



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals

## A REALLY SCARY NIGHT

The young cat had learned early not to trust the people at the big apartment building. He knew if he tried to sneak into the building for shelter, he would be chased out with a broom, or worse. Noiselessly, he kept watch from his hiding place in the bushes, coming out only when it was dark and quiet to look for food. Little did he know how much his situation would soon change.

One day mysterious boxes, smelling temptingly of food, began to appear around the complex. The young cat watched some of the other cats in the area go into these strange boxes but not come out. The boxes were then taken away, cats and all. Although he was really scared of what would happen if he went into one of the boxes, the smell of the food was too much for the hungry cat. One night, not able to resist the delicious smell coming from the box, he went in. The door shut tightly behind him.

Although he enjoyed the food that was in the trap, he was terrified of what might happen to him. However, he needn't have worried; a nice lady placed a blanket over him and carefully carried him to her car. Even though he didn't know where he was or what was going to happen to him, the soothing car ride and the warm blanket around him was comforting. With a full stomach, he eventually dozed off.

It was daylight by the time the little cat and his new human friend arrived at their destination,

a little vet clinic in the middle of Delaware. Although he still had the blanket around him, the new smells and voices were very frightening. He didn't understand that what was about to happen to him (neutering and vaccinations) was to help him before he was to go to a new area in an effort to save his life. With a quick good-bye, the kind lady left him in a quiet room at the clinic. Not sure of what was to happen, but with nothing else to do, the cat slept for a while. Unfortunately for the little cat, the vet clinic had several emergencies come in that day and was



*Bubba has fully recovered from his ordeal.*

very busy. Several of the scheduled surgeries, including his neuter, were not done. The evening crew didn't know the little cat was in the back room and he was left without food or water. The vet that was to perform the surgery was off

*Continued on page 7*

## A Note From Our Executive Director

# Happy Spring!

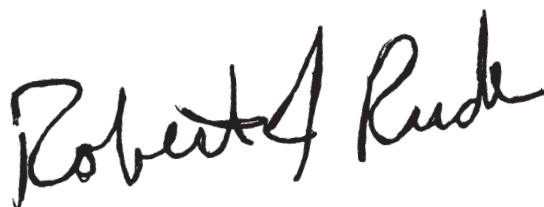
We hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season, giving you lots of happy memories with your families and pets! Here at Rude Ranch time flies by. It seems like just last week I was writing about all the things we were gearing up for during the holidays, as well as taking care of our furry residents.

We were very busy last fall, meeting and talking to a lot of people during Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) events. This year, Boomer, the min pin, and I visited several new government agencies, including Homeland Security, Department of Labor, and the Department of Education. We also visited many of our favorites, including the Census Bureau, NSA, and Naval Intelligence. Boomer even dressed up as a Lady Bug when we visited the FBI on Halloween! Although Boomer missed a few events due to some health problems I just want to let everyone know that he is doing great for such an old guy... after all he is almost 15 years old. However, he has decided to cash in his Milk Bone IRA and retire from the CFC circuit. He has hired another min pin named Bunny as his protégé. You can meet her in our employee spotlight on page 3.

Right after the CFC and MCC events, I played "Santa Claws" for our yearly Photos With Santa extravaganza on December 15. Although I lost count of how many cats, dogs, guinea pigs, kids, aunts, and uncles (and even a turtle) sat in and around my lap, we had a great time and raised over \$2,000 for the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone that stopped by!

Looking ahead, we are concentrating a lot of our resources on providing low cost spay/neuter services to private citizens and feral cat colony caretakers throughout the area. We facilitated over 40 surgeries during February, which was National Spay Neuter Month! We are also investigating the possibility of holding a "Neuterathon" this coming fall.

As always, I want to extend a special thanks to our adoptive families, contributors, supporters, and volunteers who are vital to our success in meeting important goals to save the lives of abandoned and neglected animals and place them in new, loving homes. Without you, we could not help the animals.



Saving Lives,  
Four Paws At  
A Time



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.  
3200 Ivy Way  
Harwood, MD 20776  
Phone: 410.798.9559  
Email: [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org)  
[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)

Please contact us if you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list or know others who would like to receive our mailings. Also, let us know if you are moving so we can update our mailing list. Email your new address to [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org).

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is a volunteer based, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of homeless animals in the Maryland and DC area. Our goals are to find permanent loving homes for adoptable animals placed in our care; to provide a safe haven and rehabilitation to feral and neglected cats rescued from abusive situations; and to put an end to needless euthanasia because of pet overpopulation.

### Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. Board of Directors

Katherine Evans Rude  
*President*

Robert J. Rude  
*Executive Director*

Dr. Robert L. Harrison, DVM  
*Director of Animal Care*

Diane VonSeggern, RD  
*Director of Sanctuary Nutrition*





# RUDE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE

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## Rude Ranch Gets Hip On MySpace

Rude Ranch recently expanded our internet presence to the world of Myspace! While our official web page will still have all kinds of information about the sanctuary and animals, the Myspace page, located at [www.myspace.com/ruderanch](http://www.myspace.com/ruderanch), will have the cute pictures, movies (you can watch Sweetie, the cattle dog, work out with her frisbee), and funny animal stuff we've found. We also have weekly blogs about what's happening at the sanctuary, and updates about Rude Ranch's residents.

We've also updated our official website, [www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org), with pictures of our new rain barrels, murals, and memorial garden. (Just click on the virtual tour.) While there, check out our updated Adventures in Rescue, with new stories about what happened during several storms as well as the day to day life here at the sanctuary.



## Rude Ranch Employee Spotlight Bunny, Fundraising Protégé

As part of our on-going series spotlighting our four-legged employees, we would like to introduce Bunny, Rude Ranch Fundraising Protégé.

Bunny came on board here at Rude Ranch in the fall, 2007. She was hired by her mentor, Boomer, after an arduous interview process. (Jumping into Executive Director Bob Rude's arms and giving him lots of kisses also helped). Like Boomer, Bunny is a miniature pinscher, although her legs are considerably longer and her colors lighter. She is also as stubborn as Boomer.



Bunny was born in Fairfax, Virginia in March, 2006. She was one of many dogs living in a house with an older gentleman. When the man began to have health problems and could no longer care for his dogs, he asked Rude Ranch to help place them in new homes. When we met the dogs, Bunny made sure we noticed her by jumping higher and barking louder than the others. Bunny was fortunate to come to Rude Ranch as the house she was living in burned to the ground two weeks after she left.

Since coming to Rude Ranch, Bunny has started an intensive training regime. Everyday she runs several miles with the larger dogs, doing her best to keep up with them. She's also doing extra chin-ups and climbing exercises to get her abdomen ready for tummy rubs this fall. She has started to build up her sweater wardrobe, but thinks some of the pink lacey sweaters are a little too fru fru for a serious working dog. (But she loves her pink camouflage!) She is also learning how to stop and corner without skidding into a cat when traveling across ceramic tile floors.

## Chief Fundraising Min Pin, Boomer, Retires

Over the years many people have come to know Rude Ranch through Boomer the miniature pinscher. Boomer first came to

Rude Ranch from a spot in the middle of a country road in the Fall of 1998. In 2001, he accepted the job as fundraising event spokesdog, mainly to help pay off a debt to the cats. (He had a tendency to eat the



*Boomer even dressed as a ladybug for his job!*

cats' toy mice.) Boomer really enjoyed the job (especially the kiddie meal he got on the way home) and he was really good at it. In addition to being a CFC and MCC spokesdog, Boomer expanded his role into playing an elf with Santa at Christmas, and writing his own column in the newsletter about his activities.

Now at the ripe old age of 15, Boomer has decided to tender his resignation, kick back and live off of his retirement. (He is heavily invested in dog biscuits and pig ears.) He plans to continue overseeing the other dogs here at Rude Ranch, including his protégé, Bunny. He has Bunny on an intensive training program to make sure she is ready to fill his paws this coming fall.



# RUDE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE

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## PROJECT SNIPPED: Rude Ranch Spay/Neuter Update

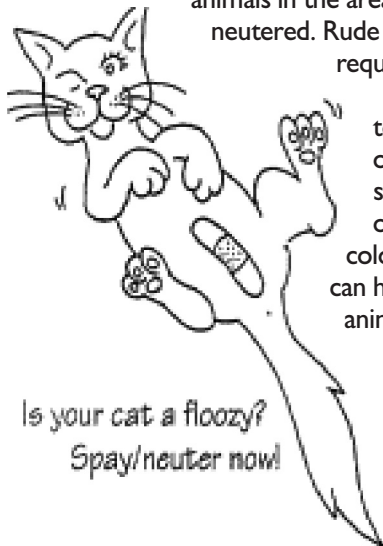
Project Snipped, Rude Ranch's low cost feral cat spay/neuter project, is well underway in 2008! So far this year we've facilitated Trap/Neuter/Release projects in Fort Washington, Odenton, Tracey's Landing, and Lothian. We are well on our way to our goal of 300 feral cat spay/neuter surgeries this year!

To help meet this goal, PetSmart Charities awarded Rude Ranch a grant under their Free Roaming Cat Sterilization Program to be used exclusively to spay and neuter feral cats in established colonies throughout the area. To qualify for this program, the cat(s) in question must be wild or feral and have a caretaker that is willing to feed and monitor them. The caretaker also must be willing to help trap the cats and transport them to and from the vet clinic. If you know of anyone who meets the criteria of this program, have them contact us at [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org).



## Help Control Overpopulation! Sponsor A Spay/Neuter

Although Rude Ranch Animal Rescue spays and neuters every animal that comes through our doors, there are still many animals in the area that are not spayed and neutered. Rude Ranch receives many



requests everyday from people that either cannot afford to have their pets spayed or neutered, want to help strays in their neighborhood or want to help care for a colony of feral cats. Now you can help Rude Ranch help these animals through our "Sponsor a Spay" Program. This program is designed to help pay for the costs of spaying and neutering animals in one of these situations.

You can "Sponsor a Spay" with a one time donation of \$35 or "Sponsor a Neuter" with a one time donation of \$25. Either way you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped a needy animal. To participate in the "Sponsor a Spay", "Sponsor a Neuter" program, go to our website at [www.ruderanch.org/shelter/donate.htm](http://www.ruderanch.org/shelter/donate.htm).

## Santa And His Elves Are A Hit At Crunchies!



Santa Claws had a busy day ahead of him when he pulled the Rude Ranch sleigh into Crunchies Pet Foods last December. Before long he had a line of dogs, puppies, cats, kids and even a turtle telling him what they wanted for Christmas. This year's one day event set a record for the most photos taken and money raised for our low cost spay/neuter program . . . over \$2,000! Here are a few interesting statistics . . . Most frequent dog breed: bulldogs; Most people in a picture: 5; Most animals in a picture: 4; Most frequent cat breed: domestic shorthair; Most unusual pair: a golden retriever and a turtle; The Rowdiest: an 18 month old golden retriever that grabbed Santa's hat and didn't want to give it back. (For some reason, all the pictures of him were blurry).

### Thank you for your kindness!

*Rude Ranch relies on donations and volunteers to carry out our mission to save the animals. We receive no Federal funding.*

*Your donation of a few dollars\* or a few hours of your time can go a long way to helping our cause. Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give!*

**Donate online, go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)  
Our PayPal account name is [donate@ruderanch.org](mailto:donate@ruderanch.org)**

*\*All donations are tax deductible*



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## Operation Happy Sock

In an effort to give new life and meaning to the many lonely unmatched socks in the Fort Meade area, the Fort Meade Daisy Girl Scout Troop decided to embark on operation Happy Sock in January. The Daisies, which are girls that are 5 and 6 years old, collected

mismatched socks from family and neighbors for several weeks. They went about transforming them into catnip cat toys with a little polyfil stuffing and the magical ingredient, catnip.



Tommy and Elwood try out the new catnip toys.

The troop brought 210 catnip toys to the shelter on January 27. Although some of the cats didn't quite know what to do when 10 six year old girls (and a few brothers and sisters) showed up, they certainly enjoyed the catnip socks. Always the brave one, Tommy, the shelter's catnip kingpin, didn't waste anytime and dove into the entire pile of toys before the girls even had a chance to start giving them out. Many other cats, including Soot, the old meanie in the intake area, and even Blueberry, the stoic blind cat, are still rolling on and enjoying the toys.

## Can't Adopt A Pet Right Now? Sponsor A Rude Ranch Cat!

Want to help a homeless animal, but can't take one more in? Sponsor a Rude Ranch long term resident instead! Your tax deductible sponsorship of a Rude Ranch long term resident for just \$20 a month (67¢ a day) will provide food, kitty litter and toys for one of our special needs cats. The cats in this program include feral and abused cats, FIV positive and FELV positive cats. Right now most of our FIV cats have sponsors, but a lot of the feral and abused cats are still hoping for a sponsor.

When you sponsor one of these cats, we will send you an adoption certificate, with pictures and the history of the cat you choose. We will proudly display a picture of your cat with your name as the cat's sponsor on our website. Come visit your

"virtual adoptee" anytime. For more information about our sponsorship program, visit our website at [www.rude-ranch.org](http://www.rude-ranch.org) and click on "Sponsor A Resident". Or email [info@rude-ranch.org](mailto:info@rude-ranch.org).



Charity's got a sponsor . . . thanks, Julie!

## No Place Like Home

RK (short for Rice Krispy) and Sugar, two leukemia kittens that were featured in our last newsletter, are still having a blast here at Rude Ranch. As the only two girls in the room, they have become very adept at flirting and working together to get the best of the "boys".

RK is now the cuddler, often begging people to pick her up and carry her around while Sugar prefers to sit on a cat tree while people pet her. Both kittens, now 10 months old, love to get their evening meal and will often out-eat the guys.

Both still happily chase after the laser pointer, even skidding into walls and the other cats in the room!



RK and Sugar discover catnip.

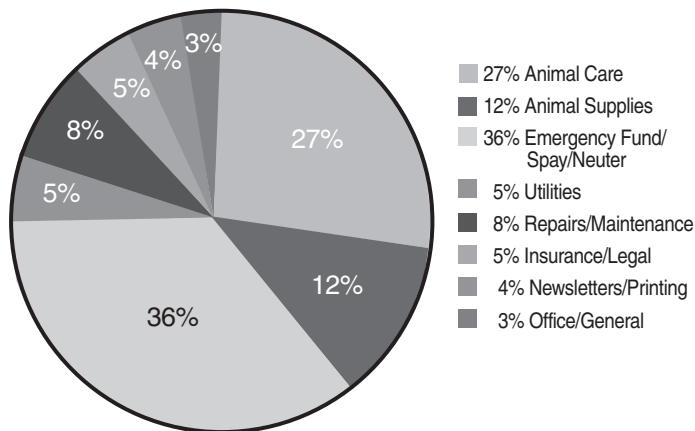


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## How Much Did THAT Cost??

Did you ever wonder just how much it costs and what is needed to run an animal sanctuary? At the end of every year the bean counters (or kibble counters) review how much money we spent on supplies, and vet care and how much we've used to care for our furry residents.



During an average week here at Rude Ranch we use 255 cans of cat and dog food, not counting special diets, and 75 pounds of dry cat and dog food. That's not even counting the roasted chicken that we feed to Boomer for his IBD and Max one of the FIV cats (the other FIV'ers get some too). We go through approximately 85 rolls of paper towels and 650 paper plates, and 23 loads of laundry during the week. We purchase approximately 2,000 pounds of kitty litter from a wholesaler every quarter. On any given day, we have 25 - 30 animals receiving some kind of medication, ranging from insulin for diabetic cats to antibiotics for a bad tooth.

Rude Ranch's sanctuary facility is donated which helps to keep our costs down and devote more resources to helping our furry residents and other animals in need. Last year 27% of our budget was used for vet exams, surgeries, medications and animal care here at the sanctuary. Animal Supplies, such as litter, food, treats, etc accounted for 12% of our budget. Luckily we were able to put a large portion of our budget towards our emergency fund and the nest egg we've started for our future high volume low cost spay/neuter clinic.

Looking at these percentages makes us realize how much we appreciate all of our supporters and volunteers, as without your help our costs would be much higher and we would not be able to help as many animals.

## Gross, My Pet Has Worms!?!

You've just scooped your cat's litter box and notice long, thin spaghetti-like things in a turd. Or, you see something looking like pieces of rice in your pet's bed. This discovery can only mean one thing: intestinal parasites, aka worms.

Roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms are the most common types of worms or intestinal parasites that afflict cats and dogs. Roundworms and tapeworms can usually be seen easily in a pet's stool, while hookworms and whipworms are too small to be seen without a microscope. These parasites live in an infected animal's intestines and, if left untreated, can cause anemia, diarrhea, weight loss and, in severe cases, death.

A pet can become infected with internal parasites in several ways, usually by inhaling or ingesting the parasite larvae. This can happen when a pet kills (or eats) a rodent, rolls in, sniffs or eats another animal's poop, or, in the case of tape worms, eats an infected flea.

Diagnosing internal parasites in a cat or dog can be done quickly and easily by your vet. All he or she will need is a fecal sample from your pet. Fortunately, treating your pet for internal parasites is pretty easy; your vet will usually prescribe a combination of the drugs pyrantel pamoate, and praziquantel. Just follow his or her instructions and your pet will be clear of the worms in a few weeks.

It can be difficult to prevent a parasite infestation in your pet however, there are several things you can do to lessen the chances of your pet becoming infected: wash your pet's blankets and bedding often; scoop the litterbox daily; remove feces and messes from your yard; if your pet goes outside, treat him or her with a monthly anti flea topical. Several newer ones also include

additives to prevent heartworm, roundworms and tapeworms. Although dealing with a parasite infestation in a pet isn't pleasant, it can be managed easily, resulting in a happier healthier pet.



Dr. Robert Harrison holds a kitten that is now happily parasite-free.



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## A Really Scary Night

*Continued from page 1*

the next day, and the little cat was forgotten again. Hungry, thirsty, and desperate, he began trying to chew his way out. At one point he was biting at the cage bars so hard he accidentally bit through his lip, causing him to bleed. Tired, hungry, dehydrated, and defeated the cat eventually gave up and curled up in a little ball, unsure of what would become of him.

The next morning the veterinarian arrived and remembered the little cat in the back room. Although the cat looked a little rough, he quickly gave him the required shots and drew blood for his FIV and FELV tests. That's when the little cat's future really started to look uncertain: his blood tested positive for FELV, or feline leukemia. Not knowing if he should neuter the cat or just euthanize him, the vet contacted the cat's only human friend, and asked what to do. Although she knew the cat could not be relocated to the new area, she didn't want him to die either. So she contacted Rude Ranch to see if we had space in our FELV room. Fortunately for the little cat, we did.

The little cat was then neutered and packed up for the long ride to Rude Ranch. He had still not come out of the anesthesia when his rescuer picked him up. She thought it was because of his recent surgery, but what she didn't realize was that he wasn't waking up due to dehydration and lack of nutrition. By the time he reached Rude Ranch, the cat was almost comatose, and the wound on his mouth had begun bleeding again. We immediately gave him fluids and started intensive supportive care.

The little cat made it through the night and was able to pick his head up and look around a little the next morning. Although he was still terrified of his new surroundings and the new people, he seemed to understand that we were trying to help him. Although it must have felt weird to him to receive fluids through an IV tube, he would hang on to our shirts and didn't want to let go the whole time he was being medicated.

On the second day, he was a bit stronger and ready to try to eat. Because of the injuries to his lip and mouth from chewing on the cage, it was a slow process. Sometimes the cuts would break open again, bleeding on him and the food. Although he was getting stronger, the little cat was still having problems walking and urinating. We weren't sure if his problems were caused by the dehydration, the starvation, or the anesthesia. We just knew that to make it this far, this little guy was a special cat.

By the third day he was strong enough for us to draw blood to run tests to see what was happening inside the cat's little body. That's when we got the really bad news: he was in acute renal failure . . . his kidneys had shut down, most likely because he had gone so long without food or water while waiting to be neutered. Despite the questionable prognosis, we figured if the cat was willing to keep trying, we'd keep working on him. The next day, our efforts were rewarded: although he didn't quite make it to the litter box, he was able to go on his own!

Over the next several days, little by little, the cat made progress. While he still had problems making his way around his area, he wasn't falling over as much. He started actually hitting the litter box. He could eat a few bites of soft food on his own, and even tried to eat a few morsels of dry cat food.

A week later, we retested his blood to see how his internal organs were doing. Although compared to the average cat his kidney values were still horrible, they had improved slightly compared to the previous week. His kidneys were starting to work again!

By now we realized that we had been so focused on keeping the little cat alive that we hadn't really come up with a name for him. We had been calling him "Little Buddy", but that didn't seem to fit. Finally, we settled on "Bubba". At least the cat didn't seem to mind.

Over the next few weeks Bubba's mouth healed up and before long he started meowing for food as soon as he heard someone walk by his room. His neurological problems also remedied themselves as he got stronger and he started to move around more. Before long it was time to introduce him to his new roomies, the rest of the Leukemia Kids.

Bubba was nervous at first, but RK and Sugar, the youngest two in the room, came up for a welcome sniff. Snickers and Spike, the two patriarchs of the room, quickly explained the rules to him. Before long Bubba was romping along the ramps and raising a ruckus with the other furballs.

### YES, I want to help the animals!

*Rude Ranch relies on donations and volunteers to carry out our mission to save the animals. We receive no Federal funding. Your donation of a few dollars\* or a few hours of your time can go a long way to helping our cause.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\$100

\$15

\$50

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$25

I'd like to volunteer

**Donate online with PayPal.com**

Our account name is [donate@ruderanch.org](mailto:donate@ruderanch.org)

**Thank You!**

*\*All donations are tax deductible*

Our mailing address is: 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776



## “Need help with e-mail? I’m available!”

*Hi! I’m Lenny, one of the office assistants here at Rude Ranch. I ended up here when my people had a baby last year. I get along really well with other cats and will even let the small*

*dogs sniff me. I love to give ankle rubs, and most importantly, I love to help people type on the computer!!!! I get all excited and purry and rub all over the computer monitor. Do you have room for me? I promise to help with your paperwork!*

### Special Thanks To . . .

Drs. Harrison, Roller, Sussman, Strothers and staff at Belair Animal Hospital

Dr. Amy Holstein

Valerie Wilson of Taylor Wilson Advertising for her work on this Newsletter

Our Adoptive Families, Volunteers, and Contributors

Invisible Fence of Central Maryland for advertising help

Peggy Johnson (Dog’s World) and the Capital Newspaper for all of the wonderful articles

Barbara M and the gang at Minute Man Press of Crofton for all the help printing, stuffing and mailing this newsletter.

### Immediate Needs / Wish List

Carriers

Jumbo size litter boxes

Canned Cat Food

Dry Cat Food

Clumping Cat Litter

Volunteers

Mobile Adoption Vehicle

Used Surgical Equipment

## Like To Shop At Food Lion? Join Lion Shop And Share!

When you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP savings card, a portion of your bill will be donated to Rude Ranch. All you have to do is sign up for an MVP bonus card and register with the "Lion Shop and Share" program. Call 800.210.9569 or go to [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com), click "Lion Shop and Share", choose

Maryland for your state, and pick "Harwood" for the city. Rude Ranch Animal Rescue will pop up as an available charity. Don’t forget, you have to "re-up" your card every year for Rude Ranch to remain your designated charity. If you signed up more than 12 months ago, please go back and sign up again. Thanks!



### Rude Ranch Animal Rescue

3200 Ivy Way  
Harwood, MD 20776  
[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)

Non-profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 18  
Harwood, MD



Combined Federal Campaign

New CFC number!  
# 45379



MCC # 4650