



**Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals**

## Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks

We don't know where he came from, or how he ended up here, but he did. The big red dog announced his presence a few days before we actually saw him. At least we are pretty sure it was him that knocked over all the Rude Ranch recycling and trash cans searching for food. It might have been on one such trip scrounging for scraps that we spotted the hungry dog. It didn't take much to catch the old pit bull . . . his joints must have ached as he walked slowly with very stiff legs. Even a slow trot seemed like an effort for him. Once we brought him inside, we could see how beat up he was. He had lots of scars, cuts and abrasions all over his body. He had spots of mange on his ears and face. The bones along his spine and sides stood out. He gulped his first meal of regular dog food with complete joy.

It only took a few minutes and a couple of blood tests to figure out why he was so stiff and achy. In addition to his ten plus years of age, he had advanced lyme disease, heartworm, hook worm, deer ticks and fleas. We immediately started him on antibiotics for the lyme disease and dewormers for the parasites. Unfortunately, he needed to be a lot stronger and healthier before he could be treated for heartworm. Exhausted from his earlier scrounging and vet visit, the old dog settled into a soft dog bed and quickly fell into a deep sleep. Knowing that he was well fed and safe, he slept peacefully the entire night.

Although his fur was dull and brittle, we could

tell at one point in his life he was a handsome dog and his fur was probably a shiny russet color. With this in mind, we decided to call him "Big Red".

Although we could see in Big Red's eyes he was grateful to be warm, dry and well fed, we could also tell he was not feeling well. Going outside for a walk was still an effort for him. He often "did his

business" quickly and wanted to go back to his kennel, where he promptly fell asleep. Several days later, we noticed a difference in Big Red. His cuts and bruises were healing. He didn't have as much trouble getting up after a nap. He walked with a little spring in his step and actually seemed to enjoy himself. Soon, the spots of mange were gone and his bald patches started to fill in. Not only did Big Red enjoy his walks, he happily trotted from tree to tree, sniffing, exploring



*From lost to loved, Big Red the Pitbull gets a new chance at a happy life.*

and marking this new territory. The antibiotics were successfully treating his lyme disease, and the parasites were no longer attacking his body. He was getting stronger and feeling better every day!

Although he was feeling better, Big Red still had a major problem: heartworm. Treating heartworm can be dangerous to dogs at any age, let alone an older dog with other health issues. However, without the treatment the parasites would eventually destroy his heart and vascular system. Additionally, once treatment started, Big Red, the dog that had rediscovered the joys

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## A Note from our Executive Director . . .

All of us here at Rude Ranch hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday season, bringing lots of happy memories with your family and pets! We had a great Holiday season at Rude Ranch with lots of activity for all the two and four-footed employees.

I first want to thank everyone for their continued support during these tough economic times. We greatly appreciate every donation, volunteer hour and all the people who continue to tell others about us. Our greatest asset for promoting what we do is the word of mouth advertising from those that support us.

We had a busy Fall fundraising season visiting more than 50 federal and state agencies. Bunry and Ceasar did a great job as Rude Ranch's ambassadors this year. Bunry even got a few special requests for return engagements with several agencies including the National Institute of Health (NIH). Ceasar was a big hit at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and even made a return appearance for their Family Fun Day and got his picture taken with the Director of the Agency. We're hoping for another great year from all our Federal and State employees to help us continue our mission to help animals.

Last year we started doing more long term boarding of animals for people who were going through difficult financial times, but didn't want to give up their beloved pets. Rude Ranch is taking care of many, hopefully, short-term residents until their families can get back on their feet. We've included an article on Tiny, a Newfoundland, Lab Mix who was in need of a little help. Your donations enable us to help out families and their animals who are going through very difficult personal problems.

We had a great turn out for Photo's with Santa again this year. A big thanks to all our volunteers who helped at the event, all the people who brought their animals to pose with Santa and to Crunchies for allowing us to use their store to host the event. We had more than 200 animals come through for their pictures this year. The coolest one was a four foot long Argentine Black and White Tegu Monitor Lizard.

Last Fall Rude Ranch received an award from the group Maryland Votes for Animals. This is a relatively new group that is working to promote better animal rights laws and awareness.

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in many events and expos this spring. We are holding our own Basket Bingo and participating in the first ever Jam for the Animals Concert. We plan to use the funds from these events to continue to provide resources for low cost spay/neuter, helping our community with animal related questions and issues, working with the State and Local Government to support the development of a Rapid Response Team for Disasters and to continue caring for all our special needs animals at the Sanctuary.

In closing, I want to extend a special thanks to our adoptive families, contributors, supporters and volunteers who are vital to our 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 [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org) with your new address and we will take care of the rest.

**Saving Lives,  
Four Paws At  
A Time**



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.  
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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**

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## Longaberger Basket Bingo returns to Rude Ranch

Back by popular demand! Get your bingo daubers out! After a two year break, Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Longaberger Basket Bingo on April 16th! If

you've never "bingoed" at a Basket Bingo before, here's

how it works: For the low admission price of \$15 you play 20 rounds of bingo, and are eligible for many door prizes.

There are extra "special games" that feature additional prizes you can choose to upgrade to during the bingo. The winner of each round of bingo will receive a beautiful Longaberger Basket filled with all kinds of useful gadgets! The doors open at noon on April 16 and games begin at 1 pm. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch!

The Basket Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info or to purchase tickets, call Linda at 410.916.1449 (email: lresuta@gmail.com) or email Rude Ranch at rrar@ruderanch.org.



## Check us out on Facebook . . .

Want to find out more about what happens here at Rude Ranch every day? Check out our Facebook pages! While our official web page [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) still has all kinds of information about the sanctuary and the animals, the Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/ruderanch](http://www.facebook.com/ruderanch) will have the cute pictures and funny stories about the sanctuary.

Not to be outdone, Tommy, the resident instigator and Ceasar, the most popular dog here, also have their own facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/Tommy-tomcat](http://www.facebook.com/Tommy-tomcat) and [www.facebook.com/ceasarrude](http://www.facebook.com/ceasarrude).

## . . . and on YouTube

Want to see our animals in action? You can check out Rude Ranch videos on Youtube.com! Just go to [www.youtube.com/ruderanch](http://www.youtube.com/ruderanch)!

## Home Sweet Temporary Home

Although the economy's recession officially ended almost two years ago, many people and their pets are still reeling from the fall out. Many families have been financially devastated when credit lines and home equity have been reduced or lost. As a result, many families have lost their homes and the means to care for their pets. Sadly, many families gave up beloved pets and surrendered them to animal shelters, never to see them again.

There were other families that couldn't care for their pets but didn't want to give them up. Several of those families asked Rude Ranch if their pets could stay here until they could find housing and improve their financial situation.

Fluffy, a handsome maine coon tuxedo and Tiger, an affectionate tabby, found themselves in such a situation. Unfortunately, their human's home was part of a bitter



Fluffy



Tiger

inheritance dispute. To settle the dispute, the home was ordered to be sold. Fluffy and Tiger's human didn't want to give them up, but couldn't keep them in the single room she was renting. She asked if we'd care for them until the case is settled and she's able to purchase another house.

Tiny is a large lab and newfoundland mix that also found herself in a bad way. Tiny's mom lost her house to foreclosure. Not knowing what else to do, Tiny's mom asked Rude Ranch to care for Tiny until she could find a place to rent that allowed large dogs.

Luckily for Tiny, Fluffy, Tiger and many more four-footed victims of the economic crisis, Rude Ranch was there to help them. Fluffy and Tiger have made themselves at home in one of our cat rooms. Fluffy likes to steal and play with the caps from pill bottles while we are medicating a couple of his roommates.

Tiger likes to curl up with some of the other cats and groom them. Tiny and Rude Ranch's old dog Bruno have become good buddies and Bunny, our miniature pinscher, likes to curl up with her. They are all looking forward to the day they can be reunited with their families.



Tiny



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## Farewell to a Legend

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to one of the greatest buddies a human could ever have. Our little Miniature Pinscher, Boomer, made the trip over the Rainbow Bridge this Fall at the age of 19. He had a long life filled with love from everyone he met.

Many of you may remember him as one of the greeters at Rude Ranch in his earlier years. He then became our official fundraising dog and attended most of our events with the federal and state governments. He hobnobbed with Commissioners, NFL Hall of Famers and even raided the FBI cafeteria once. He took the part of Santa's Elf to help deliver presents to pre school kids at Christmas time. People would see him and instantly be drawn to him. We never had to "work the crowd" when Boomer was with us; one look at him and people flocked



*Boomer shows off his spiffy spy gear*

to our table. There was something about him that people just couldn't resist.

From the time we found him in the middle of a country road until the end of his life, he was our best friend.



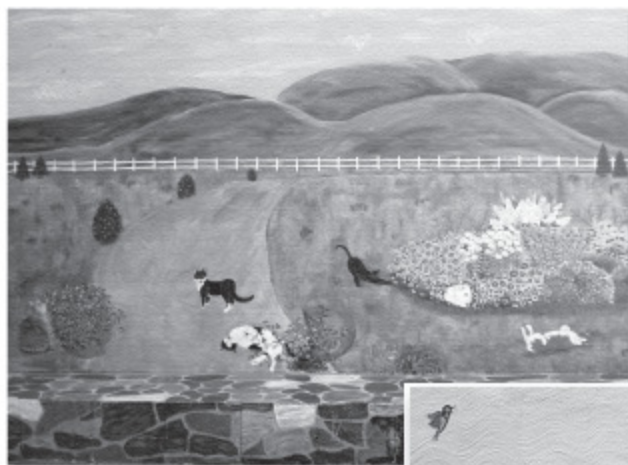
*What a cute little bug Boomer makes!*

We will all miss him, but feel blessed that we had the opportunity to share our life with him.

*Good-bye Boomer, we will miss you!*

## A new look for Rude Ranch

Don't look now, but the outside walls at Rude Ranch have a new look! After many delays, Rude Ranch's outside wall murals are finally complete! The four-part mural graces the back and side walls of the building. The paintings, which incorporate two of Rude Ranch's eight rain barrels show the whimsical side of Rude Ranch, including resident trouble maker Tommy trying to break into a barrel of catnip, Momma Mia trying to catch a fish, and brothers Jake and Elwood trying not to look guilty around an overturned plant.



You can see all the murals as part of Rude Ranch's virtual tour at <http://www.ruderanch.org/virtual/entrance.html>



## Jam for the Animals 2011

Get your summer off to a Jammin' start by supporting Rude Ranch and many other animal groups at the 2011 Jam For The Animals, June 18 at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds! Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The all-day music and arts festival will feature a

variety of groups playing on two stages from 11 am - 11 pm! For tickets and more info, visit *Jam for the Animals* website at: [www.arf-md.org](http://www.arf-md.org).







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## Ask Tommy: Advice from our feline to yours

Welcome to the third edition of *Ask Tommy*. This is where your four-footed and feathered friends can ask Tommy for advice on how to handle humans. As many know, Tommy led a life of questionable repute before he became a resident here at Rude Ranch. Since then he's had a brief career as a kitty condo model, food taster, and shelter spokesperson. At the ripe old age of 13, he's now "writing" this column to pass his wisdom on to the next generation of felines.

Dear Tommy,

*I love my human mom and dad, but they have one flaw I'm really having a hard time overlooking. They refuse to clean my litter box on any sort of regular schedule. Sometimes it will be days between cleanings. It's bad enough that I have to use the dirty box, but I have two roommates that also use the box. I've tried everything to get my parents to listen to me, but they continue to ignore all my efforts. I've peed in their shoes, peed on their bed, and once I even peed on my mom while she was sleeping. All they do is yell at me and treat me badly. I love everything else about them, but am close to giving up and finding a new home. I'd appreciate any advice you could give me on how to better train my humans.*

Sincerely, Desperately Seeking Litter Box

Dear Desperately,

*I wish I had a nickel for every cat that has written me about this problem. I just don't get it. Why do they think we'd like to walk through our own "stuff"? How would they like it if they used a toilet that hadn't been flushed for three days. Uhh, errr, sorry for the rant, my editor said I need to chill. Guess it's a sore point for me. Now to the advice. The best way to encourage them to clean your litter box is to offer them an incentive. When they do clean the litter box, immediately rub against them, purr loudly and then quickly use the litter box. Giving this type of positive reward feedback can work for many other behavioral problems your humans may develop, too.*

If any furball has a question they would like answered, please email to [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org) and put "Ask Tommy" in the subject line. I can't get to every questions, but will help where I can. They keep me busy around here greeting visitors, writing articles and keeping the dogs in line.

## Can't adopt a cat 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 in need.

When you sponsor a cat, you'll receive an adoption certificate with pictures of your chosen cat and its history. 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, visit our website at [www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org) and click on "Sponsor A Resident". Or email [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).



Felix has a sponsor. Thanks, Elizabeth!

## Best Little Cat House still available!

The reviews are still coming in! *The Best Little Cat House in Maryland* is still one of the funniest, most touching books you will ever read! It is the official story of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. It is now available in hard cover, soft cover and kindle editions!

The book explains many little known facts such as how Rude Ranch got its name, what the Rude Ranch building was originally used for and even explains what to do in unusual situations such as floating down a river in a Chevrolet Suburban or what to do with a run away goat in the middle of a thunderstorm.

Available through the publisher [Authorhouse.com](http://Authorhouse.com) and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), it makes a great gift for any animal lover. The proceeds of each purchase will go right back to the furry residents of Rude Ranch.





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## Rude Ranch VIP Spotlight From youngest Sponsors to youngest Volunteers

Over the past several years, we've spotlighted the four legged-employees at Rude Ranch. To prevent signs of favoritism, we decided (with our four-legged employees' approval) to give equal time to some of the many volunteers that help make Rude Ranch work. This issue spotlights Bella and Robbie Wagner, two of our youngest volunteers.

Bella and Robbie first came to Rude Ranch last fall to pick a cat to sponsor. They settled on Ginger, and every month they each put part of their allowance into an envelope for her. With help from Grandmom Crystal, one weekend a month Bella and Robbie stop by to visit Ginger and deliver her sponsorship envelope.

While they are here, both Bella and Robbie help care for Ginger and her roommates. They wipe off the counters and ramps, give all the cats fresh water, and give



Bella Wagner, sponsor and volunteer

lots of love and attention to Ginger and all the other cats in her area. Bella and Robbie see that the cats are happy to have such enthusiastic humans to play with and care for them. Grandmom Crystal is also happy that Bella and Robbie are learning how to



Robbie Wagner hard at work

care for pets and to help others. We and the cats are hoping that Bella and Robbie are happy to help and will continue for many years!

## Rescue Update Chevy, loving life on 3 legs

Chevy was a 7 week old kitten that was seriously injured when he was hit by a car in Suitland, MD last fall. It took the combined efforts of Rude Ranch, an animal control agency, and several veterinarians to treat his injuries and rehabilitate him. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, his left hind leg could not be saved and was amputated.

In spite of his rough start in life, Chevy recovered quickly and adjusted to life on three legs. Within a couple of weeks, he was running around Rude Ranch, wrestling any cat he could, regardless of size. He and Silesia, another young cat with three legs, quickly became best friends and spent many hours annoying the older cats.

We are happy to report that Chevy has moved in with two college professors and is now called Spencer. He and his two kitty brothers, Sherman (another former Rude Ranch Resident)

and Satchel loved playing with "their" Christmas tree and wrapping paper during the holidays. He loves to run and play with his feline brothers and is not slowed down by only having three legs. We think that Chevy/Spencer, Sherman and Satchel will have many adventures in the future!



Chevy, now called Spencer, (bottom left) with brothers, Sherman and Satchel

## Help control overpopulation . . . Sponsor a spay or neuter

Rude Ranch receives many requests everyday to help spay and neuter stray and feral animals. The need can be overwhelming – and expensive! 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 that might



otherwise reproduce, adding to the overpopulation of homeless animals.

You can "Sponsor a Spay" with a one time donation of \$35 or "Sponsor a Neuter" with a one time donation of \$25. To participate in the "Sponsor a Spay", "Sponsor a Neuter" program, go to our website: [www.RudeRanch.org/shelter/donate.html](http://www.RudeRanch.org/shelter/donate.html).

Thank you!





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## Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks

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of running and playing, would have to stay in a crate 24 hours a day for the next 30 days.

Although we were worried about the risks the treatment posed, we felt it was necessary to give Big Red a longer, healthier life. We were also worried about how to keep him away from noise, excitement and distractions during his recovery. While life at the shelter wasn't overly stressful, a dog undergoing heartworm treatment must be kept quiet and non-active to avoid any chance of an embolism; the heart itself has to rest. The day-to-day life at Rude Ranch, with deliveries, visitors, and other dogs and cats stopping by could generate too much excitement for Big Red.

Fortunately, Rude Ranch animal caretaker Andrea and her family liked Big Red, and thought they could care for him during the treatment. After all, everyone in her family would be at work during the day and the house would be quiet. They could keep him in a crate in a bedroom, away from the other family pets.

Shortly afterwards, Big Red started his treatment, which consisted of two shots into his spinal area. The injection sites were quite painful and for the first few days Big Red was almost happy to stay in his crate. Fortunately, Big Red made it through those first critical days with no problems. Although he still had several weeks of crate rest ahead of him, he started to get restless, trying to figure ways out of his crate. Knowing he was still at a high risk of an embolism or stroke, Andrea was at a loss to figure out how to keep him quiet. That's when one of her cats snuck into Big Red's room and hissed at him. Turns out that a single hiss from the cat sent Big Red into the back of his crate. For the rest of his recovery, (except for one unauthorized car ride to the local McDonald's drive-thru) as long as the cat sat in front of his crate, Big Red

was very content to lie quietly in the back. Sensing his new found power over the dog, the cat was very happy to sit in front of Big Red's crate and stare him down.

Big Red finished his 30 days of crate rest without further incident. After his treatment he continued to build muscle and learn how to behave in a normal household. Andrea's family gave him a sweater for Christmas that he wore to have his picture taken with Santa.



*Big Red has his photo taken with Santa, "smiling" for the camera*

Although he still needs to be neutered, Big Red has come a long way from the creaky, achy, too painful to walk dog that found his way to Rude Ranch last fall. He now runs and plays with other dogs and enjoys going for walks and rides in the car. He is, however, still working on his relationship with Andrea's cat.

## YES, I would like to help . . .

*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 ( ) \$15 ( ) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) I'd like to volunteer

**New! Donate online with your MasterCard, Visa, or American Express! Go to [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) and click on the Visa logo.**

Donate online with Paypal.com. Our account name is [donate@ruderanch.org](mailto:donate@ruderanch.org)

\*All donations are tax deductible. Our mailing address is: 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776

## Seeking A Traveling Companion

I'm Nutmeg! I was a Spice kitten originally from the shores of Delaware. I moved in with a family for several years and when I heard we were moving to England, I packed my bags and even had the international rabies test. I was ready to go! Unfortunately, at the last minute, my family's housing fell through and they couldn't take me with them. So I'm looking for a new family that likes to



play chase-the-feather games. While traveling sounds exciting, I'm perfectly happy to stay in the United States.

## Special Thanks To . . .

Drs. Harrison, Roller, Quinn and staff at Belair  
Veterinary Hospital  
Dr. Amy Holstein  
Our adoptive families and volunteers  
Barb M. & Crofton MinuteMan Press for printing services

## 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 total will be donated to Rude Ranch! All you have to do is sign up for an MVP bonus card and register with the Community Rewards program. Call 1.877.614.6877 or go to [www.foodlionmvpwards.com](http://www.foodlionmvpwards.com). Click on "Register Your MVP Card", and enter your MVP card number on the next screen. From there you can either enter Rude Ranch's Organization number - 252332, or enter "Rude Ranch Animal Rescue". Rude Ranch's information will be displayed on the next screen. 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!

## Immediate Needs/Wish List . . .

- Jumbo size litter boxes and clumping cat litter
- Canned cat food and dog food
- Toner cartridges for Dell 3115CN printer
- Used Surgical Equipment
- Volunteers

United Way #9664



MCC #4650



CFC #45379



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue  
3200 Ivy Way  
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[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)



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