

## HAPPENINGS AT THE SANCTUARY

### POPULATION 552+

**271 CHICKENS**      **35 COWS**  
**134 PIGEONS**     **14 SHEEP**  
**54 DUCKS**         **9 GOATS**  
**10 GEESE**        **2 ALPACAS**  
**3 EMUS**            **1 PIG**  
**3 TURKEYS**      **16 OTHERS**

*In addition to these occupants of coops, barns, and aviaries, scores of rewilded pigeons and dozens of rewilded ducks rely on the sanctuary for habitat and feed. Countless wild turkeys and deer find refuge from hunters in the portion of our property we maintain as wildlife refuge.*

### In Memoriam Billy

Billy Idol the muscovy duck lived at the sanctuary for more than twenty years, arriving as a young parent with his partner and ducklings and eventually outliving them all. Fierce upon arrival and irascible in middle age, Billy's personality mellowed in his later years, which stretched on to double the usual lifespan of a duck of his kind. Nobody who knew him was surprised by that, since he was such a vivid person. We miss him every day.

### Whisper

In personality, the beloved goat called Whisper was the diametric opposite of Billy: Shy where he was bold, gentle where he was fierce, and quiet where he was talkative. But they both shared a fondness for spending time with chickens. Whisper was especially popular with her feathered friends, who flocked to nest on and around her. Humans flocked to her too: Her benign energy made you want to spend time with her.

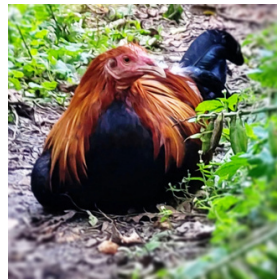
### Karma

Here is how Karma got her name: When she arrived, she began courting a ram who was infamous for making unwanted advances to both ewes and cows. She followed him so relentlessly that she wore him out! If you ever needed proof that sheep aren't "sheepish," Karma was it. When at Tufts for hernia surgery, she broke out of her pen and went walking around, gregariously greeting people of all species!

*We pledge to try to be as bold as Karma, as loving as Whisper, and as unstoppable as Billy as we maintain the community they helped to co-create.*

### On-Site Highlights

The goats got a new playground this year, courtesy of the creativity and energy of volunteers. Constructed from up-cycled materials, this expansive exercise area (only a portion of which is visible in this photo) offers young and elder goats alike the opportunity to amuse themselves. Nine goats now live at the sanctuary, and we get more requests to take in goats than any other mammal. Among the notable goats at VINE are young Marble, who's always up for a cuddle; quirky Cookie, who regularly gives rides to roosters; and elder Mirana, whose tiny size belies her huge personality and prominence.



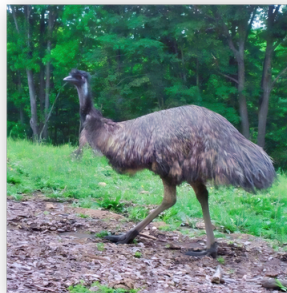
### Another Mondo Rooster Rescue

Even as many of the large number of roosters we rescued late last year were getting acclimated here or finding their ways to other sanctuaries, our new Rapid Response Team arranged for the rescue and transport of 97 birds, including 36 roosters and 61 hens, to sanctuaries near where they had been seized from a breeder of birds for cockfighting.



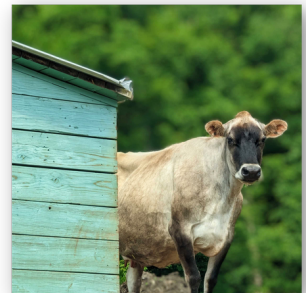
### Tiki Takes a Long Walk

One summer night, thunderstorms and fireworks combined to startle Tiki the emu into jumping the fence. The next day, he was spotted among raspberry bushes on the extensive grounds of the planetarium that abuts the sanctuary. Thus commenced a weeks-long voyage during which Tiki travelled through forests, fields, and rural by-ways, always disappearing back into the woods by the time that we rushed to the scene in response to a sighting. The whole town got into the quest to map Tiki's amazing adventure. Everyone cheered, and we heaved a sigh of relief, when we finally brought him home safely. We can only guess at the friendships he forged and memories he made along the way.



### Spotlight on Elders

When we say that animals co-create the culture of the sanctuary, we mean it. Nobody embodies that reality more than Rose. Rose extends empathy to all newcomers and takes care to teach youngsters our ethos of mutual respect. At 19, Rose brings the wisdom of age along with her own compassionate spirit to that task. All of the increasing number of elders at VINE require specially fortified diets, and many also need medications for conditions like arthritis. All of that costs money, but what they give to the community is invaluable.



### Pigeons Fly High

Pigeons are farmed for the meat called "squab" — plump nestlings taken from their doting parents just before they are ready to fledge. Pigeons at VINE include survivors of this and other cruelties, including pigeon racing, canned hunts, and animal experimentation. This year, volunteers and staff climbed high to replace the roof on our largest aviary, giving the birds within more sunshine and better protection from winter weather as they exercise their wings.

# EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

## Rainbow-Palooza

“Eat the Rainbow!” was the theme of Rainbow-Palooza, the **world’s first combined Pride and VegFest**. That event brought **hundreds of not-yet-vegan people** from our rural small town and surrounding areas together to enjoy free vegan food while learning about both animal rights and LGBTQIA+ issues. Attendees came for the Pride and stayed for the vegan food. LGBTQ+ organizations tabled side-by-side with animal rights groups, trading ideas and building relationships. Everyone enjoyed the positive vibe, which enabled not-yet-vegan attendees to be open to new information. Many pledged to go veg on the spot! Also in June, we put on several online events in conjunction with our annual 30-day **Pride Month Vegan Challenge**.



## HUMANE EDUCATION



This spring, the 37 preK-5th grade classes participating in our **Barnyard Buddies** program capped their year of receiving monthly humane education lessons with on-site or virtual field trips to the sanctuary. This summer, we signed up **more classes than ever before** for the 2023-2024 school year. The 51 classrooms currently enrolled include schools in Vermont, New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Alabama, and Pennsylvania as well as Canada. Barnyard Buddies is sponsored by Dr. Bronner's Magic Soap, and we deeply appreciate the funding that makes this vital program possible.

## DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH EVENTS

People with disabilities represent more than 1/4 of the population, but the vegan movement makes no special effort to reach people with disabilities and some common vegan messaging is inadvertently ableist and therefore off-putting. As an organization founded and predominantly staffed by people with disabilities, we set out to fix that. Our events in July included a **lecture on linkages** among ableism and speciesism, a **“speak-out” of vegans with disabilities**, and a workshop about how sanctuaries can put ideas from the disability rights movement into practice. Next year, we’ll be organizing even more events and sharing the resulting insights with other animal advocates.

## VINE PRESS



Our work has always included efforts to bring insights and ideas arising at the sanctuary into the public discourse. This year, as always, we welcomed **scholars and artists** to visit and volunteer, so that they too could learn about and from the nonhuman members of our multispecies community. We also launched a new publishing venture, **VINE Press**. Its first book, **Bird’s-Eye Views**, includes dozens of essays conceived and written at the sanctuary. Books-in-progress include collections of writing by LGBTQ+ animal advocates and vegans with disabilities. All VINE Press books will be both rigorous and accessible to general audiences.

## VEG2VEGAN CHALLENGE

This November, we piloted a **first-of-its-kind 30-day challenge** specifically designed to help vegetarians make the transition to vegan. Why? Because many people taking our Pride Month Vegan Challenge turned out to be **vegetarians who just needed a little help to get to vegan**. All of this year’s participants who took the exit survey indicated an intention to remain vegan. Now that we have tested the concept and found it sound, we will make a few improvements and launch a bigger and better Veg2Vegan challenge in 2024.



## 400+ EVENTS

- 393 humane education programs for kids
- 32 online educational events for activists
- 12 on-site tours & volunteer days
- 12 talks & tabling at in-person events
- 21 other events

vinesanctuary.org  
158 Massey Road  
Springfield, VT 05156



## MESSAGE FROM PATTRICE



**Every year**, I feel such a mix of emotions while pulling together our annual review. **Pride** and amazement at what we managed to do. **Chagrin** about what we didn't manage to do. **Relief** that we made it through the year. **Grief** for all who didn't make it through the year. **Gratitude** for everyone—staff, volunteers, and donors alike—who made it all possible. **Worry** for our financial future. Now, more than ever, we rely on contributions from generous individuals to keep the sanctuary going. **Thank you** for being part of our unique community of care—we couldn't do it without you!