go to: [www.givemv.org](http://www.givemv.org) and search for Spring Farm CARES

**Thank you for supporting the animals!**

## September Match - Double Your Dollars Donation

Thanks to a generous donor -  
from September 1 - 30th  
All donations will be matched up to  
the first

**\$25,000**