



FARM TAILS

Second Chance Farms, Inc.

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We Live Here

No matter what circumstances bring “critters” to the Second Chance Farms sanctuary, immediately they seem to know they are safe. Later, they settle in to feeling at home, finally and forever.

Home is splashing all the water out of a plastic pool only to discover the “bonus” of a mud puddle. After that, a little exploring will yield another opportunity to dig a hole; there seems to be no area where digging isn’t possible. Who knew?!?

Usually, there’s somebody who wants to play, and eventually, everyone finds someone to hang with so no one ever has to be alone again. But they can if they want.

Every day there is room and time for exercise—tennis balls abound and for those who prefer, chews and soft, stuffed toys—places to snooze are always around and snuggling is encouraged.

Sanctuary life is not elegant; it’s basic and clean. Mostly, it’s one day at a time.

Ticker says: “Read all about us!”

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Welcome Home!



Chief

Chief is a twelve-year-old German Shepherd who found himself at a county shelter after his elderly owner went into hospice care. He is a big boy--weighing in at 90 pounds—and and he came to us a bit underweight!

When we learned of Chief's plight, we took him into our program, as we definitely have a special place in our hearts for German Shepherds. Currently, Chief is residing in a wonderful, permanent foster home, along with his two new canine companions and some kitty friends as well.

It took Chief a week or so to adjust as he has been through a lot. Undoubtedly, he misses his former owner of twelve years but he's doing well and has adjusted to his new life in Gainesville. Thanks Casey for helping us to give Chief a much deserved second chance!

Mork & Mindy and Lois & Clark

The sanctuary has recently become home to four, super cute rabbits! As you can guess, Mork and Mindy came to us as a bonded pair, and a few weeks later, Lois & Clark, another bonded pair, also found their way to our sanctuary.

All four bunnies have quite the set-up, complete with a safe, grassy "play area," unlimited hay, fresh veggies, little hiding spots and best of all...other bunny friends! They are most active in the early evening, just before the sun sets, and it's fun to see them all out and about doing their "rabbit thing." Guess you could say the sanctuary has "gone to the bunnies."

Turtle

Turtle, a dwarf hamster, found himself at a local county animal shelter after his previous owner surrendered him. Turtle has a reputation for biting and wasn't considered very adoptable.

In keeping with our motto of "no discrimination," we agreed immediately to take him into our program. After coordinating with two volunteers and working with the wonderful shelter staff, we arranged for Turtle to be chauffeured to Gainesville from Leesburg FL!

Turns out that Turtle is completely blind--completely fine with us--and probably why he can come across as being so defensive. He's now happy and safe at the sanctuary!



"Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful." Annette Funicello

“Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge...”

Milo



Milo, once a tiny and fragile kitten who suffered from severe seizures, grew into a big, handsome and healthy tabby cat. We were never able to identify a cause for Milo's kitten-hood seizures but thankfully he grew out of them and was able to enjoy a very normal and comfortable life.

Milo was never overly thrilled with human companionship but he did enjoy his many feline friends and had such a sweet and mild manner. Milo passed away peacefully after a short illness associated with lymphoma.

We were able to help this quiet and sweet little man cross over the Rainbow Bridge knowing that he was special and loved.

Rob

Rob came to us as an older gentleman, underweight with numerous scars including a misshapen lower lip, which was most likely the result of significant, prior face trauma. Despite his rough outward appearance, Rob was gentle, patient and still had quite a bit of life to live.

He resided with us for three years and during his retirement, he made many new friends and was always happy to see a familiar face. We'll always remember Rob's stubbing little tail wagging excitedly for his meals and his stiff, bouncing up and down on arthritic legs whenever he got excited.

Rob became unable to walk in the end due to advanced arthritis, although his appetite never failed him. Rob passed away surrounded by his SCF sanctuary family, happily scarfing a huge pile of hotdogs and cheese. Now that's the way to go when it's time!



**“Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened”
(Anatole France, French novelist 1844-1924).**

Harley



Harley will be remembered for his giant but gentle demeanor. He took a genuine interest in the well-being of our baby daughter during his short but comfortable stay with us at the farm. He was never far from her side and took his “job” quite seriously.

Harley came to us with lymphoma and while he spent a few wonderful months with us, when the time came to let him go, we helped him to pass peacefully and with dignity. We wish that Harley could have spent more time with us but we're happy to have been there for him when he needed us most.

Hunter

Hunter was another true gentle giant. He will be remembered for his calm yet goofy personality. He loved going for car rides and was always a complete gentleman in public.

Hunter resided with us for a few years and was in perfect health. He passed away suddenly and unexpected one evening after an unforeseen thromboembolic event. Most fortunately, we were able to comfort and to be with him in the few minutes before he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Hunter's presence at the farm is missed as he was such a sweet and gentle soul.



We say good-bye to Elsa



Elsa was perhaps one of the most integral members of our animal family here at the farm. Elsa was one of SCF's true "original" members and she had been with us for over ten years. Elsa acted as our alpha dog and she managed our "pack" with grace and intelligence.

Elsa's passing was one of the hardest that we've dealt with here at the farm and everyone, including the other dogs here at the farm, has been affected by her passing. We provided her with intensive nursing care and catered to her specific needs, as we were dreading the day that we'd have to say goodbye.

When the time came to let her go, we ensured that she passed peacefully at home, surrounded by her family. Elsa is missed terribly and has a special resting place here at the farm where she can continue to oversee the daily happenings.

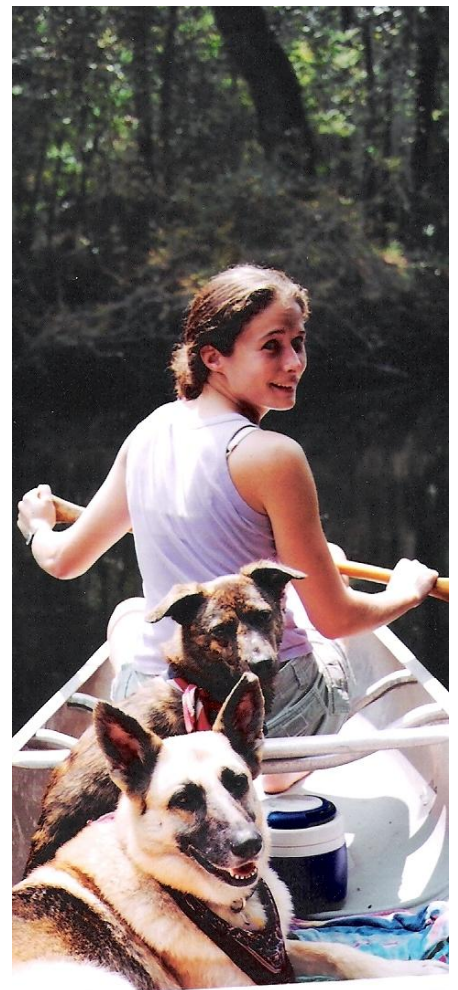
She will always have a very special place in our hearts.



All of our animals who have crossed over the rainbow bridge find their final resting place right here at the sanctuary farm. We prefer having them "home" with us and we plant trees and flowering plants in their memory.

Please let us know if you'd like to make a donation to our memorial garden or learn more about our memorial gift option

for your own beloved pets that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.





Dr. Mac Helps Hannah in a Medical Minute

History:

Hannah is an approximately eleven-year-old, spayed female Husky/Shepherd mix. She came to SCF a few years ago after finding herself at a local animal shelter where she was scheduled to be euthanized due to her advanced age. We brought her home to the farm and she has been happy and healthy ever since.

Symptoms:

A few weeks ago, Hannah seemed “off” during the typical evening feeding routine. She had developed an acute onset, right-sided head tilt and seemed unsteady on her feet. In fact, she literally kept leaning toward the right and was having trouble standing and walking without falling down. Upon further examination, I found that she also had constant, jerky, horizontal back and forth motion of her eyes. This abnormal eye movement is called horizontal nystagmus.



Diagnosis:

While the combination of these symptoms can be quite dramatic and very scary, these are classic signs of idiopathic vestibular disease. This condition generally occurs in middle aged to older dogs and is very similar to vertigo in humans.



Treatment & Prognosis:

Despite the dramatic appearance of this condition, symptoms usually resolve over the course of a few days to weeks with fairly minimal treatment. There is no known specific cause for idiopathic vestibular disease, hence the term “idiopathic.” But with supportive care, most dogs do recover 100%, although some retain a permanent head tilt after their symptoms subside.

Hannah’s Current Status:

Hannah still has a prominent, right-sided head tilt but her dizziness continues to improve slowly. She is in good spirits, has a great appetite and only rarely needs help getting up or navigating around the house or yard. Even at her worst, Hannah never lets her vestibular disease get her down. She has been an excellent patient and we’ll continue to assist her in any way that we can while she, hopefully, continues to make slow but consistent improvement each day.

How You Can Help Us

Permanent Foster Care

Our permanent foster program is one of the options for a new life at the Second Chance Farms sanctuary. It is not the “usual” animal foster scenario.

Our sanctuary residents are elderly, have health concerns or fit both scenarios while permanent foster caretakers cannot afford to care for any pet, much less a high maintenance animal. Yet, permanent foster relationships are incredibly successful for everyone involved.

However, permanent foster care is not an option for every sanctuary resident nor is it a “good fit” for every caretaker applicant. The secret is to design a protocol for each unique partnership. It requires patience, a lot of it.

SCF provides food, medicines, and any extraordinary supplies in support of these unique relationships. Truthfully, permanent foster care would be impossible without the donated services of our two, on-site veterinarians, support from local animal hospitals, and from our donors.

Permanent foster care is one partnership at a time....

Sponsorship

One of the most beneficial ways to support the SCF



sanctuary is to

become a monthly sponsor for one of our residents. Sponsor donations help with the cost of food, treats, veterinary care and toys, when appropriate. Truthfully, a \$1.00 a day will do all that.

We ask for a six month commitment to sponsor an animal; online payment may be made monthly (\$30.00) or semi-annually at \$180.00. Every month, we send you a “journal” update from Dr. Mac and when we can, a new photo. At the end of your six month sponsorship, we ask if you want to sponsor for another six months.

If you would like to make a donation to our permanent foster program or become a sanctuary sponsor, please contact us at secondchancefarms.org or email us at thesecondchancesanctuary@gmail.com.



So Long For Now...

Farm Tails is the newsletter for the Second Chance Farms sanctuary, better known as the “farm.” Sanctuary or farm, it is home to a variety of species, including human. Here, there is a respect for all life and accommodations are creatively considered.



Some sanctuary residents have experienced the worst that life offers but survived. Others simply lived too long or got too sick but regardless, their owners said goodbye. None are candidates for adoption but all have the right to live out their lives with dignity. For these “critters,” SCF provides permanent sanctuary.

To be honest, it’s hard on the heart and requires deep pockets that we don’t have but we do manage. Every human who assists the sanctuary is committed to “critters”; all humans donate their services and for some, sanctuary life is 24/7 every day of the year. It’s not easy but it’s rewarding, and in our own way, we’re family.

We like hearing from you. You can leave a comment on our website, secondchancefarms.org, or email us at thesecondchancesanctuary@gmail.com.

