



# Rude Ranch Animal Rescue newsletter

SPRING 2016 VOL. 15, NO. 2



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals



## A Jewel In The Rough

The tiny kitten was proud to have the name Onyx – his fur was shiny and black just like the gemstone. Like the myths surrounding the gemstone, Onyx's job was to bring joy and companionship to his family. Onyx took his role in the family seriously, and grew into a beautifully sleek and loving cat.

Onyx and his family were happy for a couple of years. Then something bad happened and his family had to move. Onyx would have liked to move with his family, but they said they couldn't take him. One day they just opened the front door, let a curious Onyx out and moved away. Lost and confused, Onyx started wandering the neighborhood near his house, looking for his family. A neighbor noticed Onyx and although she didn't want to take him in, she felt sorry for him. She eventually lured him into her basement, thinking that she would take him to an animal shelter. Unfortunately all the local no kill animal shelters were full with homeless cats and kittens. There was no room for Onyx.

By now his would-be rescuer was getting desperate – she didn't want to keep him. Instead, Onyx was put into a plastic tote box. The lid was taped shut with packing tape, to make sure Onyx didn't escape. A quick note saying that Onyx needed a home was taped to the top. Late at night the box was left along the side



*Onyx was the perfect name for this sleek black kitty.*

of the road close to Rude Ranch Animal Rescue in hopes someone would find it. From inside the box, Onyx must have been confused at first; he was in total darkness in a moving car. Then a sudden fall.

Then nothing. At one point he must've wished he'd used his litterbox before going in the box. Unfortunately, with no towels or even newspaper to absorb his urine, he had to lay in it. At some point he must've started getting sleepy. The plastic box was taped so much that it covered the holes in the box. Without any source of oxygen, Onyx began to suffocate, slowly losing consciousness. Onyx was found when the sun came up the following morning. We don't know how long he was sitting by the road. We had to cut the multiple layers of tape to get the box open. Onyx was cold and only semi conscious by then. Luckily, once he was

taken out of the tote box and exposed to normal air, he regained consciousness quickly with no permanent injuries. Likewise, once his body temperature was back to normal, he was even happy to get a bath! Now that he was clean, warm and safe inside, Onyx enjoyed a meal and promptly fell asleep.

Now we had a dilemma: technically Onyx was an abandoned animal. By taping him in a plastic box where he almost suffocated and leaving him on the side of the road, his would-be rescuer could be prosecuted

*Continued on page 7*



## A Note from our Executive Director

### Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

We hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season with your families and pets! At Rude Ranch the time flies by! It seems like just last week I was writing about our plans for the fall and winter!

We are proud to announce that the expansion of the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, our high quality, low cost spay & neuter clinic, is finished! This expansion will allow us to accommodate up to 30 more animals per day, expanding our overall capacity to 12,000 surgeries per year.

We had a busy fall fundraising season visiting many federal and state agencies. Bunny the miniature pinscher did a great job as Rude Ranch's ambassador this year. We're hoping for another great year from all our Federal and State employees to help us continue our mission to help animals. The weather for the 7th Annual Putts Fore Mutts Golf Tournament, sponsored by Bacardi, at Queenstown Harbor was spectacular last September! Golfers and non-golfers all had a great time. After the round of golf, everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner catered by Annapolis Catering.

We had a great turnout 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 visit Santa for their pictures this year!

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in our 5th Annual Basket Bingo and More! event, on April 17th. We also plan to attend several pet expos and spring fairs over the next few weeks to encourage everyone to have their pet spayed or neutered.

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

Sincerely,



Robert J. Rude  
Executive Director

#### **Moving? Trying to Cut Down on the Paper in Your Mail Box?**

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.

**Want to receive our Newsletter online?** Just send us an email at [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org) and we will send you a link to our newsletter when its available online!

**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 Shelter Nutrition*






## A Bigger and Better Spay Spa and Neuter Nook!

Rude Ranch built the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook in 2012. The clinic was designed as a regional, high quality, low cost spay/neuter clinic. Since then the clinic has spayed and neutered over 16,000 animals. We created several new initiatives and programs, including a state funded program to assist senior citizens and low income families. We formed partnerships with Humane Societies, SPCA's, and many other rescue groups. We now have a 10 day backlog for surgery slots.



From left to right, Dr. Alison Mocko and Dr. Kip Imperato, Spay Spa & Neuter Nook's surgical vets

In order to meet the increasing demand from surrounding communities the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook needed more space. We had outgrown our 2,500 square feet space. Fortunately, the space next to our clinic was available and work started on a 1,500 square feet addition. This addition houses an expanded surgical area, with 5 surgical suites; expanded prep and recovery areas, increased animal housing and administrative space. Tom Page of Select Contractors donated his time and crew to build the addition. Local Handyman Jason Montjoy also donated his time to paint the addition. All that extra space would do no good without additional equipment and supplies. Thanks to generous funding from Alley Cat Allies and the Maryland Spay/Neuter Fund we were able to procure all the equipment we needed. We moved into the new space over Thanksgiving weekend and performed our first surgeries in the new surgical area on November 30. This expansion gives the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook the capacity to safely house and care for up to 80 animals per day. We are slowly expanding our staff and resources to accommodate this volume. We want to thank everyone that helped make this expansion a reality! 

## Cat Lovers Unite!

Did you know that community cats (abandoned or stray free roaming cats and their offspring; also known as ferals) are the largest contributor to pet overpopulation? That there are at least as many community cats as there are pet cats? And that only 2% of them are spayed/neutered as compared with 91% of the pet cats? Do you want to help change this? Now is your chance.

Year after year hard earned taxpayer dollars are spent euthanizing community cats with no end in sight. Non Profit Rescues and their volunteers are inundated with kittens and their resources are drained. These cats are largely left un-managed and unsterilized; they breed rapidly at a huge cost to taxpayers, until now.

Last summer a small, committed group called the Anne Arundel Cat Coalition (AACC), decided it's time for change. This group is made up of representatives of several rescues (Rude Ranch, Cats R Us, Sunshine Cat Rescue) and several citizen activists. The group is working hard to convince Anne Arundel County to adopt best practices that get to the root of cat overpopulation (community cat reproduction). They believe that it's time Anne Arundel County follow the lead of the District of Columbia, Baltimore City and Fairfax County, VA. All three of these local municipalities enacted community cat management best practices and as a result dramatically reduced euthanasia rates.

What are these best practices? Targeted Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR). TNR targets whole "problem" neighborhoods or zip codes and methodically traps, neuters, rabies vaccinates and returns cats to their outdoor home where they were trapped. It is a proactive community based program largely carried out by citizens; the goal is to reduce cat populations.

What can you do to help Anne Arundel County Cats?

- Educate yourself about TNR
- Let your county councilman know that you want them to listen to the AACC and find solutions that reduce euthanasia
- Tell your neighbors and friends to spay and neuter
- Keep your cats inside and never ever abandoned your pet
- Be ready to attend county council meetings, write letters and/or testify (sometime this spring or summer)





## #14

The big black cat came in with 26 others from Somerset and Wicomico County, MD on a cold Thursday morning. Sue Nevins of Road Runner Rescue transported the 27 cats and a dog from Wicomico and Somerset County, MD to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook to be spayed and neutered. When large groups of animals come to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook we assign a number to each animal and carrier. This makes keeping track of the animals easier as they move throughout the clinic. This particular cat was assigned #14. He was a last minute add on. He was a stray that had recently shown up at a farm. The farm owner was ok with feeding the new cat, but wanted him neutered and vaccinated to make sure the cat wouldn't produce kittens.



Spay Spa & Neuter Nook receptionist, Erin Barber, now fosters Sam, formerly known as #14.

As soon as we saw the cat, we could tell he wasn't doing well. He was skinny and his fur was coarse, dry and rough looking. His eyes were sunken and he looked dehydrated. However, the cat was terrified and the only way we could get a closer look was to sedate him. Once he was totally asleep we found out why he couldn't walk: feline plasma cell pododermatitis, aka pillow pads, in all four paws. It is a little understood autoimmune disease where a cat's paw pads are infiltrated with plasma cells. His paw pads were so swollen that his claws had become embedded in them and caused infections. His paws were so sore and inflamed he could hardly walk. He was malnourished and anemic – it's hard to catch your food on a farm if your feet are that swollen and sore. We cleaned him up, gave him a big shot of antibiotics, and gave him supplements to boost his immune system. Now we had another problem: he really wasn't healthy enough to return to the farm, but where should he go? Spay Spa & Neuter Nook receptionist Erin Barber said "I want him". She agreed to take him home to foster him until he's healthy. She thought he looked more like a Sam than Road Runner 14, and promptly changed his name. If the farm owner is agreeable, Erin will keep him.



## Back by Popular Demand! Basket and Bags & More Bingo at Rude Ranch!

Back and Upgraded this year! Get your bingo daubers out! Back by popular demand, Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Basket and Bags Bingo on April 17! If you've never "bingoed" at one of our Bingos before, here's how it works: For the low admission price of \$25 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, or a Vera Bradley, Coach or Longaberger bag or a Gift Card to a popular restaurant or local store. The baskets and bags are filled with all kinds of useful gadgets! The



### Bingo!



doors open at 11 am on April 17 and games begin at Noon. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch!

The Basket and Bags & More 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 Resuta at 410.916.1449 or send a check or money order to: Rude Ranch Basket Bingo, C/O Linda Resuta, PO Box 222, Glen Burnie, MD 21060.



SELFIE OF THE MONTH: Tommy and girlfriend, Freckles



## Mikros the Lucky

Mikros' name has changed several times over the last few months. At first his name was Lucky, as in he was Lucky to be alive. Last fall, he was a 9 week old kitten living outside a furniture warehouse. One day one of the business owners found Lucky under a car. He was getting cold and was almost comatose. He was rushed to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for care. The building owner said the kitten had been running and playing under several cars a few hours earlier. We realized he must have ingested ethylene glycol, aka antifreeze, while he was playing. We immediately started warming him and gave him fluids to start flushing the toxins out of his body. We ran blood tests to check his kidney and liver function – his kidneys were almost non-functional.



*Mikros, aka Lucky, is very lucky to be alive and healthy!*

Lucky made it through the rest of the day. He hugged the warming blanket and would eat when we put food in his mouth. Even though he looked down and out, there was a certain spark in this little guy's eyes.

Stephie Rye, one of our vet techs, felt sorry for him and offered to take him home with her for overnight care. If he made it through the night, she would bring him back with her the next day for more fluid therapy and monitoring. The next day, Stephie brought Lucky back, he still couldn't maintain his body temperature, and still wasn't eating on his own, but he looked a little better! By the end of the second day, he ate a few pieces of cooked chicken on his own. By the end of the third day, Lucky was able to keep his body temperature up without the heating blanket, and he was stumbling towards the cooked chicken on his own! We re-ran the blood tests and although the numbers were still bad, his kidney function had improved a little!

Stephie and Lucky developed a routine over the next few weeks: they would come into work at the clinic together, Lucky would get his fluids (to keep flushing his little body) then go home to a final round of fluids and a dish of chicken. Finally Lucky got to the point where we didn't think he needed the fluids! He was eating regular kitten food (but would still steal chicken whenever he could), and playing with Stephie's other cat, Bolton every day. Although his kidney

function wasn't normal, the numbers were improving. By now Lucky (who was also now called Mr. Lucky) had thoroughly integrated himself into Stephie's home. She decided that he should stay – his name was changed to Mikros which translates from Greek meaning Little One. Although it's taken almost 4 months, Mikros' kidney's have finally returned to normal. He's been neutered and vaccinated. He now spends his days running around and playing, stealing hair ties and getting into trouble with big brother Bolton!



## What is Thyroid Disease?

Like our human bodies, our pet's bodies change with age. You might notice that your pleasantly plump cat is losing weight and her fur isn't as sleek and shiny as it used to be. Likewise your dog may be gaining weight, shedding, and not as energetic as he used to be. The cause for both the cat and dog may be thyroid disease.

The thyroid is a hormone producing gland, located at the base of the throat. The thyroid produces liothyronine (T3) and levothyroxine (T4), both are required for the body's metabolism to function properly. Problems occur when this gland produces too many hormones, called hyperthyroidism, or not enough, called hypothyroidism. Dogs are usually affected by a loss of hormones, ( hypothyroidism) while cats usually suffer from too many hormones (hyperthyroidism). Signs of hypothyroidism or low thyroid are sluggishness, hair loss, excessive shedding, weight gain, skin infections, and inability to tolerate cold. Signs of hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) are: weight loss, increased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, poor coat condition and a galloping heart murmur. Most animals are diagnosed through a blood test that measures levels of the T4 hormone in your pet's blood. X-Rays of the thyroid gland may also be needed. Once diagnosed, thyroid disease is easily treated. Animals with hypothyroidism are treated with a daily dose of synthetic hormones. There are several options for treating cats with hyperthyroidism. The most common treatment is a daily pill designed to inhibit production of the thyroid hormones.

Although it can be upsetting to learn your pet has thyroid disease, with proper care and treatment your pet will live many happy healthy years beyond the diagnosis!





## Ask Tommy: Advice from Our Feline to Yours

Welcome to the latest edition of Ask Tommy where your four-footed and feathered friends can ask Tommy for advice on how to handle humans. Tommy's life experiences include a brief career as a kitty condo model, food taster, and shelter spokescat. At the ripe old age of 20 he's now "writing" this column to pass his wisdom on to the next generation of felines.

Dear Tommy,

*Skippy the beagle and I are best friends! We have all kinds of fun together exploring the house and sometimes our humans will even take us outside together. There are all kinds of interesting smells and stuff to taste outside! But the last time we went out, Skippy and I found this puddle of liquid stuff that smelled really sweet and we both wanted to try it. But when we went to taste it, our humans got really upset and yelled at both of us!!!! What did we do?*

*Your pal, Confused*

Dear Confused (and Skippy),

Your humans weren't upset with you because you did something wrong, they were trying to protect you from harm. The liquid in that puddle was probably ethylene glycol, aka antifreeze. It probably leaked from a car or truck and is highly poisonous to you, Skippy and even humans! (So if you have any small humans (children) in your family, you need to make sure they stay away from this stuff too!



Believe it or not, just a few sips of antifreeze can destroy your kidneys and liver. If you or any 4 legged family does drink antifreeze you have to get to a veterinarian IMMEDIATELY. If not, you will not recover. The veterinarian will need to give you intravenous fluids, with electrolytes, and other antidotes (depending on whether you are a dog or cat) to flush and counteract the poison in your body. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning include lethargy, drooling, and disorientation (stumbling, falling) and vomiting.

Your humans can protect you and all other animals (including wildlife) from accidental antifreeze poisoning by making sure all spills and leaks from vehicles are cleaned quickly. You can also have your humans switch to newer formulations of antifreeze that have extra chemicals mixed in that are not tempting to humans or animals.

Sincerely,



## 6,532: Another Record Year for the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook opened in October, 2012 with one goal: to reduce the euthanasia of healthy animals because of pet over population. Since then we've spayed or neutered more than 16,000 dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. Last year was our biggest year yet, with 6, 532 surgeries. That works out to 1,345 dogs, 5,149 cats, 32 rabbits, and 5 guinea pigs!



While we've seen a lot of labradors, retrievers, and terriers, the breed of dog we see the most are shih tzu and shih tzu mixes. The most unusual dog to visit was Flojo the Akbash. (These dogs are originally from Turkey and are used to guard livestock). We've had many cats and dogs named Bella, (Kitty and various forms of Momma are also popular for cats) while Rocky, Hunter and Duke are very popular names for male dogs. Milo is our most popular boy cat name. Judging by the number of animals with names like Butterscotch, Meatball, Biscuit and Pickles, we think quite a few people might have been hungry when choosing a name for their pet! One of our all time favorite names was a miniature daschund named "Moon Doggie". We are looking forward to meeting many more pets with a lot more unusual names this year!





Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals



# Rude Ranch Animal Rescue



3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776 • 410-798-9559 • www.RudeRanch.org

SPRING 2016, VOL. 15, NO.2

## A Jewel In The Rough *Continued from page 1*

for felony animal abuse. We also knew that our local animal control was full and turning him in would just add to their burden. Fortunately, the director agreed to take the evidence to open a case, but let us retain custody of Onyx. Onyx rested and recovered in our quarantine area for the next several days. We treated him for parasites and vaccinated him. Through it all he was a happy, easy going guy. One night he even had an adventure. The door to the quarantine area didn't latch correctly and opened a crack. Several curious Rude Ranch cats snuck in to meet Onyx and invited him out to play. Imagine our surprise the next morning when we found the door open and no Onyx! Shortly afterwards, he made his presence known when he showed up for breakfast with all the other cats. He fit in and acted like he had been at Rude Ranch his entire life!

Soon it was time for Onyx to be neutered and finish his vaccines. Although upset at missing his breakfast, Onyx made the trip to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and struck a pose as our "Pet of the Day".

As much as we liked Onyx with his laid back personality and ability to get along with all the other animals, we knew it was time to find Onyx a forever home. Fortunately, it didn't take long. A family whose older cat recently passed away was

looking for a companion for their remaining cat. Onyx seemed like a great match for the household and before long he moved to the Cape St Claire area of Annapolis to start his new life. Once there, he quickly made friends with the other cat and within a few weeks, both cats were content to nap in their human dad's lap together! We'd say Onyx is a gem of a cat!



Onyx was Spay Spa & Neuter Nook's "Pet Of The Day"

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

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue 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 toward helping our cause.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: ( ) \$250 ( ) \$100 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$25 ( ) Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) I would like to volunteer

Our Mailing address is: Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776

**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](http://Paypal.com). Our account name is "donate@ruderanch.org"

**Does your employer have a matching donation program?** If so, your donation will be doubled! Please send any matching donation documentation requirements to Rude Ranch and we will gladly process them. Thank you!



\*All donations are tax deductible. \*\* Help us devote more of your donation toward the animals by receiving your receipt by email.



Show your support for animals along with Stewie by wearing a Rude Ranch or Spay Spa & Neuter Nook T-Shirt or Sweatshirt

## New! Rude Ranch and Spay Spa T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

Show your support for Rude Ranch and Spay Spa & Neuter Nook by wearing one of our new T-shirts or sweatshirts! In new colors! The proceeds go right back to the care of our residents.

### T-shirts

Sizes S - XL: \$15 plus \$5 shipping and handling

### Sweatshirts

Sizes S - XL: \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling

You can place your order on our website at:  
<http://www.ruderanch.org/shop/>

## Special Thanks to:

Paul & Kim Intlekofer for the fundraising party	PetSmart Charities
Dr. Amy Carney	The Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation
Our adoptive families	The Snyder Foundation
Our volunteers	Drs. Harrison, Roller, Hersey and staff at Belair Veterinary Hospital
Our many contributors	
Alley Cat Allies	

## Immediate Needs/Wish List

- Copy/Xerox paper
- Canned cat food
- Canned dog food
- Bleach & liquid laundry detergent
- Paper towels & plates

United Way #9664



MCC #4650



CFC #45379



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue  
 3200 Ivy Way  
 Harwood, MD 20776  
[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)  
[www.spayspa.org](http://www.spayspa.org)

