

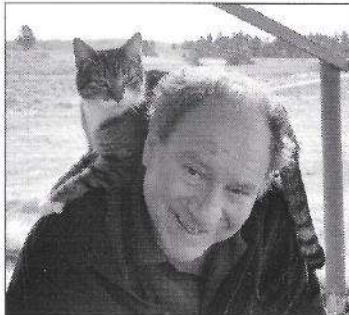


Words of Kindness

Kindness Ranch Quarterly • Summer 2018

Message from the President

Family Values, Four Legs and a Tail



For many years, my parents, who live in New Jersey, have been hearing me talk about the Kindness Ranch. I would call them on Monday mornings and tell them that I had just come back from a delightful visit. I would tell them I saw the most miraculous night sky. I would send them photos of me playing with the animal residents. I would describe the comfortable lodging and the friendly staff. Finally, it happened. My parents came to visit me

and we drove up to the ranch.

The next day we met all the dogs and cats. Within minutes, my mom began scheming about how she would bring Ruby or Pearl home with her. She has always wanted grandchildren but perhaps a Kindness Ranch dog would be love enough for her.

Our extraordinary Executive Director, Bev Benoit, and I had a meeting about ranch business while my parents got a tour of the rest of the facilities. They were truly impressed with the work we do.

"How does a place like this pay its bills?" my parents asked. Through the generous donations of people across America who support our work, I explained. "Where do all these animals come from?" I told them they were released from testing labs and get their second chance at life after our staff rehabilitates them and teaches them how to be good companions.

My intention in telling you this story is

to invite you and your family to do the same as my parents. Please visit us and let the place where so much healing occurs bewitch you. Let the wildness of rural Wyoming remind you of a simpler time. Let the innocence of the animals in our care melt your heart. Perhaps you will fall in love with a special somebody and your family will grow — by four legs and a tail.

In closing, if you cannot visit in person, please remember that you can help the former research animals at the ranch in other ways: By friending us on Facebook, making a one-time tax-deductible donation, or becoming a monthly Kindness Caregiver.

Our ability to give animals formerly used in product testing and medical research the chance to be happy, free and cared for by a loving family depends on the kindness of supporters like you.

—Daniel "Oyster" Ziskin, President

Ranch Residents Report

Pampering Our California Senior Beagles

We received nine beagles from a California laboratory in mid-May. They are older males, ranging from seven to eight years-old. Clint, Steve, Tony, Gus, Victor, Hank, Phil, Bruce and Donald were all subjects in the same studies.

My heart sinks when I think about what they went through: For at least the past seven years, these lovely dogs have languished in the confines and constraints of a testing facility. No running in a field

or playing catch every day. No snuggling in bed with a loved one. No rolling in the grass or chasing butterflies.

It was a long trip from California to Wyoming and when they got back to the ranch — thirsty, fearful and exhausted — we knew these dogs were in need of immediate help.

We were seeing what happens when you are a lab subject for seven years — put through endless routines, poked with needles



CLINT, STEVE, TONY and GUS — four of the nine recent arrivals from a testing facility in California — enjoy their new-found freedom at the ranch.

(continued on page 3)

Hope Lives in Our Hearts

BY BEVERLY BENOIT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last year, the Kindness Ranch received four foals and two yearlings from a research facility. The two mares were pregnant, which we did not discover until they were far along. When one of the mares, Susanne, gave birth it looked like everything was going well ... and then the foal crashed. She was immediately taken to the vet for treatment. She was back at the ranch the next day, being given antibiotics, probiotics and anti-diarrhea medications around the clock.

The foal improved but two days later she crashed again, this time during a horrible winter storm. We immediately took her back to the vet. By the time we got there, she was very cold. We laid her on a large dog bed. I sat by her and massaged her body, willing her to keep going and not give up the fight.

As I rubbed her little face she looked up and I knew suddenly that her name was to be Hope, because her eyes were filled with hope. We sat this way for a long time as she gradually warmed up, her head in my lap while I massaged her. The love I felt for her was immense. She trusted me to do the right thing for her. We had to make it through this.

But Hope was very sick, and the vet warned me that she had only a small chance of recovering. The vet stayed with Hope the entire weekend, giving her plas-

ma, milk replacer and medications. By Monday she was bouncing back. Even so, the vet didn't want to send her home in case she had another downturn. When I visited Hope again, I called her name and she came right over, full of life. Her turnaround was remarkable.

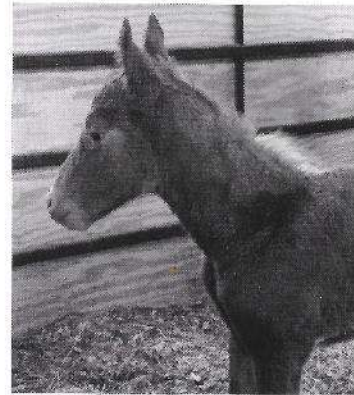
The vet needed to run more tests, but she cautioned that the extra tests and boarding would bring her bill up to about \$7,500. Our Board of Directors and staff didn't hesitate and said go ahead.

Hope's test results were improving every day. The vet called on Saturday to say that she thought Hope would be ready to come home soon. Then, on Monday, I got the worst news I could imagine: Hope's little body couldn't fight off the infection and it had settled into her joints. Her hoof capsule had come off. Our vet reached out to schools in Colorado, Kentucky and Texas but we knew what the prognosis meant: Hope had reached the end of her journey.

I sat with Hope as she made the journey across the Rainbow Bridge. We left Hope's body with her mother, Susanne, for a few hours so she would know that her foal was gone. As I write this my eyes still fill with tears. Hope may have had a short life, but she was well-loved, and well cared for.

Blondy, our second pregnant mare, was at a surgical hospital in Colorado waiting to foal. She went into labor and tried valiantly to give birth, but medical intervention was necessary. The veterinary team did their best, but the colt was still-born. I hung my head when I heard this news as well.

At Kindness Ranch, we have so many success stories. We see depressed and timid former research animals blossom into the lives they deserve. Sometimes, though, we suffer losses. It is painful to pour your heart and soul into an animal, to will them to keep going, to encourage them to stay strong, only to see them lose



HOPE the foal may have had a short life, but she was well-loved and well cared for from beginning to end.

A MATTER OF TRUST

The Kindness Ranch receives former research animals from universities, medical schools and private laboratories on condition of strict anonymity or with an agreement to reveal only limited details. This arrangement protects the institutions we work with and helps us reach out to even more animals in need.

the fight. When they don't make it, our hearts break.

After Hope's passing, I went home and hugged my dogs. They looked up at me with their bright eyes, letting me know it will be okay, and asking us to keep fighting for the rest.

**Ranch Residents Report
continued from page 1**

dles, isolated from "normal" life and subjected to whatever tests were deemed necessary. These gentle beagles were extremely timid and depressed. Some weren't eating. Some didn't even want to sniff their food. Our veterinarian put each of them on an IV drip to keep them hydrated. She commented that she'd never seen dogs in this bad a shape. They looked old and tired, as if they had given up on life.

But after two months of loving care, they have improved enormously. Joy is beginning to shine in their eyes. They act like puppies when they chase insects in the dog run, when they sample the air for exciting new aromas, when they drift off in a sun-filled nap. Each of them is becoming more affectionate, less afraid, more dog-like and less robotic. They know



Gentle PHIL has all the charms and skills he needs to be someone's special pal. Is he waiting for you?

they are now safe and loved.

A quick kiss from one of these recovering beagles when you kneel to pet them is the nicest reward you can ask for. When you see a dog go from staring blankly at a ball to playfully bounding after that ball, you realize that their hard days are behind them and there is only love and light ahead. What each of them need now is a loving home of their own.



HANK may not be as fast and nimble as he used to be, but he's ready to play at a moment's notice.

There are many more deserving residents at the Kindness Ranch who would just love to be adopted. Can you open your heart and home to a deserving animal who was once used in product tests or medical experiments? If so, please contact the Kindness Ranch at (307) 735-4177 or info@kindnessranch.org.

Where Are They Now?

Eight Residents Find Forever Homes

Sapphire was adopted by a family with three children, two cats and two dogs — a big sister lab/shepherd cross and a little brother chihuahua mix. She's already in love with her busy new household.

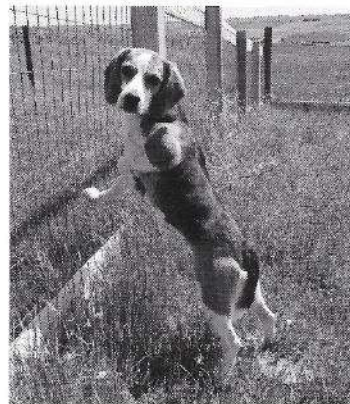
Last month, Amethyst the beagle and kitty-resident Louise left together to live with a woman who has experience with timid and shy dogs and cats. No more blood tests or pharmacology experiments for these two!

Those former research animals and six more — Jade, Apple, Rudy, Pearl, Buddy and Grammar — were adopted over the last couple of months after short stays at the Kindness Ranch.

Here are a few photos to remember them by ...



Her previous life as a pharmacokinetic drug tester isn't stopping APPLE from enjoying her forever home. She and her new guardian are still learning each other's behaviors and trying each other's patience a little, but she's adjusting well.



Jade, now named LUNA, is adjusting well to her new guardians. Luna and her new beagle brother, Moose, who was adopted from the Kindness Ranch years ago, are already the best of friends.

PEARL was also adopted after a short stay at the ranch. She was here for about a month after her release from flea and tick product tests.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Kindness Ranch

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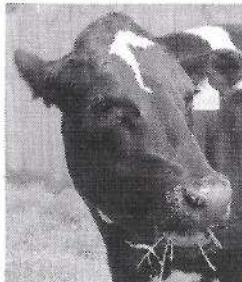
VALENTINE wants you to know that, every day, the Kindness Ranch staff takes care of 60 or more former research animals like her.

Can you donate \$20.00 a month — that's 66 cents a day — to help former research animals like Valentine? For less than the price of a daily cup of coffee, you can keep her and our other residents safe at the ranch and help us find them forever homes.

These cows, horses, cats, dogs, pigs and sheep will be "udderly" grateful for your support for as long as they live.

Your monthly, tax-deductible donation will help us give refugees from research like Valentine nutritious food, top-quality veterinary services, loving care — and forever homes whenever we can.

Please become a monthly Kindness Ranch Caregiver via Paypal, or your credit card or checking account. No matter how small or large your gift, every dollar helps us meet their daily needs and be ready for emergencies.



THE KINDNESS RANCH IS ONLINE

Check out the Kindness Ranch at our website, kindnessranch.org, and on our Facebook page, at facebook.com/kindnessranch.

And we just got a Twitter page up and running <https://twitter.com/kindness-ranch>

Please share our page with your friends—we're always looking for new fans!

As an IRS charitable organization, the Kindness Ranch depends on your tax-deductible contributions. Our Federal ID number is 84-1561923. Please give generously.

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