



www.ruderanch.org  
410.798.9559

SPRING 2009 VOL.8, NO.1

# NEWS LETTER



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals

## Psyched Out!

If you met him now, you would wonder why we gave Psycho his name. We are pretty sure he had another name, a home, and even his own family at some point in his life. However, when he first arrived at Rude Ranch, "Psycho" was the only thing this big guy was called that was printable. Psycho was literally dumped at Rude Ranch. It all started one cold January morning when a young man pulled up along side the shelter's parking area, opened the car door and left the cat in a box on the side of the road. A few people at the sanctuary heard a car pull off (burning rubber) and ran outside to see what was happening.



*A chilled out Psycho takes a rest between rounds of laser pointer tag*

While no one could get the license plate number of the car, we did find the box with a very big, very frightened cat inside. We gave him a quick once over, determined that he was a neutered male and appeared healthy. We were able to carry him to a cage for temporary safe keeping until we could figure out what to do with him.

When we came back to check on him a few minutes later, he was a completely different cat... instead of a very frightened, timid guy, he started lunging at us through the cage, growling, hissing and spitting. He tried to reach through the bars of the cage to swipe at us as we walked by. We quickly decided not to try to scan him for a microchip.

His behavior over the next few days didn't improve much. We cleaned his area by moving him from one cage to another using a broom and dustpan, both of which he brutally attacked. Whenever someone even walked by his cage, he lunged at them, growling and reaching through the bars with claws fully extended. It took two people to deliver his food, one to open the cage a crack, while another person threw a plate in, and moved out of the way while he rushed the door. At that point his one redeeming quality was that he used his litter box.

Soon it was time to face the facts that he wasn't going to calm down enough for us to fully examine him and draw blood for testing. (Most cats don't usually hold their paw out, but at least most cats do not try to kill us as we are doing this.) We were also a little concerned about how much he used the litter box... in one day he produced as much urine as two or three cats. We finally donned our heavy gloves and steeled ourselves for a battle with the guy that was now dubbed "the demon cat". Although it was quite a battle, and all humans involved lost some blood, we eventually were able to sedate him enough to get him out of the cage, examine him, trim claws, clean ears, give shots and draw enough blood to test for FIV, FELV and diabetes. All the blood tests were looking good until we got to the diabetes: his blood glucose was 414, much higher than the 80 - 120 range we were hoping for. While this reading answered some questions, such as the large amounts of urine and even accounted for some of his aggressive behavior, we had a more pressing problem of how to treat him. Considering we could hardly touch him, we were

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# A Note From Our Executive Director

Happy Spring!

Everyone here at Rude Ranch hopes that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season, giving you lots of happy memories with your family and pets! The last few months here at Rude Ranch have been exciting and busy!

I want to start by saying "Hello" & "Welcome" to everyone who is receiving this newsletter for the first time. We've met many people that are interested in Rude Ranch and have been deeply touched and heartened by the level of caring and support from everyone, especially in such uncertain economic times.

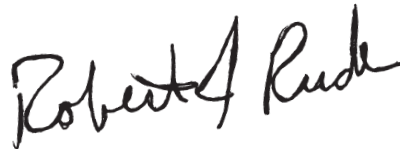
A lot has happened here at Rude Ranch since my letter last fall: we visited over 30 federal agencies last fall, promoting the Combined Federal Campaign. Boomer, our head fund raising dog even dressed up like a secret service agent for one event. (We don't think he was applying for the new Presidential First Puppy detail, but you never know).

Right after the CFC events, I played Santa for all kinds of puppies, kitties, hamsters, kids, and families for our annual Photos with Santa Claws extravaganza. Everyone had a great time and we raised over \$2000 for the sanctuary. Just for the record, the most unusual photo was with a masking tape ball that is passed between members of a local Weight Watchers group, while the most animals in one picture was four greyhounds. Thanks to everyone that stopped by, it was great to catch up with you!

Just before Christmas we had the incredible good fortune to catch the eye of a CNN reporter who thought that Rude Ranch's story would be a nice Christmas feature on the cable network. As soon as the story aired, people from all over responded. At one point our website went down because of too much traffic!

Looking ahead, we are continuing to promote and provide resources for Project Snipped: our low cost spay/neuter program for private citizens and feral cat colony caretakers. We are also continuing our work with several local and national groups to develop a comprehensive Disaster Rapid Response Team that would be able to deploy quickly to rescue animals from any disaster.

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



## Moving?

Planning on moving across the street/state or country soon? Don't forget to let us know so we can update our mailing list. Just send an email to [info@RudeRanch.org](mailto:info@RudeRanch.org) with your new address and we will take care of the rest.

Saving Lives,  
Four Paws At  
A Time



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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  
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*Director of Animal Care*

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## Love Is In The Air . . .

Even though Valentine's Day has come and gone, we'd like to share a few special relationships here at Rude Ranch. Over the years we've found that while many of the cats and dogs are willing to nap and play with the nearest furry body, there are some that prefer to pair off with "somefur" special.



*Tommy and Gem are quite an item!*

One of our cutest couples is resident Bad Boy Tommy and little prankster Gem. We aren't sure who initiated the relationship, but these two are frequently found curled up together for that all important afternoon nap.

We even have a cross-species couple: Caesar, the resident

border collie, and Katrina, one of the first cats rescued after Hurricane Katrina. In addition to following each other around the sanctuary, they will spend hours grooming each other, an activity that usually leaves Katrina sopping wet! The only reason they don't totally curl up together is that Caesar is too big to fit into Katrina's favorite bed.



*Caesar and Katrina get ready for a nap together.*

There are several warm and fuzzy relationships in our FIV area, too! Charlotte and Bigsbee are good friends, and Boots

and Handsome like to nap together. But the big story here is Big Boy and Bubbles. For years Big Boy was quite the Cassanova, quickly befriending all the female cats that came into his area. He seemed to be a little partial to Cassie, a pretty calico that was brought in. Then one day a retired mom cat named Bubbles moved into the area. Big Boy totally forgot about Cassie and his catting ways and was soon devoted to Bubbles. (Cassie wasn't too upset about the breakup, she was adopted shortly afterwards.) At first Bubbles strung the smitten Big Boy along, curling up with him one day, then smacking him on the nose the next. Eventually Big Boy wore her down, and now they are almost inseparable. Big Boy even shares his plate of food with Bubbles, which is quite considerate since he is the biggest eater in the room!

## CFC Update: Multiple Government Agencies Invaded By Rude Ranch Dogs!

As anyone that's worked for the government knows, the Combined Federal Campaign and many state Charity Campaigns kick into high gear every fall. These workplace campaigns allow government workers to select a charity and donate through payroll deduction. These workplace campaigns are a winning proposition for all: employees get a documented tax deduction, and the charity will get an estimate of how many donations will be coming in through out the year and can prepare more accurate budgets.

In order to publicize these campaigns, many government agencies will invite charity representatives to come to the agencies. Once again Boomer, Bunny and Bruno, the Rude Ranch fundraising dogs were in high demand for these events. Bruno had a blast at Naval Intelligence while Bunny helped draw names for doorprizes at the Maryland State Lottery headquarters. Boomer toured the Pentagon, several hospitals and even got into the Secret Service. He even donned the special glasses and ear piece for the gig!



*Boomer models his Secret Service gear.*

Although we don't have final totals yet, we were thrilled by the enthusiastic reception from everyone at these events and want to thank everyone that participated and helped support Rude Ranch!

PS: Although we announced last year that Boomer was retiring from his duties as CFC mascot, we are happy to report that he has reconsidered and is not planning to retire anytime soon!



## Rude Ranch Is Recognized



Bob and Kathy Rude receive an Executive Citation Award from Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold.

Everyone here at Rude Ranch was very surprised recently when we got a call from our County Executive that the sanctuary was receiving an Executive Citation Award for community service. Rude Ranch founders Bob and Kathy Rude met with Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold (who is an animal lover himself) one morning in January not only to claim the citation, but also to talk about the sanctuary, needs in the area and what is being done about them.

## My Cat Was Diagnosed With Hyperthyroidism – What Now?!

Thyrotoxicosis or hyperthyroidism is one of the most common problems in older cats. As the name suggests, it is caused by an overactive thyroid gland producing too many thyroid hormones (thyroxine and triiodothyronine). Although its not clear what causes the thyroid gland to go on over drive, if left untreated it can seriously affect your cat's heart, kidneys and liver.

Symptoms of hyperthyroidism usually appear gradually over time. They include increased appetite, weight loss, increased thirst, vomiting, diarrhea, and dry, flaky skin. Your cat's heart rate will likely increase, and he or she may develop a heart murmur. If left untreated it can lead to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. These conditions will usually reverse themselves if the thyroid gland is brought back under control.

Diagnosing feline hyperthyroidism is a simple procedure requiring a T4 blood test. This test measures the level of the thyroid hormones thyroxine and triiodothyronine in your cats blood. If the level of these hormones is higher than a reading of 4, the cat is considered to have hyperthyroidism, and should start treatment.

The main goal of treating hyperthyroidism is to control the excessive production of the thyroid hormones. The most common treatment is the antithyroid drug methimazole (Tapazole). Methimazole is usually prescribed in pill form and typically the cat starts out at a low dose and the amount given is gradually increased until the T4 measurement in the blood is regulated. Another treatment option is radioactive iodine, which permanently destroys part of the cat's thyroid gland. Radioactive iodine treatment generally requires hospitalization for 7 days.

Although a hyperthyroidism diagnosis can be upsetting, it is easily controlled, allowing your cat to live a normal life.



## New Ways to See What's Happening at Rude Ranch!

Did you ever wonder what the furballs here at Rude Ranch do during the day and night? Now you can see what they are up to by checking out our new webcams! The Rude Ranch webcams are up and running 24 hours a day (except when we have a power outage!). Just go to the Rude Ranch website ([www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org)) and click on the webcam link. You can see the cats in our outside enclosure, our FELV room and our Gen Pop room, which is the biggest cat room.

If you want to keep up with some of the day to day stuff going on here at Rude Ranch, just check out our blog on Myspace ([www.myspace.com/ruderanch](http://www.myspace.com/ruderanch)). This is where we put all the funny and cute stuff that happens around the shelter. Every now and then one of the dogs or cats even sneaks in to add to the blog!



## Oscar The Grouch!

Jim and Pam Gregory weren't sure where the big tom cat slept at night, but they sure knew when he was hungry... he showed up in their backyard for supper everyday like clockwork. Although he sure enjoyed the food, he was always standoffish and quite cantankerous when they tried to touch him. Hence the name, Oscar the Grouch.

Then one day Oscar was really late coming for dinner. When he did show up he was limping with a bloody paw. The Gregory's weren't sure what had happened to Oscar, but they knew he needed help. They contacted Rude Ranch to see what could be done.



*Oscar turned out to be a big softie after all!*

Despite his injury, Oscar still cared enough about food that he went right into a big cat carrier to eat. Once the door to the carrier was shut, he was whisked to the vet clinic for "the works"! In addition to suturing the wound on his paw, he was neutered, vaccinated, and had his ears and teeth cleaned up. Now came the hard part: Oscar needed a place to stay while he recuperated from his surgeries and to receive the antibiotics he needed while his wounds healed.

Luckily for Oscar, we had room for him here at Rude Ranch. Although he tried to act like a big, tough tomcat, we could tell underneath it all Oscar was just a big old softie that enjoyed his food and being pampered by his visitors. A few weeks later, Oscar finished his course of antibiotics, his wounds were completely healed, and he was ready for a new life. Lucky for him Pam and Jim decided to adopt him into their home to be big brother to their other two cats.

Oscar was very nervous in his new home, after all he wasn't used to having to answer to two other cats, an indoor litter box, and weird noises like ringing phones and TVs. However, eventually he figured out that being warm and dry inside with a food dish available 24 hours a day was a pretty good deal. Then he discovered catnip and toys, which have brought out his inner kitten! Now instead of spending his days cowering in the shadows, this guy happily flops in the sunshine for a nap and will bat a mouse around for hours. Oscar is a grouch no more!

## CNN Visits Rude Ranch

There was some extra excitement here at Rude Ranch last December when Bethany Swain, a photojournalist from CNN stopped by to do a story about us. It all started when Bethany picked up a newspaper while waiting for a pizza and noticed a story about Rude Ranch and our plans for our annual Pet Photos with Santa Claws day. Bethany was looking for a local group to feature for CNN's annual "Focus on Giving" series and thought Rude Ranch would be a good fit for the story.

A date was set and all the dogs and cats were told to be on their best behavior that day. Bethany came by with huge lights, cameras and microphones, and taped the animals, an adoption, and even some of the outside gardens for a total 5 hours that day. (We were really happy that no one curled up in or shed a lot of fur on any of her equipment!)

The 5 hours of footage was eventually whittled down to a little over 2 minutes of video, a text story and a photo slide show. The video made its debut on December 20. It turned out to be one of the more popular "Focus on Giving" features and was shown over 12 times during the Holidays. The text and slide show were also very popular on the CNN website. At one point it was the number two story! In case you missed it, our story is still available at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/LIVING/wayoflife/12/23/rude.ranch.animal.house/index.html?iref=newssearch> or just go to CNN.com and search for "Rude Ranch".

The screenshot shows a CNN.com news article from December 24, 2008. The article is titled "Rude Ranch a haven for animals down on their luck" and is categorized under "Live Developing Story". The main headline is "U.S. House hearing on Ponzi scheme". The article text includes: "Maryland couple operates Rude Ranch Animal Rescue out of their home", "Bob and Katharine Rude currently care for 116 cats and six dogs", and "The pair is consumed about rising costs, falling donations and more pets in need". There is a video player showing a woman with a dog and a cat, and a sidebar with an advertisement for overstock.com and a "Most Popular on CNN" section.

Everyone here at Rude Ranch wants to thank everyone that took the time to read our story, watch or click on our video to make it so popular. Exposure like this goes a long way towards making the plight of homeless animals known.



## RUDE RANCH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Billie Jo, Information Technology Specialist

As part of our on-going series spotlighting our four-legged employees, we would like to introduce Billie Jo, Rude Ranch's Information Technology Specialist. At 14, almost 15 years old, Billie Jo is actually one of the older permanent residents here at Rude Ranch. She originally held the title of "The Enforcer", making sure all incoming furballs knew and followed the rules. However, like many people, Billie Jo decided to change careers in her later years. With all the new technologies (wireless network, cable modems, webcams, etc.) now in the Rude Ranch admin office, our four legged office manager Hope was having problems keeping up with the new hardware and the administrative paperwork. After all a cat can only sleep on top of a finite amount of things in a day.



Billie Jo always guards the mouse to make sure it doesn't escape.

Billie Jo takes her new duties very seriously. Every morning she bats at all the cables coming out of the computers to make sure they are secure. She will risk life and paw to pull out any paper emerging from the printer/copier. She guards the computer mouse very closely to make sure it doesn't escape. She closely supervised the installation of the new backup system by sleeping on the documentation as we were installing the software.

Although Billie Jo sometimes has a few issues taking orders from Office Manager Hope, who is 10 years younger, the two have worked out a system to ensure both cats provide maximum supervision to all human admin people while still maintaining a full napping schedule.

## Project Snipped: An Update

*Project Snipped*, Rude Ranch's low cost feral cat spay/neuter project was a huge success in 2008 and is well underway for 2009! We facilitated a total of 156 neuters and 143 spays for a total of 299 surgeries during 2008. Although things got off to a slow start because of abnormally cold weather in 2009, we are hoping to do even more surgeries this spring. To qualify for this program, the cat(s) in question may be either stray or feral, and have a caretaker that is willing to feed and monitor them. The caretaker must also be willing to help trap and transport the cat(s) 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.html](http://www.RudeRanch.org/shelter/donate.html). Thank you for caring!



# RUDE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE

Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals

## Psyched Out!

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pretty sure he wasn't going to volunteer for daily blood testing and insulin injections.

Taking a chance, we gave him the first shot and hoped for the best. Later that day, Psycho seemed a little calmer. Taking even more chances, a couple of people used feather toys to try to play with him. At first we were glad it was toys instead of our hands, but he looked like he liked smacking at the toys. (Maybe he thought he was playing "Whack A Mole") Soon we worked out a system where if we played with him a little, then fed him, we could sneak his insulin shot in while he ate.

A few days later, he started to let Andrea, one of his caretakers, scratch him on the ear in the mornings, but he still lunged at everyone else. Before long, Andrea decided to try fostering him at her home to see if he would come around. Imagine everyone's surprise when she sent a picture of him happily snoozing at the foot of her bed, and sitting quietly to have his blood drawn to test his blood sugar level!

Although we are still working to get Psycho's diabetes under control, he seems content with his daily injections while he works on his "issues". He has discovered the laser pointer and will now take out his aggression while pouncing on the floor to get the red dot!



## Happy Tails!

Spartacus, adopted November, 2008, along with his brother, Octavius, by Felicia Frazier. Spartacus has his own website at: [http://www.catchannel.com:80/blog/viewbio.aspx?apid=118490&cm\\_mmc=CatChannel\\_-\\_AutoEmail\\_-\\_CheckOutWebpage\\_-\\_NA](http://www.catchannel.com:80/blog/viewbio.aspx?apid=118490&cm_mmc=CatChannel_-_AutoEmail_-_CheckOutWebpage_-_NA)

## 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 cents 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. You can even make an appointment to come visit your "virtual adoptee" anytime. For more information about our sponsorship program, visit our website at [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) and click on "Sponsor A Resident". Or e-mail [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).



*Pearl is purr-fectly content to have a sponsor of her very own!*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: ( ) \$100 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$25 ( ) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) 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

## Single Long-Haired Tabby Seeking:

Single or multiple person family that likes to cuddle on the couch in front of the TV. Must also like to play with feather toys. E-mail Molly at [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org)



### Special Thanks To . . .

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

Dr. Amy Holstein

Dr. Mike Golden of Veterinary Housecall Service

Dr. Natalia Bassford of Four Legs Animal Hospital

Our Adoptive Families, Volunteers, and many Contributors

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

Barbara M and the gang at Minute Man Press of Crofton for printing services

### Immediate Needs / Wish List

Jumbo size litter boxes

Volunteers

Canned Cat Food

Travel Trailer and

Canned Dog Food

14' to 18' Flat Bottom

Clumping Cat Litter

Boat for Disaster

Used Surgical Equipment

Response Team

## 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

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