



Cornerstone Farm and Rescue

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Thank you!!!!

“It’s not enough to love animals; we must actively protect and preserve them. It’s our duty and responsibility as custodians of this planet.”



by **Proprietors** Richard Johnson and Jodi Greenleaf Spring 2024

We have had a steady influx of injured and abandoned animals since we opened our doors in August. We currently have almost 175 animals, and 13 different species in our care, and we couldn’t do it without your help. Pictured above is “Thanos”, an older white homing pigeon found badly injured in a busy plaza parking lot in East Bridgewater. He came to us with several wounds on his chest, wings and head.

Thankfully a kind bystander took the time to scoop him up and find help. We are one of the only rescues in the state who takes pigeons and doves and we receive calls every week about birds that need our help. We are hoping to expand our aviary this summer so we can continue to provide quality care for all the birds that will be coming our way in the future. Thanos has made a full recovery and is now enjoying a peaceful life with our flock taking baths and basking in the sun with his new friends. We estimate that he is well over the age of 10 years old. Fun fact, the oldest bird in our flock sports a leg band from 2006. At the age of 18, he is living far beyond the life expectancy of a homing pigeon. Wild pigeons have an average lifespan of 3-5 years.

Some of the birds we take in are, in fact, wild pigeons. If they can make a full recovery we are able to release them where they were found since pigeons do mate for life. We recently had the pleasure of releasing a bird back to her home in Mansfield. "Derricka" came to us on a cold night in February walking in circles and having trouble standing. After a little TLC, she made a full recovery and was released back to her home. When she came out of the carrier, she looked around and surely realized she was HOME. She quickly flew to the peak of the house where she was met by several other pigeons who had likely missed her!

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**DERRICKA
HOME AGAIN!**



A FEW OF OUR NEW ARRIVALS

We welcomed “Helen”, a hen who was going to be euthanized because she wasn’t walking. Helen was seen by our veterinarian **Dr. MacMillan at Windhover Veterinary in Walpole**. She has arthritis in her knee due to an old injury and has lost range of motion over time. Helen is currently living with our other special needs hens and is doing very well. We can’t thank Dr. MacMillan and her staff enough for helping us with our injured and sick birds. Below is Helen preparing for a laser treatment on her sore joint, along with her X-Ray - showing her arthritis AND an EGG!



We also welcomed a Bearded Dragon (yet to be named) whom we adopted from Petsmart. He had “aged out” in their system and we couldn’t pass him up. Consequently, **we started our own mealworm farm** that will help us provide delicious and nutritious snacks for him and our birds. We are also growing our own wheatgrass and sprouting lentil seeds, both of which provide healthy treats for our birds. If you are looking to support a wonderful local business that is dedicated to rescue, check out **Futzy Farm Bird and Barn at 416 South St. in Plainville!** The store is owned by our dear friend **Gretchen, aka The Crazy Chicken Lady** - and she can tell you anything you need to know about chickens and their well-being. Her shop sells all kinds of seeds and grain, along with beautiful gifts. She proudly supports many local artisans AND The Cornerstone Farm and Rescue! We love you Gretchen! Please stop in and visit her beautiful store and you can find her on Facebook as Futzy Farm LLC.

EXCITING NEWS! The Cornerstone Farm is now partnered with Petsmart in

North Attleboro. We will soon be able to utilize their adoption space to find homes for cats and kittens. We are in the process of applying for our shelter license, and once we receive it we will be able to legally adopt out homeless animals. We are



excited about this partnership with Petsmart Charities! Stay tuned for more information on that, and please let us know if you could volunteer some time to man a donation table on a Saturday or Sunday at the North Attleboro store.

Pictured here is “Rudolph” making a visit to **Tufts Veterinary in Woodstock, CT.** Rudolph has horns that are growing back after an unsuccessful disbudding, which is a procedure performed on kid goats to ensure their horns will not develop. This procedure is typically performed on kids three weeks of age or younger. After three weeks of age, the developing horn tissue will have attached to the skull and is more difficult to remove. Using proper disbudding technique and disbudding during the

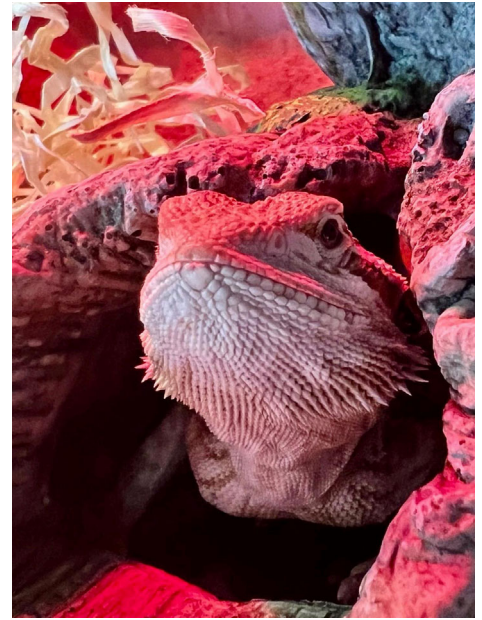
appropriate time frame will decrease the number of goats that develop scurs (horns that grow back) and decrease the number of horn-associated injuries. Rudolph has a scur growing towards his head, and it needed to be dealt with. Thankfully, the veterinarian team was able to trim it rather than removing the horn, which would have been a painful surgery. They kindly showed us how to do it ourselves so we can maintain the growth in the future! The veterinary team was wonderful! Rudolph thanked them by peeing and pooping all over their waiting room. RUDY!



“BONNIE” rescued in Taunton.



Group photo of our four Little Russians.



Our new Beardie!

BARN UPDATE!

As you may know, our barn was crushed by a huge pine tree back on December 18th. It was a total loss, but no animals were injured. Unfortunately our insurance company denied our claim, stating that we were using the barn as a business, which simply is not true. We are doing our best to keep everyone safe and dry, and holding on to HOPE that we will be able to rebuild very soon. We have a lot of ideas, and will surely be calling on friends to help with demo and construction. The idea that patience is a virtue is outdated. Our journey has continually tested our patience, but we are focused on living our best life and providing love and TLC to all our animals.

“Patience attracts happiness. It brings near that which is far!”

The Daisy Chain Pet Food Pantry

We are excited to announce that we initiated the creation of a community service....The Daisy Chain Pet Food Pantry! We asked for donations from our community, and our shelves are FULL and ready to serve! We have reached out to the food pantries in Bellingham, Franklin, Wrentham, Plainville, and North Attleboro so far and are hoping to be able to provide food to anyone who asks for our help feeding their pets. We are receiving Amazon packages with donations and people are dropping it off at our farmstand on the regular! We are planning to set up a donation drop off at Futzy Farm Bird and Barn soon as well - thanks again to Gretchen! We enclosed our flier for this mission, feel free to put it up at any local business - we will help anyone in need regardless of their town of residence.

SPREAD AWARENESS

In Massachusetts, **secondary poisoning from SGARs (rodenticide)** were found to be the confirmed cause of many wild animals, including bald eagles, owls and hawks. This has essentially become an epidemic our wildlife rehabbers are faced with handling. Rodenticide causes a slow and painful death. Once ingested, it can take up to ten days for the victim to die. Rodenticide works by affecting the blood's ability to clot which leads to internal bleeding. Over time, the rodent becomes weaker and weaker, making it more susceptible to predators. If a predator, such as a hawk or a fox, ingests prey that has consumed rodenticide, the predator becomes poisoned as well and eventually dies. What's troubling is the rat population is exploding in many communities around the state and the use of rodenticide is widespread. We are dealing with our share of rat infestations but we refuse to use poison to control the problem. We have beautiful owls and hawks that frequent our property and we want to see them thrive. We are currently using a nontoxic product called Contra that works to sterilize the rat so it can't reproduce. It allows them to live out their life span of about a year, but with no offspring. WIN! WIN! Please help us spread awareness about safe alternatives to poison.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Jodi, Richard and all the animals!

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