



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue

# mewsletter

SPRING 2014 VOL. 13, NO. 1



Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals



## THE ICE CAT COMETH

It was the beginning of January 2014 and the temperatures were below freezing yet again. It was the kind of bone-chilling cold that sends every mouse, mole, and other small rodents into hiding. The bitterly cold weather meant that rain puddles, streams, drainage ditches, fish ponds and any other possible source of drinking water was frozen solid. The handsome brown tabby cat knew he would eventually have to venture out beyond his nest in the woods to look for food and water. The winter had been hard on him, and he'd lost a lot of weight trying to survive. Now he was cold, hungry and thirsty.

By mid-morning he'd set out from his make-shift home in the woods in search of something to eat and drink. Luckily, the little cat found a drainage ditch that was mostly frozen except for a small pool of water on top of the ice. He ventured out onto the icy surface to take a drink when the unthinkable happened: he fell through the ice into the semi frozen water below. Mercifully, the water wasn't over his head and he was able to pull himself out, however, he was soaked to the skin. The high temperature for the day was just 15 degrees, and the tabby's body temperature dropped quickly as hypothermia set in. His legs stiffened and locked underneath him as the coldness spread further into his body. The little cat was still next to the drainage ditch when the two dogs found him. The dogs had been around cats before and those cats had interacted with them.

This cat just laid there, unresponsive. Curious, the dogs drew closer to sniff him, and accidentally rolled him over. Although the cat was terrified, he couldn't move his legs to run away.

It wasn't long before the dogs' guardian noticed that her dogs were investigating something unusual. Once she realized that it was a cat that for some reason was not reacting to her two large dogs, she knew there was a problem. She called her dogs away from the defenseless cat. Knowing that Rude Ranch was close by she called asking for help. By now the cat had become so cold that he was almost in a coma. It didn't take much effort to grab the cold and terrified cat and put him into a carrier for



*Popsicle the cat is now in from the cold*

the trip to Rude Ranch. As soon as the tabby cat arrived, we began to slowly warm him. At first his body temperature was so low that it didn't even register on the thermometer. He was also severely dehydrated, emaciated and anemic from lack of water and food. After several hours of warmed fluids and rest on covered heating pads, his body temperature started to rise. As his temperature rose he regained use of his legs, and was able to move very slowly.

A few hours later we offered him a small amount of food and water, which he quickly consumed. Once satiated, he fell into a deep, restful sleep. It would take several days before his temperature reached 101.5, which is normal for a cat.

*Continued on page 7*



## 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.

We are touched and excited about all the support shown for Rude Ranch's spay/neuter clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. During its first full year of operation we spayed/neutered over 5,000 cats, dogs, rabbits and even an opossum! The clinic is available to anyone who needs to spay or neuter a dog, cat or rabbit. Last year, Maryland shelters and animal control agencies were forced to euthanize more than 45,000 companion animals due to a lack of homes and space in local shelters. We can dramatically reduce this number if everyone pulls together and spays or neuters their pets. Read more about the clinic on page 3!

We had a busy fall fundraising season visiting more than 30 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.

Despite some cold weather, golfers and non golfers alike had a great time at the 5th Annual Putts Fore Mutts Golf Tournament, sponsored by Bacardi, at Queenstown Harbor. After the round of golf, everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner catered by Annapolis Catering.

We had a great turn out for Photo's with Santa again this year. A big thanks to our volunteers who helped at the event, the people who brought their animals to pose with Santa, and to the folks at 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!

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in our 3rd Annual Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley & Coach Bags event, on April 13. 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



CFC #45379



MCC #4650



United Way #9664

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.  
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## The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook One Year Later

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook completed its first full year on December 31st. During 2013 we performed just over 5,000 surgeries and put a lot of animals out of the parenting business. That translates to at least 20,000 unwanted kittens and puppies that won't be born this year. We plan to eventually be able to spay/neuter over 10,000 animals each year at our facility.

One of the more unusual neuter surgeries we performed was an opossum, aka Mr. Possum! He was an orphaned albino opossum from Echos of Nature, a humane education program. After being neutered he moved on to his new career: visiting schools and children's groups to help teach them to understand and respect wild animals.

In addition to the normal spay and neuter surgeries, we received referrals from emergency clinics for emergency spay surgeries that their clients could not afford. Most of these are related to infected reproductive organs in female cats and dogs. Their chance of survival without the emergency surgery is close to zero. We were able to offer an alternative to euthanasia by performing these surgeries at a much reduced cost. We are extremely grateful for their referrals and the opportunity to help these animals.

While the full service and emergency clinics do an incredible job and give additional services and follow-up care above and beyond what we offer, we do provide an option to those who cannot afford the surgery otherwise. Thanks to our generous donors and grants from PetSmart Charities, we have state of the art anesthesia and monitoring equipment that makes these more complicated surgeries possible at our facility. That, combined with our skilled veterinarian and compassionate medical staff, allows us to help those that otherwise would have no options.

We also have a program where individuals, groups and corporations can partner with us to help solve the pet



Our first opossum neuter!

overpopulation problem. Several individuals and foundations have donated to sponsor a day at our clinic. With a \$1,000 donation, we can fund an entire day to target specific colonies of feral cats. With the help of sponsored days like these we can provide our services to spay or neuter animals that would otherwise continue to breed.

If you know any individuals, groups or organizations that would like to sponsor a day, please send them our way.

We appreciate everyone's continued support in helping us help the animals in our community. Without your help the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook would not exist. For information, please visit [www.spayspa.org](http://www.spayspa.org).

## Back by popular demand! Rude Ranch's Spring Basket & Bags Bingo

Get your bingo daubers out – Rude Ranch's Spring Basket & Bags Bingo is back and it's better than ever! The date is April 13th, so be sure to mark your calendars. If you've never "bingoed" at a Basket & Bags Bingo before, here's how it works:

For the low admission price of \$20 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 filled with all kinds of useful gadgets! The doors open at noon on April 13 and games begin at 1 pm. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch.



The Basket & Bags Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info or to buy tickets go to Rude Ranch's website, [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org), stop by the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook or email Rude Ranch at [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).

## Xena, an Update!

Xena was a pretty orange tabby living on her own just outside of Annapolis last summer. A kind family in the local neighborhood fed her and kind of looked out for her. One day she needed more help than they could give when she arrived in their yard with an arrow through her chest.

Fortunately for Xena, the arrow missed all of her vital organs and her injuries healed without too many problems. Although she did test positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), she was soon spayed, vaccinated and adopted into a home in Towson, MD.

We are happy to report that Xena is flourishing in her new home, which is on the 17th floor! She was very scared and shy at first. It was several weeks before she worked up the nerve to go from the master bedroom to the kitchen. However, once she realized she was safe and there were lots of toys, there was no stopping her.



*After surviving an arrow through her chest, Xena is now enjoying some well-deserved TLC*

A sleepy and frustrated kitty dad called in September saying that Xena was playing so much she woke them up at 3 a.m. every night for a week. She has since settled into a routine and now waits until almost 5 a.m. before waking her humans.

She enjoyed her first Christmas as a 'spoiled' feline and couldn't wait to play in all the ribbons and wrapping paper. She got a Turbo Scratcher, which has a cardboard scratching pad, and a plastic track with a ball that she is using to wake her humans up every morning.

We think Xena will have many more happy adventures with her special humans!

## Project Snip: Helping Homeless Cats in Somerset County, MD

Ever wonder how you can help the stray cats in your neighborhood? How about an entire county of stray cats?

Somerset County, MD is a rural area located one hour south of Salisbury on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Somerset County also has an estimated 8,000 unaltered feral and free roaming cats within its boundaries. Without intervention, the county and surrounding areas would soon be overrun with homeless cats and kittens. Jack Mills, President of the Humane Society of Somerset County, and Sue Nevins, President of Road Runner Rescue wanted to work together to curb the impending over population problem in a non-lethal way. Together with the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and funding from PetSmart Charities we were able to spay/neuter and vaccinate 1,000 cats and kittens in 12 months!

At least once a month, Jack and Sue both make the 134 mile drive from Somerset County to our clinic. They bring between 20 and 40 cats each time. (Our record was 51!) Upon arrival, the cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped (so we know they've already been fixed) then, following a recovery period, make the 2.5 hour trip back home. By the time the day is over, everyone is tired, but happy knowing that there will be far fewer homeless and unwanted cats and kittens next year!



*Spay Spa & Neuter Nook spayed, neutered and vaccinated 1,000 stray cats and kittens from Somerset County in 12 months alone!*



## A Day at Spay Spa & Neuter Nook

Although doing one type of veterinary procedure all day long sounds pretty simple, a lot happens during the day at the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook!

A day at the clinic starts before 7 AM: phone lines are "unforwarded" from our emergency/after hours phones, anesthesia machines are tested, warming blankets and heating pads are turned on to warm up, surgical packs that were sterilized over night are put away, and leftover laundry from the previous day is finished and put away.

Our guests for the day start arriving at 7 AM, and the rush is on! While one person is taking intake information from the pet's human, a vet tech weighs the pet, and labels any carriers, leashes or clothing to make sure it stays with the correct pet during the day. If the pet needs to have blood drawn, he or she makes a quick trip to the prep area before going into a cage. Then its off to the next guest. Oftentimes, the phone will be ringing with calls from people on their way!



*Raven tried her paws at office work but decided that she preferred her life of leisure*

Once the pets are checked in, Dr. Mocko, our surgical vet, arrives and gives every guest an exam to make sure the pet is healthy enough for surgery. After their exam, dogs are given a light sedative to help them calm down (called pre-medicine). We're then ready for surgery. The first dog is given an injection of anesthesia (induced) and put on an anesthesia machine. He/she is hooked up to a device that monitors heart rate, breathing and how much oxygen is flowing through the body. Any needed vaccines are given at that time. From there the "prep" (shaving, surgical scrubbing) starts, then its into the surgery suite! Once on the operating table, a fresh drape, and surgical pack are opened and Dr. Mocko is ready to start.

As soon as one pet enters surgery, preparation starts on the next one. By the time Dr. Mocko is finished with one pet, the next one is ready and she just needs to re-glove and start. The vet techs take the altered pet from the surgery area to recovery. There, the pet's vitals are closely monitored until he or she wakes up. Once awake, the pet is moved back to the holding area where we keep a close watch! The pet is with us for at least 3 hours after surgery.

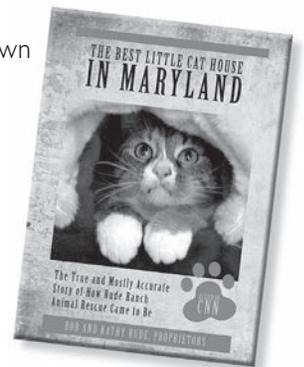
This cycle goes on until the last pet is spayed or neutered, and the clean up begins! All surfaces are scrubbed and sanitized, all surgical instruments are hand scrubbed and put through a sonicator before being wrapped into surgical packs and sterilized. All floors are scrubbed with hospital grade disinfectant. As each pet is picked up, his or her bedding is then laundered in a soap/bleach mixture.

Explicit discharge instructions are given to each pet's human as he or she is picked up. Any and all questions about the procedure are answered and the pet is sent home with the knowledge that he or she will never contribute to the pet overpopulation problem!

## 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.



Available at [www.RudeRanch.org/wordpress/shop/](http://www.RudeRanch.org/wordpress/shop/) and Amazon.com. The proceeds of each purchase go right back to the furry residents of Rude Ranch.



## Ask Tommy: Advice from Our Feline to Yours

Welcome to the latest 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 of you 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 spokescat. At the ripe old age of 16, he's now "writing" this column to pass his wisdom on to the next generation of felines.

Dear Tommy,

*I thought I had complete control of this house! I was the only cat and liked it that way. There were other cats living outside, but they didn't come in. Now my people are putting boxes outside and catching these cats. They go away for a day then come back and stay in MY house. These intruders are staying a couple of days then go back out! Then it starts over again with a new intruder! What gives? Are these intruders going to invade my home again?*

*Sincerely, Invaded*

Dear Invaded,

Relax! You are still the top feline in your home! What your humans are doing is called TNR or trap/neuter/release. They are doing it to help the homeless and feral cats outside your house have a better life.

The boxes you see your humans putting out are called humane traps. The humans put really yummy food in them and when the cat goes in to get the food, a door shuts behind it. The humans take the cat to a spay/neuter clinic. Once there, other humans spay her (or neuter him), give it a rabies vaccine, and cut a little tip off the ear (I'll explain that later). At the end of the day, your human picks the cat up so he or she can eventually go back to living outside. The reason your humans can't let the cat back out immediately is because it's still groggy from the anesthesia. When the cat is back outside it needs to be fully awake and alert so it can keep itself safe from harm. It takes about 24 hours before the cat is ready to go back out.

You see, once these feral cats are fixed and vaccinated, they won't be able to make more homeless cats and they won't suffer injuries fighting with each other. The vaccines protect them from diseases like rabies. The tip of the cat's ear is snipped off while it is asleep, so the cat doesn't feel a thing. It's called eartipping and is a universal sign that a cat has been fixed. Some people think it disfigures the cat, but as you know us felines are gorgeous with or without the tip of an ear. Besides, it's better to go through life missing the tip of your ear than having to make another trip to the vet clinic!

Your Pal,  
Tommy



## Rude Ranch/Spay Spa & Neuter Nook

### Volunteer Spotlight: Norma Behlke

If you call the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook on a Tuesday or Thursday, chances are you will talk to Norma, one of Rude Ranch's and the Spay Spa's long time volunteers! (And if you've ever had the Hot Milk Cake at our Basket Bingo, you've tasted some of Norma's work!)

Norma and her husband Charlie first started volunteering with Rude Ranch in 2003. Back then they helped scoop and feed the furry residents and fostered a litter of kittens. Once their great grandchildren were old enough, they started bringing them to help too! A Longaberger Basket collector herself, Norma helped organize our first Basket Bingo, and still makes sure that our bake sale table is well stocked.

Norma and Charlie became fixtures here at Rude Ranch until, sadly, Charlie was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2012, and passed on in January 2013. He is missed by all who knew him. Since then Norma joins us every Tuesday and Thursday to help run the front office at the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, patiently explaining different vaccines, surgery options and how to trap feral cats to our clients.

Rude Ranch and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook are able to help many animals thanks to the support and help of great volunteers like Norma!



Continued from page 1

Initially he had some neurological damage from the cold: he was unable to see and we weren't sure if it was his eyes or a brain injury. He also had some hearing loss. Fortunately, his hearing returned in a week. Eventually, he was able to detect movement with his eyes.

Our next problem: what to name him? We started out with Bubba, Bubba Dude and Dude. Popsicle, Olaf (from the movie frozen) and Kristoff were also suggested. As he grew stronger, we were able to start him on vitamins and supplements for his anemia. Before long his fur began to fill in and his body weight improved.

Although it took over a month, he recovered enough to have blood tests done to determine if the severe hypothermia permanently damaged his kidneys and liver. Thankfully, his internal organs suffered no long lasting damage. However, he did test positive for both FIV and FELV. (Feline Aids and Feline Leukemia). We realize his double positive status will make it very difficult to find a home for him. For now, he's settling into one of the permanent resident areas of the sanctuary.

Don't forget! During the winter, access to fresh, clean, unfrozen water is one of the hardest things for any animal. If you live in a rural area, put clean, unfrozen water out for the local wildlife. Also, even if it is only a small area, check to make sure nothing has fallen through the ice in times of extreme cold.

## 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 many of the feral and abused cats are still hoping for a sponsor.



*Sponsor Dakota and make him smile!*

When you sponsor, we'll send you an adoption certificate, with pictures and history of the cat you choose. We'll 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 email [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).

### 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](mailto: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.



## New! Rude Ranch T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

Show your support for Rude Ranch Animal Rescue by wearing one of our new T-shirts or sweatshirts! In new colors! The proceeds go right back to the care of our residents.



Rude Ranch T-shirts and Sweatshirts make purrfect holiday gifts!

### T-shirts

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

### Sweatshirts

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

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

## Immediate Needs/Wish List

- Jumbo size litter boxes
- Canned cat food
- Canned dog food
- Volunteers
- Paper Towels
- Paper Plates

## RudeRanch.org's new look!

The Rude Ranch website has a totally new look! It still has bios and pictures of our permanent furry employees and the original Adventures in Rescue stories, but with a new and streamlined look! Go to [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) to check it out!

Want to know what our residents are doing everyday? You can find out what's happening on our Facebook pages! You can even get direct opinions from Miniature Pinscher Bunny and the infamous Tommy Tomcat!

[www.Facebook.com/RudeRanch](http://www.Facebook.com/RudeRanch)

[www.Facebook.com/SpaySpaandNeuterNook](http://www.Facebook.com/SpaySpaandNeuterNook)

[www.Facebook.com/Ceasarrude](http://www.Facebook.com/Ceasarrude)

[www.Facebook.com/TommyTomcat](http://www.Facebook.com/TommyTomcat)

## Special Thanks To:

Drs. Harrison, Roller,  
Hershey and staff at  
Belair Animal Hospital

Dr. Amy Carney  
Our adoptive families  
PetSmart Charities  
Petco Foundation  
Pet Valu Stores

Our volunteers  
Our many contributors  
Barb M. and the gang at  
Crofton MinuteMan Press  
The Michele and Agnese  
Cestone Foundation  
The Bernice Barbour  
Foundation

United Way #9664



MCC #4650



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Rude Ranch Animal Rescue



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