A Wobbly Start!

As soon as the tiny orange and white ball of fluff was born, his mom knew he would be a special kitten. His dark bull’s eye markings contrasted well with his white paws and chest. Even though this mom cat was homeless and living in the woods, she was going to take good care of her kitten. It probably didn’t take long for her to figure out how special he was. This little guy was born with cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological birth defect which affects a cat’s motor skills. That didn’t matter to this momma kitty... all she knew was that her little one was going to have a hard time surviving on his own. Turns out this was a tough little kitten.

When he was a few weeks old, she must’ve started teaching him how to survive; she taught him how to hide himself in small cave-like places. She also taught him to immediately puff up and hiss at dogs. Despite his mom’s excellent care, the kitten was very weak and malnourished. As much as she tried, there was no way the little kitten would ever be able to forage for food himself. His mom knew she wouldn’t be able to take care of him forever. Although he was only a few weeks old, the kitten’s future seemed bleak.

One day, the kitten took a chance. His mom had carefully hidden him among some foliage while she looked for food. We don’t know if the kitten sensed a kind stranger, or got bored, but he wobbled out from his hiding place, almost directly across the path of a caring cat savvy person. His rescuer, was a community cat colony caregiver and was checking the area around her colony when she found the little kitten struggling to walk through the woods. She quickly recognized that he needed help and scooped him up. Even though he was terrified, he sensed that she was trying to help him and relaxed in her arms. The kitten and his new human friend immediately went to Rude Ranch’s clinic, The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for help.

Even though the kitten was little more than a pound of skin and bones, Rude Ranch Executive Director Bob Rude could tell the kitten was a fighter. Even though he could hardly hold his head up due to malnutrition, Bob could tell this kitten wasn’t giving up. Bob agreed to personally care for this little guy until he was healthy. The kitten spent the rest of the day at the clinic, sleeping soundly on a blanket in Bob’s office, and made the trip to the Rude Ranch sanctuary that night. Once back at Rude Ranch the kitten moved into a crate... because he was severely malnourished and his digestive tract wasn’t used to “kitten” food, he needed multiple small meals throughout the day. While his little body

Continued on page 7
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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,

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Executive Director

Wanted: Volunteers!

Do you want to help animals? Do you want to talk to other people that are helping animals? Do you have a few hours between 8 am and 3 pm Monday - Friday? We Want You! The Rude Ranch Sanctuary, Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and SAVECats all have a variety of volunteer positions. Email us at info@ruderanch.org for more info!

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adjusted to the food, we made sure he didn’t eat more than a few bites at one time. He also had to learn how to “eat” his food. He was so wobbly, he often missed the food dish with his mouth! After many failed attempts over the next few days, he got strong enough to eat on his own.

This kitten’s next challenge was walking and running. Between hiding and poor nutrition, the kitten’s already impaired neurological system hadn’t really developed and his muscles were very weak... his legs could barely support the weight of his body. He needed intensive physical therapy to build up his muscles and learn how to navigate. Fortunately, we had two excellent assistants: Sigfried and Simpson, a pair of 3 month old kittens with a lot of energy that were driving Rude Ranch’s older residents crazy.

Although Sigfried and Simpson got the better of the kitten at first, it didn’t take long for the little guy to get the hang of their games and soon he was figuring out how to walk, run, and wrestle with the other kittens. After a while, the kitten started initiating and chasing Sigfried and Simpson, resulting in some interesting collisions with other cats.

By now it was obvious the kitten needed a name. We went to the Internet and asked for ideas. There were many good ones, ranging from Bowie (where he was found), to Ziggy and Stardust (in honor of the late David Bowie) to Marmalade and Butterscotch. In the end, Pumpkin Wobbles won out.

Fortunately, Pumpkin Wobbles’ early struggles have mostly resolved. He has even mastered jump/dimming onto the couch but needs to learn how to traverse stairs. He still runs and hides in his “safe” bed when he is frightened, but is usually the first cat to come out for treats or dinner. He still dislikes dogs, which he continues to explain to the Rude Ranch dogs on a daily basis.

Do You Shop at Amazon.com?

Did you know you can shop Amazon.com and help Rude Ranch at the same time? AmazonSmile will donate .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! Go to Smile.Amazon.com, sign up and start shopping!

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 derive more of your donation toward the animals by including your zip code in email.

 Dedicated to The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals
Rude Ranch Animal Rescue
3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20774 • 410-798-9559 • www.RudeRanch.org
SPRING 2019, VOL. 19, NO.1
**SAVECats: A Little Extra Help**

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Fortunately, the kitten now affectionately named One Eyed Jack came through the surgery with no complications. He even left his stitches alone when he woke up! Although he needed a couple extra days to recover, Jack is doing great and now runs and plays with his barn mates.

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**#47**

Number 47 was a young adult kitty that hitched a ride to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook through the group Tip Me Frederick. As soon as we saw him, we knew we had to help him. He had a zip tie around his neck and paw. It had rubbed all the fur off in places and was starting to bury itself in the underlying tissue. Luckily we were able to cut the zip tie away without too many problems. We were able to clean the wounds and put a few stitches in to hold everything closed.

He was given a shot of a long acting anti-biotic and will be back up and performing his duties as a barn cat in no time! Even though he wasn’t too happy about the ride to the Spay Spa, he is happy he went into the trap and made the trip. He was given a shot of a long acting anti-biotic and will be back up and performing his duties as a barn cat in no time! Even though he wasn’t too happy about the ride to the Spay Spa, he is happy he went into the trap and made the trip.

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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.

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**SaveCats**

It’s All in the Timing

When volunteers for Frederick County, MD based Tip Me Frederick collected 57 cats and kittens for their monthly trip to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, they had no idea how critical their timing would be for a certain kitten! Tip Me usually brings 50 - 70 cats to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook every month. We spay/neuter all the cats and they return to their barn homes. Last month the planets aligned for one young kitten and she scored a home with a family!

Willow was born on a farm horse last October. She was one of the cats Tip Me brought several weeks ago. Unfortunately, Willow had an upper respiratory infection and was too sick for surgery. However, just because she was sick didn’t stop Willow from wanting to cuddle and play with everyone that walked by! Even though everyone was busy, Willow was making a lot of friends that day.

It was about mid day when cosmic karma happened for Willow. Head Vet Tech Stephanie got a message from an old friend: her family cat recently died and the whole family was finally ready for another furry family member.

Did she know of a homeless cat or kitten they could adopt? All eyes turned to Willow.

It took a few calls between the Spay Spa, Tip Me and Willow’s farm owner, but everyone agreed, although Willow would have a place in her barn, if she could have a family of her own, the farmer would let her go.

Willow was treated with antibiotics, and given prescriptions to travel to her new home. By now she’d also acquired several toys from the clinic’s toy stash. (She really liked the purple mice with feathers)

Willow camped out with Stephanie for a few hours waiting for her new mom. While she was waiting, Willow picked out several more toys and a bed for her new carrier. By the time Willow’s mom got there, this little kitten was totally exhausted from her big day. Although she stayed awake long enough to fall in love with her new mom, she slept all the way home and has become a much loved and spoiled kitten in her new life!

**Back By Popular Demand! Basket, Bags, Bracelets & More Bingo at Rude Ranch!**

Back and even more ways to win this year! Get your bingo daubers out! Back by popular demand, Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Basket, Bags & More Bingo on April 7! If you’ve never “binged” at a Basket, Bags, Bracelets & More Bingo before, here’s how it works: For the low admission fee of $13 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 great Pandora, or Alex & Ani prize! The doors open at 11 AM on April 7 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 1.

Can’t make it to the Bingo but want to help anyway? You can donate towards one of the prizes! Just send 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!
SAVECats Swings into Action!

SAVECats (Spay And Vaccinate Every Cat) is Rude Ranch’s newest life saving program. It was launched last year and the goal is to spay or neuter every stray/feral/community cat in Anne Arundel County. So far the program is off to a great start! We developed working agreements with the county’s other cat based non profits, developed flyers and posters for the county’s animal control agency, along with an awesome website and Facebook page, and spayed or neutered over 2,000 cats!

The SAVECats program is working with many communities, Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control, and the Spay & Neuter Nook to provide a comprehensive solution to Anne Arundel County’s problems with an overpopulation of stray cats. In addition to encouraging neighborhood cooperation and harmony, SAVECats is having a major impact at the county’s animal control agency. In 2017 the county impounded and euthanized 503 healthy community cats. In 2018, after SAVECats started, the county impounded and euthanized 295 community cats. That is a major impact at the county’s animal control agency. In 2017 the county impounded and euthanized 503 healthy community cats. In 2018, after SAVECats started, the county impounded and euthanized 295 community cats.

As mentioned, the goal of the SAVECats program is to spay/neuter every community cat in Anne Arundel County, MD. Sometimes doing the work to make a big TNR project under SAVECats is like herding cats.

One of the biggest SAVECats projects is happening in Southern Anne Arundel County. It all started over 20 years ago. A couple purchased a farm that came with a couple of cats. Soon after, the next farm over was sold, and the owners left 17 cats behind. (None of the cats were fixed.) Sensing a food source next door, the cats migrated next door. The couple felt sorry for the abandoned cats and started feeding them. Soon all the cats started producing kittens. The couple knew they needed to spay/neuter the cats but could only afford to fix one or two cats at a time. Over the next few years, the population of cats grew faster than the humans could spay/neuter them.

Eventually the farm on the other side went up for sale. The new owners noticed several strays and started feeding them. The cats started migrating between the two farms, producing even more litters of kittens. By now there were over 120 cats on the farms, and several more cats from other adjacent farms were stopping by on a regular basis.

The owners of both farms reached out to SAVECats for help. Fortunately we had humane traps on hand, and funding from the Snyder Foundation for Animals and the Petco Foundation to cover the costs of the surgeries. It took several sessions, many humane traps and some coaxing to catch over 70 cats.

We think this project was a great success: the cats living on the farms are not reproducing (and now have rabies vaccinations); the farm owners do not have litters of kittens and no homes for them.

With your support, we can help even more animals! To donate to help support projects like this go to www.AACsavecats.org.
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SAVECats at Work: Herding Cats Simplified

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The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook Saving Lives One Spay At A Time!

Rude Ranch’s spay/neuter clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook is continuing it’s life saving mission to animals in the Maryland-Virginia region. The clinic has partnered with over 80 animal shelters, rescue groups, SPCAs and TNR groups to provide state of the art spay/neuter surgeries to cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs through the area.

Last year we spayed or neutered 1,370 dogs, 5,332 cats, 3 guinea pigs and 47 rabbits. This puts the total number of surgeries at 40,000 since we opened in October, 2012! We are well on our way to our 50,000th surgery in a few months!

What kind of effect does 40,000 spay/neuter surgeries have in Maryland? Animal shelters and clinics throughout Maryland are starting to see a significant drop in the numbers of homeless and unwanted puppies and kittens that were “accidental” litters. Reducing the number of unwanted animals turned into animal shelters also reduces the overall euthanasia rates and gives the cats and dogs that are in the shelters more time to find a home!

The clinic is available to anyone that wants to have an animal spayed or neutered, regardless of geographical location or income level. For more information or to make an appointment for your pet or stray you’ve been feeding, or to volunteer, call the clinic at 443.607.6496.

Why Does My Pet Need a Dental?

Fluffy or Fido’s visit with the vet is going well, until the veterinarian looks into your pet’s mouth and mentions “he needs a dental”. Why?

Unfortunately, pets can suffer from the same dental problems as humans. As a pet ages, chipped and broken teeth, gingivitis and periodontal disease become more likely. If left untreated, your pet’s health can be affected. Bacteria from gum disease can migrate through the bloodstream, potentially damaging your pet’s heart and kidneys. Likewise, living with a cracked or broken tooth can mean your pet is constantly in pain.

Veterinary dental procedures are very similar to what human dentists do, only your pet will be anesthetized and sleep through the whole thing. Once your pet is asleep the vet will do a thorough mouth exam looking for decaying, or bad teeth that need to be extracted, abscesses, gum problems and making sure there are no lumps or tumors in the mouth. Dental X-rays may be taken to look for problems under the gum line. The vet will remove any decayed or broken teeth using a dental drill. Any signs of gingivitis and periodontal disease will be treated. Depending on the severity this might mean cleaning out the area between the gums and teeth and inserting a long acting antibiotic, root canal or even additional tooth extractions.

When all that is done a dental scaler is used to scrape off plaque and debris followed by a dental polishing. The polishing smooths the tooth surface to prevent bacteria and food particles from sticking to the tooth. Even though your pet may not appreciate the dental at the time in the long run he or she will be happier and healthier!

Trotting For Rude Ranch

Some families celebrate Thanksgiving by watching parades, or playing football before the big meal. This is the second year the neighborhood of Eagles Passages celebrated the Thanksgiving by holding a Turkey Trot 5k fund raiser to benefit Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. Lots of families braved the cold with their dogs (most of the cats did decide to sleep in on this one) to walk/jog or run the 5k through the neighborhood. The first place runners were rewarded with trophies and first pick of the snacks and treats, including Coldstone Creamery Ice Cream!
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Fortunately, the kitten now affectionately named One Eyed Jack came through the surgery with no complications. He even left his stitches alone when he woke up! Although he needed a couple extra days to recover, Jack is doing great and now runs and plays with his barn mates.

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 instead! Your tax-deductible sponsorship of a Rude Ranch long-term resident includes spaying/neuter, spaying/neuter, and 5-7 days of Rude Ranch care. To hold everything closed.

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Executive Director

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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 D.C. area. Our goal is 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 VanSeggern, RB
Director of Shelter Nutrition
Lynn Hopkins
Member at Large

A Wobbly Start! Continued from page 1

adjusted to the food, we made sure he didn’t eat more than a few bites at one time. He also had to learn how to “eat” his food. He was so wobbly, he often missed the food dish with his mouth! After many failed attempts over the next few days, he got strong enough to eat on his own.

This kitten’s next challenge was walking and running. Between hiding and poor nutrition, the kitten’s already impaired neurological system hadn’t really developed and his muscles were very weak... his legs could barely support the weight of his body. He needed intensive physical therapy to build up his muscles and learn how to navigate. Fortunately, we had two excellent assistants: Sigfried and Simpson, a pair of 3 month old kittens with a lot of energy that were driving Rude Ranch’s older residents crazy.

Although Sigfried and Simpson got the better of the kitten at first, it didn’t take long for the little guy to get the hang of their games and soon he was figuring out how to walk, run, and wrestle with the other kittens. After a while, the kitten started initiating and chasing Sigfried and Simpson, resulting in some interesting collisions with other cats.

By now it was obvious the kitten needed a name. We went to the Internet and asked for ideas. There were many good ones, ranging from Bowie (where he was found), to Ziggy and Stardust (in honor of the late David Bowie) to Marmalade and Butterscotch. In the end, Pumpkin Wobblie won out.

Fortunately, Pumpkin Wobblie’s early struggles have mostly resolved. He has even mastered jump/dimming onto the couch but needs to learn how to traverse stairs. He still runs and hides in his “safe” bed when he is frightened, but is usually the first cat to come out for treats or dinner. He still dislikes dogs, which he continues to explain to the Rude Ranch dogs on a daily basis.

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A Wobbly Start!

As soon as the tiny orange and white ball of fluff was born, his mom knew he would be a special kitten. His dark bull’s eye markings contrasted well with his white paws and chest. Even though this mom cat was homeless and living in the woods, she was going to take good care of her kitten. It probably didn’t take long for her to figure out how special he was. This little guy was born with cerebellar hypoplasia, a neurological birth defect which affects a cat’s motor skills. That didn’t matter to this momma kitty... all she knew was that her little one was going to have a hard time surviving on his own. Turns out this was a tough little kitten.

When he was a few weeks old, she must've started teaching him how to survive; she taught him how to hide himself in small cave-like places. She also taught him to immediately puff up and hiss at dogs. Despite his mom’s excellent care, the kitten was very weak and malnourished. As much as she tried, there was no way the little kitten would ever be able to forage for food himself. His mom knew she wouldn’t be able to take care of him forever. Although he was only a few weeks old, the kitten’s future seemed bleak.

One day, the kitten took a chance. His mom had carefully hidden him among some foliage while she looked for food. We don’t know if the kitten sensed a kind stranger, or got bored, but he wobbled out from his hiding place, almost directly across the path of a caring cat savvy person. His rescuer, was a community cat colony caregiver and was checking the area around her colony when she found the little kitten struggling to walk through the woods. She quickly recognized that he needed help and scooped him up. Even though he was terrified, he sensed that she was trying to help him and relaxed in her arms. The kitten and his new human friend immediately went to Rude Ranch’s clinic, The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for help.

Even though the kitten was little more than a pound of skin and bones, Rude Ranch Executive Director Bob Rude could tell the kitten was a fighter. Even though he could hardly hold his head up due to malnutrition, Bob could tell this kitten wasn’t giving up. Bob agreed to personally care for this little guy until he was healthy. The kitten spent the rest of the day at the clinic, sleeping soundly on a blanket in Bob’s office, and made the trip to the Rude Ranch sanctuary that night. Once back at Rude Ranch the kitten moved into a crate... because he was severely malnourished and his digestive tract wasn’t used to “kitten” food, he needed multiple small meals throughout the day. While his little body...