



YEAR END NEWSLETTER

First, I would like to personally thank you for supporting our sanctuary this past year - whether it was by donating money, by following us on social media, volunteering, visiting, encouraging with kind words, or any combination of these. I really cannot thank you enough! What a year it has been!!!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

Our biggest milestone and "game changer" of the year was receiving status as a **Registered Charitable Organization**!! After almost a year of preparing documents and two rounds of revisions, the final 150-page application was accepted by the CRA Charity Directorate (the date of registration was February 2, 2022). Being able to give out tax receipts is a significant incentive for people to donate to the sanctuary and it also allowed us to join donor platforms including Canada Helps, PayPal Giving Fund, Benevity, and Facebook.

We rescued more farm animals! Currently, we have 48 residents and this year, we had the capacity, both in terms of finances and physical space to give a forever home to 25 new residents: two lambs, two mini-goats, four ducks, two hens, two pigs, and twelve rabbits (from Rabbitats, a rabbit rescue organization in the Lower Mainland). For our residents, we also made several infrastructure improvements with our own personal funds (referring to my husband and myself). Before winter set in, we built an extension to the cow shelter to accommodate our five steers that outgrew the original structure, as well as built insulated houses for the ducks and pigs. Last spring, we fenced three more acres on our upper property to give the cows and horses more grazing areas. We also personally financed a tractor, as it went from being on our wish-list to a necessity as we transitioned to buying round bales and dealing with way more poop! We also launched a **Sponsorship Program** to bring in extra funds to care for our residents and it is a unique way for people to develop a special connection with one of them.

With the further easing of COVID restrictions, we were able to launch our **Volunteer Program**, and over the year, over twenty people volunteer on a one-time or regular basis, assisting with the animal care, website development/maintenance, and administrative tasks. We also partnered with a community organization for at-risk youth who are interested in volunteering here with a support worker. We even had a couple of university students (with vet tech experience) who hope to get into veterinary school occasionally help and recently, a veterinarian from Australia started volunteering weekly while she gets her license to practice in BC. Although my husband, myself, and stepson continue to do most of the work on the sanctuary (seven days/week, unpaid) having volunteers has been a huge help in caring for the residents!

We launched our **Humane Education Program**, which included piloting a series of **Virtual Story Time with the Animals** last winter and **Kid's Kindness Camps** in August, as well as had our first **School Field Trip** visit the sanctuary. I also gave three outreach presentations to the summer camps ran through the SPCA (Kamloops Branch). It has been a wonderful experience to see the residents through children's eyes as well as promote kindness to farm animals!

From April to September, there was a regular flow of week-end **Sanctuary Tours** of individuals or small group. Tours continues to be one of the most impactful ways for people to meet and interact with the residents, hear their stories, learn more about farm animal welfare issues, and hopefully inspire others to make more compassionate and cruelty-free lifestyle choices.

Our main **Community Events** included hosting **Vegan Potlucks** from April to October, and we co-hosted our first **Art and Appies Workshop**. We also held two successful fundraisers at **Easter** (including our first small-scale silent auction) and for **Giving Tuesday**, which helped to bring in extra funds. We also held smaller fundraisers such as **\$5 Fridays** and raised urgent funds to build a pig house before winter. A couple of followers held even personal birthday fundraisers for us and donated the proceeds to the sanctuary, which was an incredibly kind gesture.

LOSSES AND CHALLENGES OF 2022

There are many times of immense joy and reward involved in rescuing animals, expanding, and reaching milestones, there are also many times of great sadness in running a sanctuary. The hardest, by far, is dealing with the death of beloved residents. This year, one of our rescued lambs ("Babba" Skye; April 2, 2022-September 15, 2022) who was born premature and struggled with unmanageable parasite issues unexpectedly experienced a rapid health decline (because of her compromised immune system) and euthanasia was the only compassionate option for her. And sadly, one of our peacocks (Elvis) who came with the property when we purchased it, disappeared without a trace and a full search of the property and neighborhood failed to find any evidence of him.

We have also continued to adjust our lives around regularly having to respond and adapt to sudden unexpected stressors and to not expect things to go as scheduled or as planned.... everything from our water line (literally our lifeline!) freezing last January and this past December when the temperatures dropped below -30 degrees C, to taking care of sick animals, making urgent vet visits, to getting through the wildfire season (which thankfully did not affect us last summer), and countless more incidents! Although running a farm sanctuary is a 24/7 operation and is incredibly hard-work and stressful with a lot of tears, sweat, and worry, we could not imagine doing anything else!

GOALS FOR 2023!!

Next year, we have the physical capacity to rescue 1-2 more sheep as well as a few more hens/ducks. With our own personal funds, we will be building a much-needed hay barn (extending the cow shelter gave us good construction practice and it does not seem so daunting now). Smaller projects will include expanding/renovating the rabbit house (for 20 rabbits!) as well as the goat, horse, and chicken shelters, as well as completing other minor upgrading and the usual repairs (typically fences that the goats and cows break!).

We will also expand our Volunteer Program and Sanctuary Tours to include more community organizations (e.g., to offer company team-building days; to encourage vulnerable groups to visit, such as at-risk youth and youth/adults with disabilities, to pilot a Respite Day for people experiencing grief and trauma). We plan to also offer Kid's Kindness Camps through the summer and advertise school field trips. With more volunteers, we can also expand our Easter fundraiser, host our first Christmas In July fundraiser, as well as offer more community events (e.g., Vegan Potlucks, Art and Appies workshops).

We rely on the community to help care for our residents and to promote compassion to farm animals and we hope you can continue to support our farm animal sanctuary in whatever way and means you can. Thank you again!

Kind regards,

Jaye Dueck, Sanctuary Founder and Executive Director