

# 2019



## Happenings at the Sanctuary

### Population 715+

*We will close out the year with more than 700 animals in residence, including...*

<b>421 Chickens</b>	<b>42 Cows</b>
<b>106 Pigeons</b>	<b>10 Sheep</b>
<b>48 Ducks</b>	<b>6 Goats</b>
<b>31 Doves</b>	<b>3 Alpacas</b>
<b>17 Geese</b>	<b>1 Pig</b>
<b>6 Guinea fowl</b>	<b>4 Emus</b>
<b>5 Turkeys</b>	<b>15 Others</b>

*In addition to these occupants of coops, barns, and aviaries, scores of rewilded pigeons and dozens of rewilded ducks use the sanctuary as home base, breakfasting with us each day. Countless wild turkeys and deer find refuge from hunters here.*

### In Memoriam Buddy

One of the first cows to join our community, Buddy embodied the sanctuary spirit of generosity and cross-species care. Having been chained alone in a barn for years, Buddy valued relationships more than anything. A volunteer as well as a resident, Buddy made it his job to welcome newcomers and befriend the lonely.

### Fabio

Fabio the turkey loved to display his fine feathers for anyone willing to admire them. A survivor of factory farming himself, he willingly served as a surrogate uncle to young chickens rescued from similar circumstances.

### Carol

This tiny, elderly, feather-footed hen looked frail and fancy but was actually fierce and feral. Fearless and self-possessed, Carol ruled the roost in a section of the sanctuary reserved for elder, juvenile, and disabled birds.

### Scotty

A true "gentle giant," the 3,000 pound retired ox called Scotty played a literally and figuratively out-sized role in our sanctuary community. Humans and cows alike mourned when this herd elder finally passed away at the advanced age of 24.

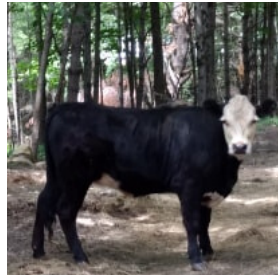
### Highlights

We've listed highlights of the year at the sanctuary below and highlights from our advocacy work on the reverse, but some things never change. As always, our nonhuman community members pursued their own projects while our hard-working human team did everything we could to care for them and make sure their voices and stories were heard. As always, our commitment to both parsimony and environmental sustainability meant that we cut costs by upcycling, repurposing, and building with scrap materials. Those practices, along with the labor of volunteers, allowed us to maximize the impact of every dollar given by donors.



### Cows Liberate Themselves & Care for Others

Twice this year, cows who had both liberated themselves and witnessed violence against loved ones found both safety and community at the sanctuary. Saorise came to the sanctuary after repeatedly escaping the small-scale farm where she had witnessed the slaughter of her mother and brother. Elder cows Mona and Moxie immediately welcomed and soothed the young cow, who soon became fast friends with similarly freedom-loving members of "the hardy herd" in the back pasture.



We don't know whether Ebony escaped from a dairy or a slaughterhouse. We don't know whether she escaped while pregnant or after giving birth. We do know that she cared for her calf Ivory in the forest for months, until hunters killed their companion and chased them onto the property of a person who offered them refuge and arranged for them to come to the sanctuary. Elder cows Rose and Autumn recognized and worked to ease Ebony's anxiety while youngsters Gemini and Shasta helped Ivory to feel at home. All of the adult cows helped out with "babysitting" so that Ebony could rest and begin to recover from the ordeal of nursing and protecting a calf while scavenging for food and evading hunters.



### Volunteers Keep the Sanctuary Green

Volunteers repainted coops, rebuilt the goat playground, "upcycled" an old water tank into a hay feeder, turned scrap wood into a passive solar water trough, and helped to construct a shed for the tractor. Most impressively, volunteers built, insulated, and painted a whole new sanctuary structure: Valkerie's new "Piggy Palace," into which a turkey and several hens have also moved and which also turns out to be a popular daytime hang-out for elder goats.



### Feathered Friends Fly In

We began nearly 20 years ago as a chicken sanctuary, and our community continues to include more roosters and hens than any other kind of animal. New feathered friends this year included one hundred hens rescued from a factory-like egg facility, thirty survivors of Kaporos, seventeen roosters who came all together from a hatching project, and numerous roosters who arrived individually after being rescued from cockfighting or discarded by backyard hen-keepers.



# Education and Advocacy

## Coming Out for Animals



This year, VINE came out for animals at **more events than ever before**. In lectures and workshops as well as in both print and online publications, we drew upon our own relationships with animals to educate the general public and other animal advocates. As an LGBTQ-led organization staffed in part by people with disabilities, we also drew on our unique standpoints to illustrate linkages between speciesism and social injustice as well as to talk about animal rights in unexpected places.

## Seeding Grassroots Change

This year, we literally seeded change by starting the **Free Seed Library** at our local public library. Combined with our **workshops on veganic gardening**, this new project will increase access to fresh produce in our community while also discouraging the use of animal products such as bone meal and manure. We also seeded change by supporting grassroots organizations in our region and by giving **presentations on effective activism** to animal advocates in our area and elsewhere. Other local work this year included vegan potlucks, bake sales, and tastings as well as the only Pride Month event in our community.



## Expanding Humane Education

We piloted a brand-new humane education program this year. **Barnyard Buddies** allows children who don't happen to live near a sanctuary to experience the educational and emotional benefits of getting to know sanctuary residents. We also expanded our popular on-site **Pasture Pals** program for children, offering more sessions this year than in previous years and also expanding the age range, so that adolescents also could participate. Going forward, we will be working with a local youth services agency to bring adolescents to the sanctuary more often. We also will be preparing a guidebook for smaller sanctuaries who want to use these programs as models.

## Going the Extra Mile

We're always ready to tell sanctuary stories to anyone willing to listen. If they invite us, we will go. And so, this year, the story of Nigel the sheep helped attendees at a VegFest in Connecticut think about activism in the era of climate change while the story of ducks Jean Paul and Jean Claude helped students and faculty at a Rhode Island college think about connections between LGBTQ+ and animal liberation. Venues for presentations this year included not only numerous VegFests and college campuses but also a public library, a senior center, a church, a preschool, and a rural humane society.



## Growing the Movement

At a VegFest in New Hampshire, sanctuary cofounder patrice jones made sure to highlight the work being done by other groups. As one of the oldest farmed animal sanctuaries, we consider it our duty to help grow the animal advocacy movement. We do this by fostering **cooperation** and strategic **coordination** as well as by stressing the need to always **listen to and learn from animals**. Much of that work goes on behind the scenes, as when patrice served on the Program Advisory Committee for the National Animal Rights Conference. As always, we also offered technical assistance to shelters and sanctuaries caring for roosters rescued from cockfighting.

## 66 Events

- 20 on-site events
- 23 lectures, talks, and workshops
- 11 vegan bake sales, potlucks & tastings
- 8 outreach tables at festivals
- 4 other outreach & educational events

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## Message from the Team



What?! 715 sanctuary residents? 66 events? How did our tiny team (just eight paid staff members, four of them part-time) manage all of that? Because we weren't alone! Volunteers from near and far helped to co-create the sanctuary with their labor. And our far-flung community of supporters provided the funds without which we would not be able to do any of it. Whether you have contributed time, money, moral support, or all three, we thank you. If you haven't yet joined our vibrant multi-species community, we invite you to do so!