



Animal Tracks

NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers, Friends & Supporters of The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

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AMERICAN SPIRIT

From the desk of Phyllis Van De Weghe

With so much divisiveness in our country today, we sometimes forget the goodness in people. Surprisingly it only took a little kitten to make the goodness shine through at a busy intersection in Upper Deerfield, NJ.

On Monday, October 23rd while driving home from work and turning left in the intersection near my farm, I noticed a tiny gray kitten sitting on top of the storm drain at the curb. The animal was facing certain death if it attempted to cross the street, so I pulled over to see if I could stop traffic and catch the baby. Terrified, the little one tried to squeeze into the storm drain! As I attempted to get the kitten out, a young woman stopped her car and offered some peanut butter as a lure. A pickup truck stopped and a big burly man came to our aid. A tractor trailer driver pulled his rig over to bring us a pipe to use to pull the grate up. My neighbor came out of his house to help, and a friend working at my farm ran over. By this time the kitten had gotten itself wedged completely under the overhang of the storm drain, but the big burly man reached in and pulled the tiny animal to safety. Thankfully the kitten was so young it did not know how to defend itself, and instead just trembled in terror. As my friend cradled the baby in his gloved hands, everyone cheered, and I thanked the good Samaritans as they went on their way.

I ran to another neighbor's house who lent me a large cage to keep the baby in my garage overnight. (Having 4 elderly cats of my own, I could not risk their health if the kitten had any diseases or parasites.) I lined the cage with a soft blanket and provided food, fresh water, and a litter box. The next day I brought the kitten to a vet. It's a male, about 6 weeks old, and is in good health with the exception of flea infestation, ear mites, and coccidia. He weighs 1.6 pounds. The vet sent us home with medicines for his medical issues, and I sat with him in the afternoon, removing the dying fleas. By the end of the grooming session, the little guy laid in my lap purring his baby heart out.

The lesson here is this: People may be different but we are the same when it comes to what truly matters. Because this tiny kitten brought out the characteristic American Spirit of total strangers helping others without notoriety or reward, the kitten was named Spirit in their honor. The little guy is now playing happily with other kittens at The Oasis Animal Sanctuary, and awaits his new forever home.



Spirit

WE HAVE A NEW BOARD MEMBER!

On Saturday, November 4th we welcomed Dawn Lucas to the Oasis Board of Trustees. Dawn has worked with other non-profits in various positions as employee, volunteer, and Board member. She brings many needed skills to the Oasis family, especially volunteer coordination and grant writing. We are excited to have Dawn working with us in these capacities to help further the Oasis mission.

**"Tell me and I forget;
Teach me and I may remember;
Involve me and I learn."**

- Ben Franklin

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Do you really want to help the animals, at NO cost to you?!

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Just sign up for their **Affinity Program**, select **Oasis Animal Sanctuary** as your charity of choice. The more people that sign up, the greater TD Bank's donation will be to Oasis. **CALL NOW!!**

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It simply astonishes me to realize that another year has flown by. Oasis has had its share of its ups and downs in 2017. We've successfully negotiated the abatement of real estate taxes; found a wonderful couple to live on the property so there is a human presence 24/7; found a new Board member with some skillsets we need; struggled our way through the difficult process of the cat cottage renovations; took in almost 30 new animals, and through the ravages of old age lost 4 of our beloved senior equines – O'Teeka, Poomba, Omid, and Ginger - and our senior cat Sebastian.

As we look forward to another busy year we are always amazed by our incredibly supportive volunteers and our generous donors. Considering the chaotic world in which we live, it is comforting to see people come together in compassion and friendship to help the animals. I am so very blessed to have been given the opportunity to help others on their journey through Life. **Their gift in return – unconditional love – is a priceless treasure that can only be measured by the heart.**

With the closing of another year, the Oasis Board members – Pam, Mary, Melissa, Dawn and I – want to sincerely thank our donors, sponsors, and volunteers for all you have done for Oasis in our mission as a refuge for abused and neglected animals. Simply put, we couldn't do this without you!

A joyous and Merry Christmas; Happy Hanukkah; Happy holidays to all!

For the Animals,

Phyllis Van De Weghe
Co-Founder, Vice President & CFO

HOW I SPENT MY THANKSGIVING

By Cody, Senior Quarter Horse Gelding

On the Monday before Thanksgiving I wasn't feeling so well, and was very glad my caretaker Jim noticed. He called Pam, who called the vet, who said I had a serious problem with my belly. The next thing I knew I was in a horse trailer off to see the doctors at a place called New Bolton Center, the equine hospital at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Apparently the doctors were concerned that I had twisted my intestines which is a life-threatening medical emergency. They shaved parts of my belly to run their tests, and inserted a long thin tube down my nose into my stomach. To make a long story short, I was very lucky in that my insides were all where they were supposed to be; however, they diagnosed me with "enteritis" which is an inflammation of the small intestine. They treated me so kindly there; they said I was a very good patient, and a real handsome boy too! Anyway, I had to stay there a few days until the swelling went down and I could digest normal food again. Everybody fussed over me, even on the day the humans celebrate Thanksgiving – there were people there for me all the time. I finally got to go home on Friday. I am glad to be back home!

I hope your Thanksgiving was a lot less dramatic than mine!

Love, Cody

CAT COTTAGE UPDATE

We have had 3 bids on the renovations we originally planned, all of which were way out of our budget. Undeterred, we went "back to the drawing board" and scaled down the "Wish List" in the project; and are again soliciting bids on this revised plan. In the meantime, we secured a company that will do the entire roofing project at a discounted price. Because the original roof was built using 2 x 4's for the trusses, they are not considered acceptable under the NJ Construction Codes, and the entire roof structure must be torn down and reconstructed. That work is currently underway. We are still working on the sanitation dilemma, trying to find an acceptable alternative to an entire new septic system. This has been quite a learning experience, and a much larger project than we anticipated.

Oasis is so very grateful for the guidance of our wonderful Project Manager, Joseph DeAntonio, who has selflessly taken on this endeavor pro-bono and with a smile! Thank you Joe!

We would also like to acknowledge Michael Westfield of Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants in Haddon Heights, NJ for his exhaustive work in designing the renovations and dealing with Township and County officials on our behalf, at a discounted cost. Thank you Michael!

HAPPILY ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN!



Zeus, our resident Peeping Tom
(turkey, that is!)



Cody

(Editor's Note: Cody's hospital stay totaled almost \$3,000. Donations to cover the cost of his care are greatly appreciated!)

WE WENT HOME!

Zena (kitten) **Zuzu** (kitten)
Zach (kitten) **Zeke** (kitten)
Groot (kitten) **Sunni** (kitten)
Sandi (kitten) **Keno** (kitten)
Reuben (kitten) **Roscoe** (kitten)
Ruby (kitten) **Lovey** (adult cat)
Daisy & JaiJai (guinea pigs)
adopted together
Morgan & Bailey (adult cats)
adopted together

"God Bless us, every one."

– Tiny Tim

VOLUNTEER TIMES!

Oasis had a group of volunteers from American Water Works come to the sanctuary and help out with animal care, gardening & landscaping, and general maintenance. This is the second year the group visited Oasis, and we are grateful for their contribution to the sanctuary!



Our friends from American Water Works

Six Oasis volunteers participated in Gloucester County's Communit Clean-Up Program, where the County offers non-profits a \$500 grant for cleaning up a local area. On Saturday, November 4th the group cleaned up Fries Mill Road between Coles Mill Road and Delsea Drive in Franklinville. Ninety pounds of garbage and recyclables were bagged up and carted away! The volunteers were grateful for the nice weather that morning.



From left to right: Lisa, Phyllis, Joanne, Nina and Vivian celebrate a dirty job well done.

WISH LIST

- Pine or cedar shavings for horse bedding
- Dumor brand Layered feed (16%) crumbles for our poultry
- Gift certificates to Tractor Supply or Horse 'N Around Tack Shop (Sewell, NJ)
- Postage stamps
- #10 envelopes; paper
- Gift cards to Staples for office supplies
- Gutters for the barn & installation thereof
- New or gently used 2 horse trailer

OASIS OPEN HOUSE & CRAFT FAIR

The Open House & Craft Fair was a wonderful day of sunshine, fresh air, animals, camaraderie, and fun at the sanctuary! Ten vendors helped Oasis raise over \$2,100 while attendees from as far away as Harrisburg, PA enjoyed the hay rides, live music, shopping, food, and of course visiting with all the animals. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

A great BIG thank you goes out to our volunteers who have been so supportive of our efforts to help the animals.

We would also like to recognize our Sponsors who have been helped make this day a huge success:

Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville, NJ; D'Augustine's Market in Malaga, NJ; Lowe's in Millville, NJ; Danny's Farm Market in Williamstown, NJ; and Marolda Farm in Buena, NJ.



VACATION AND HOLIDAY MONEY RAFFLES

Every year Oasis runs 2 Money Raffles to raise funds for the animal programs at the sanctuary. Each ticket provides an individual with 10 chances to win, and the prizes are based on a percentage of the gross income from ticket sales. The winning tickets were pulled at the Franklinville Township Mayor's office.

This year's winners for the Vacation Money Raffle, held on May 19th, were:

1st Scott Warner	Williamstown	\$632.50
2nd Patricia Roman	Camden	\$506.00
3rd Debbie MacAdams	West Deptford	\$442.75
4th Karen Johnson-Maung	Egg Harbor Twp.	\$379.50
5th Ted Howley	Haddon Twp.	\$316.25
6th Anthony Passalacqua	Williamstown	\$284.63
7th Janis Conley	Mt. Ephraim	\$221.37
8th Denise Daniliw	Sewell	\$189.75
9th Maria Scott	Williamstown	\$126.50
10th Susan Geers	Franklinville	\$ 63.25

This year's winners for the Holiday Money Raffle, held on November 17th were:

1st Ada Mae Hollingsworth	Williamstown	\$664.50
2nd Barbara Millbach	Sewell	\$531.60
3rd Jim Johnston	Galloway	\$465.15
4th Vivian Maltese	Sewell	\$398.70
5th Rita Stevenson	Sicklerville	\$332.25
6th Alan Krason	Medford	\$299.03
7th Karen Petsch	Franklinville	\$232.58
8th Shirley Gillen	Oaklyn	\$199.35
9th Pat Nickerson	Pitman	\$132.90
10th Carole Green	Berlin	\$ 66.45

After expenses and winning payouts, these 2 raffles netted over \$5,170 for Oasis to use in our Animal Care Program and the Sterilization Assistance Program.

Thank you to all who participated, and we are especially grateful to those winners who donated a portion or all of their winnings back to Oasis.

**"When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."
– Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Go to petfinder.com & input the zip code "08081" to see all of our adoptables.

WE WANT TO GO HOME!

We have a number of beautiful adult cats that need a new loving person. Each one has a story about their life - a warm loving home where the caregiver became ill or died, to a not-so-warm-and-loving relationship from a neglectful or abusive owner. A bit more quiet and settled than a cutie-pie kitten, these "former kittens" are often passed over by someone searching for their new best friend. We are so hoping that these lovely, deserving creatures can find happiness and comfort with a new permanent family; in return they will love you unconditionally. **Everyone wants to be Home for the Holidays!**

As an incentive to consider our adult felines, from now until December 31 we are lowering our adoption fee to \$65 for an adult cat. These animals are already spayed or neutered, up-to-date on vaccines, and socialized. We will continue to honor our 20% discount on the fee if you adopt two (or more) of them!



Miss Kitty (F)



Buttons (M)



Willow (F)



Fluffy (F)



Sassy (F)

Faith and Hope, 2 other adult female cats, were playing shy on picture day.

We also have kittens for adoption! Besides Spirit (see page 1), we have two long hair siblings that look like bookends (Jethro and Abby), and Reatha, a black and white female kitten. For an \$85 adoption fee you get an animal that is sterilized, up-to-date on age appropriate vaccines and de-worming, and socialized. **For more information on all of the Oasis animals please call the office at 856-262-1222.**



Abby (F)



Reatha (F)



Jethro (M)

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