



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue newsletter

SPRING 2017, VOL. 17, NO.1



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals



The Cuddly Option

From the day she was born, Cuddles was tiny. She was one of several kittens born on a farm in Frederick County last May. While the other kittens soon grew and started playing, Cuddles didn't. Instead of running and playing with the other kittens, all she wanted to do was climb into a lap and cuddle. Partly because of her size, (she was easily flattened when wrestling with the other bigger kittens), but mostly because she didn't have the energy to play. The farm's owners were enchanted with her and soon named her Cuddles.

Throughout the summer and into the fall, Cuddles' littermates grew into active cats, but Cuddles didn't grow. She still wanted to curl up and cuddle. Her humans knew something wasn't right.



Cuddles was the perfect name for this little lap cat.

Soon it was time to have the barn cats spayed and neutered. The farm's owners contacted Tip Me Frederick, a local rescue group that specializes in providing spay and neuter services for stray and barn cats. Volunteers from Tip Me arrived at the farm with multiple cages and traps for the cats and soon Cuddles' littermates were all rounded up and ready to make the trip to Rude Ranch's Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. Cuddles was also loaded into a cage for the trip.

Cuddles, her 3 littermates and 70 other cats arrived at Spay Spa & Neuter Nook the next day. Cuddles and her family were some of the last cats to be unloaded and prepped

for surgery. When we got to the tiny cat's cage we couldn't believe how small she was. We initially assumed she was a small kitten with an upper respiratory infection. Imagine our surprise when we looked into her mouth and realized that all of her adult teeth were in, meaning she was at least 7 - 8 months

old! Weighing in at 1 pound, 15 1/2 ounces, she was just barely big enough for surgery. She was also slightly dehydrated and somewhat malnourished. Although surgery was a risk, if we sent her back to the farm without spaying her, there was a good chance she would not be back for the surgery. Living on the farm without being spayed she would go into heat and start producing kittens. We carefully prepped and carried her into the surgery area.

Her surgery went well, with a senior veterinary technician closely monitoring her vitals. As soon as her surgery was finished we gave her fluids, and antibiotics. We gave her karo syrup to make sure her blood sugar didn't go too low. She was swaddled in warm towels with heated rice bags to keep her warm. Soon she started to wake up but then fell back to sleep. (This is not unusual for animals coming out of anesthesia, but we monitor it closely) When she fell

asleep the second time her body temperature, and heart rate started dropping. We kept her warm, and monitored her vitals, but she was taking longer than normal to come out of the anesthesia.

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A Note from our Executive Director

Welcome to our Spring Mewsletter!

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!

I am proud to announce that the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, our high quality, low cost surgery clinic is continuing to provide life saving assistance to animals. In just over 4 years we've performed over 23,000 spay/neuter surgeries.

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.

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 visit Santa for their pictures this year!

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in our 6th Annual Basket Bingo and More! event, on April 23rd. We are holding our first ever Quarter Auction on May 19th at the Charleston Senior Center in Waldorf. We also plan to attend several pet expos and spring fairs over the next few weeks to encourage everyone to have their pets spayed or neutered.

I am also excited to announce that we are working with the Anne Arundel County Police Department and Animal Control to develop a program to help with the community cat issues in Anne Arundel County. We anticipate starting a joint project with the county later this year.

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 working toward a day when we no longer have to euthanize healthy, adoptable animals. 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 with your new address and we will take care of the rest.

Want to receive our Mewsletter online? Just send us an email at 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
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.

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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22,995!

22,995. Twenty-two thousand nine hundred ninety five. What does that number mean? That is the total number of animals we have spayed or neutered from October 16, 2012 (when the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook officially opened) through February 1st, 2017. That means there are at least 22,995 animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, and even a sugar glider) in the past 5 years who will not add to the national pet overpopulation problem.



The ultimate goal for Rude Ranch Animal Rescue and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook is to find loving, permanent homes for any adoptable animal placed under 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. Every time we are able to spay/neuter an animal, we move one-step closer to reaching our goals.

Just this year (January 1st – February 15st) we have spayed/neutered:

204 dogs
664 cats (400 of whom are feral/community cats)
5 rabbits

That comes to a grand total of 873 in just the six weeks of this year. In 2016, we fixed close to 7,500 animals. Our goal for this year is 8,000 animals.

We want to thank everyone who has helped the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. We are thankful to those who donate by sponsoring our animals at the Rude Ranch. We are thankful for those who donate through subscriptions, the CFC, and workplace giving. We are thankful for all the grants we receive which allow us to offer special deals for discounted surgeries. In addition, we are grateful for all those who donate to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook; without you, we would be unable to reach our goals. You have truly made a difference; not only to us but also to the animals you have helped.



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

Back by popular demand with even more ways to win this year! Get your bingo daubers out! Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Basket, Bags, and More Bingo on April 23! If you've never "bingoed" at a Basket, Bags & More Bingo 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, a Vera Bradley, Coach or Longaberger bag filled with all kinds of useful gadgets, or a gift card or even a



Bingo!

great Pandora prize! The doors open at 11 am on April 23 and games begin at noon. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch!



The Basket, Bags & More Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave,

Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info go to Rude Ranch's website, www.RudeRanch.org, or call Linda Resuta at 410-916-1449. To reserve tickets (held at the door), send a check or money order to: Rude Ranch Basket Bingo, C/O Linda Resuta, PO Box 222, Glen Burnie, MD 21060. Please make sure to mail your check on or before April 17.

Can't make it to the Bingo but want to help anyway? You can donate toward one of the prizes! Just send a check or money order (or use PayPal! Our account is donate@RudeRanch.org) to Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776, and write Basket Bingo Donation in the memo field.



Abandoned!

The pretty dilute calico was probably well known in her neighborhood for quite a while. At one point she lived in a house with a family. Then for some reason the family decided they didn't want her anymore. She was unceremoniously shoved into a cold steel trap and roughly loaded into a car. The car headed towards Rude Ranch.

The driver of the car probably knew that we were not accepting new cats: instead of knocking on the door or leaving her in the driveway, he or she hid the kitty in a shed where we keep the lawnmower. The person ran back to the car and drove back out as fast as possible. By the time our caretakers got outside, the car and driver were long gone. Not realizing the cat was in the shed, we looked around, but didn't see anything out of the ordinary.



Abby is enjoying her new home at Rude Ranch.

We did find her much later that day. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day and the poor kitty was thoroughly soaked and quite grumpy. We rushed her to our clinic to make sure she was ok.

Needing a quick name for the kitty, we went with Abby, which was shortened from "Abandoned". At that point Abby didn't care what we called her, she was just happy to be warm, dry and fed. Although generally healthy, we realized this girl was older, and had a few dental problems. She's also in beginning stages of kidney failure, which we started treating with fluid therapy.

Abby has recovered from her ordeal and is now settling in and adjusting to her new (and better) home at the Ranch where she can get all the love and care she deserves. She's discovered feather toys and has been known to outrun little Cuddles when chasing feathers!



Starting Over

Fritz has lost several homes throughout his life. He was born somewhere in St. Bernard Parish, LA in 2003. He lost his first home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He was one of over 70 animals sent to Rude Ranch after the storm. Despite the trauma of the storm, he recovered and was quickly adopted.

Fritz lived with his new human mom and a few other pets for over 10 years. Unfortunately, his human died unexpectedly with no will and no final instructions regarding her pets or her house. Fritz and several other cats, dogs, birds and fish were in limbo with no caretakers. Animal Control officers were brought in to round up the animals. Unfortunately, there were no instructions or even vet records to help identify or provide information about the now orphaned animals. Fritz was the only one with a microchip, which was traced back to Rude Ranch. We were able to reclaim him and bring him back to the sanctuary.

After a badly needed dental (including extracting most of his teeth), Fritz quickly learned the ins and outs of being a feline at Rude Ranch. He looks forward to any and all meals, and enjoys watching the other cats play.



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 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.

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 and click on "Sponsor A Resident". Or email Donate@ruderanch.org PS: Fritz is looking for a sponsor!



Should I Adopt An FIV Positive Cat

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, FIV is a viral disease that infects an estimated 3% of cats in the U.S. Until recently, an FIV positive result meant a death sentence for many cats that ended up in animal control agencies and high volume animal shelters. Adoption options for cats that did test positive were always severely limited. Fortunately, new research is changing views on FIV.

Like Feline Leukemia (FELV), FIV is a retrovirus that affect a cat's immune system. Neither virus is transmittable to humans or other animals. The FIV virus is spread mainly through blood contact such as cat fights and bites. Unlike the FELV virus, the FIV virus can not easily cross mucous membranes (the mouth, eyes, nose etc). While the FIV virus does affect a cat's immune system, with proper care and diet many FIV positive cats live a normal lifespan. (The average lifespan of an FIV positive cat at Rude Ranch is 17 years!)



BuBu Tiger is FIV positive and doing well at Rude Ranch.

Traditionally people adopting FIV negative cats were told to never adopt an FIV positive cat, while people adopting FIV positive cats were told they were ineligible to adopt anything but another FIV positive cat. This attitude is changing thanks to a groundbreaking new study from Purdue University.

Dr. Annette Litster of Purdue's College of Veterinary Medicine conducted a long-term study (published in The Veterinary Journal) in several cat shelters that determined FIV positive and FIV negative cats can live harmoniously in normal day to day environments and not pass the virus to non-infected cats. This includes sharing food, litterboxes, toys, beds, grooming and even play fighting.

These findings are good news for many people currently caring for FIV positive cats and considering adopting a friend. Likewise these studies will increase the odds for FIV cats living in shelters to find a forever home.



New at Rude Ranch! Try Your Luck At A Quarter Auction

Looking for something to do on May 19? Come to Rude Ranch's first ever Quarter Auction!



Not sure how it works? A quarter auction is part raffle, part auction, fundraiser and a lot of fun!

When you get to the door, you will get two numbered paddles, and a roll of quarters. Spend some time before the auction looking at the prizes and decide which ones you want to win. When the auction begins, the MC will show several prizes up for bid and whether the items are one quarter, two quarter or three quarter items. If you would like to win something in this group of items, you put the appropriate number of quarters in the pot. (If you want to up your chances of winning, you can put in a second round of quarters, and keep adding up to the number of paddles that you have). Once everyone has put in a bid, the MC will pull numbers out of a bin (just like a bingo game!) If the number called matches the number on your paddle, you get to pick your favorite item from the group. You just won a fabulous prize for less the \$1!

The quarter auction will be held at The Charleston Senior Community, 45 St Patricks Dr, Waldorf, MD. Doors open at 6 PM and the games start at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15. You can purchase tickets in advance or at the door. Refreshments and bake sale to benefit Rude Ranch will be available. (You can also pick up a Rude Ranch Tshirt while you are there!) For more information email Sherri Suter at highvoltagequarterauctions@gmail.com.



Do You Shop At Amazon.com?

Did you know you can shop Amazon.com and help Rude Ranch at the same time? Amazon.com's new program, AmazonSmile will doante .5% of your purchases to Rude Ranch (or another registered charity) at no cost to you! It's simple to sign up and everything from your existing Amazon.com account will still be there! To get started just goto Smile. Amazon.com, sign up and start shopping!





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 21 he's now "writing" this column to pass his wisdom on to the next generation of felines.

Dear Tommy,

It's Spring!!!! There are so many new things to see and smell outside! Everything is turning green and growing. It all looks like so much fun to play with! My only problem is that my humans won't let me go outside and play! I even try to sneak out but they catch me and tell me that I'm being a bad kitty. Why can't I go outside and play?

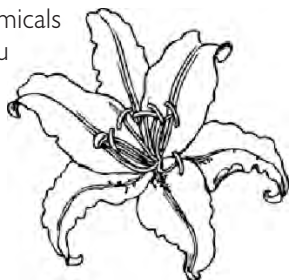
Yours Truly, Wants to Walk on the Wild Side

Dear Wild Walker,

You've asked a question that has frustrated many cats and their humans. Most cats can survive outside, but it is much safer for you to live inside.

There are many reasons why it is safer for you to not go outside. The biggest one is cars and trucks. Getting hit or run over by a car can kill you. Likewise you may encounter dogs and other humans that are not friendly to cats that can hurt you. You are also at risk of encountering raccoons, foxes, squirrels and other wildlife that can injure you or bite you, increasing your risk of exposure to rabies. (Don't forget, if you are infected with the rabies virus, it WILL kill you).

There are also many plants and chemicals outside that are harmful to cats. You could accidentally ingest any pesticides or herbicides that are sprayed onto plants if they stick to your fur and you groom yourself afterwards. Don't forget many of those pretty flowers that are so tempting to sniff and explore are poisonous to you. Flowers such as crocus, azaleas, cyclamen, lillies (all lillies!), oleander, daffodils,



hyacinths and tulips will make you very sick. Eating one or two petals from Tiger lillies, Day Lillies and Easter lillies can destroy your kidneys. Make sure you (and even your canine friends) stay away from them.

You will have a much longer and healthier life if you stay indoors. Have your humans hang a bird house or bird feeder near a sunny window so you can watch the birds during the day. If you still really want to go outside, ask your humans to build a small catio enclosure for you. That way you can be outside, but protected from danger.

Sincerely,



The Best Little Cat House In Maryland: The Purrfect Gift for the Animal Lover in Your Life!

It's Official! *The Best Little Cat House in Maryland* is one of the funniest, most touching books you will ever read! It's the official story of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. It is now available in hardcover, softcover, ebook and Kindle editions!

The book explains many little known facts such as how Rude Ranch got its name, what the sanctuary 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 runaway goat in a thunderstorm. You can even find out how our own Tommy Tomcat landed at Rude Ranch!



Available through the Rude Ranch website (www.RudeRanch.org/shop/... it really is our sales page!) and Amazon.com. It makes a great gift for any animal lover. The proceeds of each purchase go right back to the furry residents of Rude Ranch.



The Cuddly Option Continued from page 1

When it was time for the rest of the cats to return, we were not comfortable releasing Cuddles for the two hour trip back to Frederick County. She wasn't maintaining her body temperature and couldn't stay awake, even while Rude Ranch Executive Director Bob Rude cradled her and carried her around the clinic. (He was starting to fall for her!) It didn't take too long for everyone to agree to send Cuddles back to the Rude Ranch Sanctuary for additional care while she recovered.

Although she was still groggy the next day, Cuddles was able to get out of her bed and walk several feet to her food and water (and cuddle). By the end of the second day she was waiting by her food dish for every meal.

Cuddles grew a little stronger every day. Despite a voracious appetite, she still gained very little weight. She was starting to learn to play, occasionally chasing a shoe string, but frequently had to rest after a few minutes. We also noticed that if the shoestring got too far away from her, she couldn't see it... she was extremely nearsighted!

Looking back at all of Cuddles' physical symptoms (small size, lethargy, vision problems and trouble processing anesthesia) we came to the conclusion that she most likely had a

portosystemic shunt (liver shunt). This is a birth defect where the veins from the intestinal tract to the liver do not form properly.

Although Cuddles' family loved her and originally wanted her to come back to them, once they learned of her diagnoses they asked Rude Ranch to help her... they didn't feel they could provide the special diet and medical care she would need throughout her life.

Cuddles quickly settled into life at Rude Ranch. She is always one of the first cats to greet volunteers and visitors at the sanctuary. She loves to play with string toys and balls and has been known to take off after ping pong balls rolling across the floor. She's gotten quite good at convincing our volunteers to carry her around the shelter while cleaning. After a few minutes she will happily curl up in a warm lap for cuddles and purr herself to sleep.

Tommy Tomcat, our resident trouble maker, has taken her under his paw and has shown her how to rip open bags of treats. We are hoping he doesn't teach her more bad habits!



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 and click on the Visa logo. Donate online with 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:

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

Immediate Needs/Wish List

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

United Way #9664



MCC #52-2312763



CFC #45379



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue
 3200 Ivy Way
 Harwood, MD 20776
www.ruderanch.org
www.spayspa.org

