



## Dog Meadow – July/August 2023

July is typically known for thunderstorms and we have certainly had our fair share of them this year. Nevertheless, we will be closing at the end of July for some property maintenance. Additional dates will be from September through October. Specific dates are at the end of this newsletter. As always we thank you for your support and we're happy that you are joining us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.

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**We will be closed July 22 - July 30.**

Feel free to contact us if you wish with any requests. We will answer emails as needed. All business will resume on July 31.

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*Frankie dances around Laura as she exits her vehicle after a long day at work. This was a ritual that went on before he let Laura pick him up and receive cuddles.*

## **THE LOSS OF FRANKIE**

On June 8 we lost a beloved rooster Frankie. Laura came home and discovered that Frankie did not greet her as she pulled into the driveway. He was attacked and killed by a dog that was loose in the neighborhood.

It's a great feeling when a pet greets you right away as you drive up to the house. Usually, it's the barking and jumping of a dog, but this greeting was very different. That's because the greeting came from a rooster and it was clucking, crowing, and circling that was performed. Frankie, a Buff Orpington, was adopted on Memorial Day weekend in 2022 at the age of twelve weeks old. He was young and as he matured and the pubescent hormones kicked in, he began to attack Laura. Curious about how to change this behavior, Laura joined a few groups and soon learned that picking him up and continually giving him attention would turn it all around.

Both Laura and I worked for weeks to train Frankie to be affectionate and for him to understand that we were his family. He was taken to outings and was known well at farmers' markets, outdoor eateries, and by the community





*Every Saturday morning, Frankie joined us for a ride to the farmers' market.*



*Frankie was well known by the community. He frequently visited the local farmers' markets and outdoor eateries with us.*

It really wasn't until we adopted and got to know Frankie that I knew how one could become attached to an animal. But those that have a pet and have a special bond with them completely understand it. Laura always has. When Frankie first started living in the house, he'd crow as early as 430 AM. We quickly got used to it, and most days, we slept through it since it didn't happen often. Shortly after we lost Lily, Frankie sat with Laura for the first time and asked for pets. It was a huge turning point in their relationship, and their connection became stronger. We connect with people all the time, and we get close.

There's always that person that will say "It was just a chicken!" Well, first of all, Frankie was a rooster, and interestingly enough, he had an amazing personality, and he understood that he was loved and he loved back. It wasn't the kind of love you



get from your spouse or daughter or even your parents. I can't even explain it, to be honest.



*An existing garden on the property was redone in memory of Frankie. A plaque will be placed to commemorate his short life.*

The dog that killed Frankie belonged to a gentleman who owned a landscaping company. After hearing about what had happened, he came to our door the following morning and genuinely and tearfully expressed his sympathy. He explained that he himself was an owner of pheasants and turkeys and understood our loss and what Frankie meant to us. Especially Laura. He expressed true regret about letting his dog run loose and said that he had learned his lesson. As we walked along the property with him, we came across a garden that we had been wanting to revamp. He offered to do it for us in Frankie's name. He invited us to his nursery to pick out some plants which he would plant in addition to some of the already existing plants. In the process, we learned that good people still exist in this world who are compassionate and genuine. As for the garden, it turned out quite nicely. The older centerpiece which is a white flowering bush, was relocated to another part of the property. We are looking to order a plaque that will tell a brief story of Frankie in his memory.

As much as we connect, we also lose connections. So many of us face challenges daily. No one said it would be easy, and all we can do is be strong, and if we can, be a strength for others. Thank you to those who have done that. Thank you to those who understand.





*Meet our new kids. From left to right: Max Blue Evans-Santos, Woodrow Edward Evans-Santos, and Flynn Sunny Evans-Santos. Short names: Blue, Eddie, and Sunny.*

## **NUBIANS COME HOME**

It was Memorial Day weekend and besides a small parade in town, what else did we have to do, but rescue and adopt three Nubian goats? Yes, Eddie, Blue, and Sunny from Simply Sweet Farm in Stanfordville, NY, had already won our hearts weeks before. They will soon join the rest of the herd after spending much of the last two months in a separate stall in the barn. As if we didn't have enough to do around here, we had to bottle-feed them twice a day and manage to alternate the meadow between them and the dogs. Many photos were posted on our social media accounts for those that are interested in seeing them. Many have enjoyed their presence and some of our special clients even brought their small children to visit them because some of the businesses that have goat walks were so booked for the season.





*Laura spends time with our kids.*



*We all know how much people love the antics of young goats.*

As time allows we'll build out the spaces for all our animals and make them happier than ever. We're hoping that we can share this happiness with the community and have special events where people can come meet them and learn more about what it means to rescue them.





*The Soul of the Dog, Version 2 had a lot of new faces on display.*

## **SOUL OF THE DOG – VERSION 2**

We have hosted hundreds of dogs at Dog Meadow. Some have been here once while some have become regular customers. All have been photographed in the meadow interacting with the other dogs and enjoying their stay. Some, however, have had a special portrait taken of them.

I presented the first series of portraits back in early 2022 at the Millbrook Library. A second showing was on display at the Pleasant Valley Library in Pleasant Valley, NY.

As previously done, all the profits from the sales of the photos went directly to the library. The same was done for the Pleasant Valley Library.









*Many took the time to stop by to meet us and ask questions about the photos and our services.*

Along with some of the portraits that were on display from the original show, a substantial number of new dogs were added. Even a portrait of Frankie, our beloved Buff Orpington rooster was on display. Frankie had become very tame and was able to sit still for us so I took the opportunity to photograph him.



*There was even a portrait of Frankie, that I managed to photograph before his demise.*

Thank you to everyone that took the time to view the exhibitions and thank you further to those that took the time to purchase their portrait. In addition to the ready-to-hang framed photo, they received both a high-resolution and low-resolution digital image of their dog's portrait.

***Following is a bit of history about the Library.***

On November 6, 2018, the Pleasant Valley Library in Pleasant Vally, NY made news when it was in flames due to a fire that started in the basement. David Kruger, President of the library board of trustees noted on that Tuesday, for the first time in eight years, a proposition was on the ballots in Pleasant Valley to increase the library's annual funding by \$80,000 for a total operating budget of \$440,000.

He said they were looking for the funding "to maintain services offered."

"Then this morning, disaster struck. We are hoping there will be an upside at some point," he said.

With donations and funding for the renovation, the doors reopened on January 3, 2023. It is 4 times the size, with one-quarter of the original structure kept intact.





*A drawing of the library that was done by an employee a month before it caught fire. It hangs in the original section of the newly restored space.*

***If you wish to have a portrait done of your pet, whether dog or cat, you can contact us via our website or email us at: [DogMeadow.Millbrook@gmail.com](mailto:DogMeadow.Millbrook@gmail.com)***

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## **FOURTH ANNIVERSARY**

Four years ago July 21, we opened Dog Meadow at Millbrook. We've hosted hundreds of dogs, seen many sunrises and hard winters, and rescued many animals. Perhaps the best part of our journey as a business has been meeting so many amazing people on the way. We've met like-minded animal lovers, artists, and community members who have supported us in our endeavors and made our world a warmer one. Thank you to all of our supporters, clients, and friends who have made Dog Meadow and what we do for animals possible. And the biggest thank you

to my wife, Laura, who believes that if we work together, we can do anything and make it fun as well.



*Jack gets hugs from Laura.*

## **Dog Meadow Blog**

Laura Evans, Lady of Dog Meadow, writes a Dog Meadow blog entry on a weekly basis (more or less). She shares life at Dog Meadow as well as trials and tribulations in life as a whole. Every entry includes an easy-to-follow recipe at the end. We encourage you to read it ***here*** and please subscribe.

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### **Did you know...**

You can do something to help Dog Meadow? Yes, you can! And it takes less than a minute. If you follow us on Instagram or Facebook, "liking" and/or sharing our posts greatly increases our exposure and ensures that your dog will always have doggy friends to play with here at Dog Meadow.

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## **Bookings**

Please remember to book your dog's stay early at Dog Meadow. **Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email.** We require deposits for all stays. It is up to you to reach out to us if and when you are ready to book your dog's stay. Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email. If you do not have an email confirming a reservation for specific dates, you do not have a reservation.



With that said, we remind you to make sure that your dog's vaccinations are up-to-date. We encourage you to check your records and make appointments with your dog's vet, if needed, to ensure that he is in good health. You can find our **requirements** on our website.

Finally, let's all be safe and kind to one another.



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