Stowaway!

When Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC essentially shut down in response to the COVID-19 crisis, many people’s lives changed dramatically. People that normally commuted to work everyday were suddenly ordered to stay home or were now unemployed. Likewise, many public transportation options such as the subway, buses and light rail were suddenly closed or deemed unsafe. For many people living in Washington DC that relied on public transportation and didn’t even own a car, the impact of COVID-19 was even greater.

One day in April, a young carless couple from Washington, DC decided to treat themselves; they would rent a car, drive to a park on the Eastern Shore and have a picnic. When they saw the shiny Ford Mustang Convertible in the rental car lot, they knew that was the car they wanted to drive. They had fun driving the car 20 miles or so to a grocery store in Edgewater, MD, where they stopped to pick up a couple of last minute things. The wife went in the store while the husband stayed behind and checked out the car’s stereo system. A few minutes later, Rude Ranch’s overnight caretaker, Allison parked her car next to the Mustang. As soon as Allison got out of her car, she noticed something odd about the Mustang . . . there were a lot of sounds coming from it. Sounds that were not coming from the car’s stereo. These sounds were more like a kitten screaming at the top of its lungs. Allison quickly asked the driver if he had a cat in the car with him. He was pretty sure they didn’t knowingly bring a cat along with them. But still there were distinct cat sounds coming from the car. By now more people heard the cat screaming and were coming to see what was going on. The cat sounds were coming from the back of the car, they eventually found the trunk release and were disappointed that the cat was still meowing, but wasn’t in the trunk. Eventually they found the source of the meows: a small kitten was in the bumper of the car. Now they just had to find a way to get the kitten out of the car without hurting the kitten or destroying the car.

Fortunately, they found a small opening into the bumper that was just big enough for Allison to reach in and retrieve the little guy. The little kitten was very happy to be out of the car bumper and quickly snuggled into Allison’s arms. Although he was dirty and dehydrated, the 5 week old stowaway managed to survive his car ride without any other problems. Allison brought the kitten back to Rude Ranch where he was continued on page 11
A Note from our Executive Director

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter!

We hope everyone is having as good a year as possible and enjoying their pets during this difficult time. Covid-19 has definitely changed how we live our lives and even how we operate Rude Ranch and our clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. We had to shut down completely for six weeks and right in the middle of kitten season. Happily we were able to reopen and are quickly catching up on all the missed surgeries.

I’m also happy to report that our County is approaching a zero percent euthanasia rate thanks to the passing of the community cat bill just 2 short years ago. This led to the creation of our SAVE Cats program which fixes any community cat in Anne Arundel County for free. It also protects community cats from automatic euthanasia. If they are already ear tipped, they can stay in their location and if they are not, the people are given the option to get them fixed, ear tipped, rabies vaccinated, microchipped and returned to their outdoor home.

I am very excited to announce that we have two new board members. Dr. Sandra Andrulis and Dr. Erik Andrulis. They have come on board to help us continue our mission to help people who help animals. They will be running our Spay Spa & Neuter Nook clinic and will eventually take over the entire organization as Kathy and I ease into retirement. We are so grateful that we’ve been able to help animals for the past 25 years and that our legacy will continue into the future under their leadership.

As always, I want to thank all our supporters especially during these difficult times. We would not be able to accomplish our mission without your help and support.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Rude
Executive Director

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.

Stowaway
Continued from page 1

promptly named Otis. Otis quickly decided that living at a sanctuary was a lot nicer than living in a car bumper! Once the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook re-opened, Otis was neutered, vaccinated and given an overall clean bill of health. He soon moved in with some of Rude Ranch’s younger residents, and finding ways to get into trouble with the older residents. (Elder feline Rags was especially unhappy when Otis tried to wrestle her to the ground!)

Otis was now ready to find a home of his own. Soon a perfect family including two children, a dog and a bunny stopped by to meet him. They recently lost their cat to old age and everyone wanted another feline companion. Otis would fit right in!

Otis loves his new kids and furry companions. His family named him Charger, partially for the way he takes off running. He loves to chase the dog throughout the house, then settle in for long naps together.

Thanks to generous people like you we’ve been able to help all of these animals and many more. Your donation will allow us to continue to work toward a day when animals are no longer killed because they are homeless.

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 6 hours of your time can go a long way toward helping our cause.

Name __________________________________________ Address __________________________________________
City __________________________________________ State _______ Zip ___________
Phone ___________ Email**________________________

Please check off: ( ) $25 ( ) $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 Viva logo.

Donate online via 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 decide how your donation toward the animals by reaching our team by email.
Helping the Little Ones

Fuzz was a cute kitten with a couple of problems: his left eye was badly infected and painful and he was one of many cats and kittens living in a barn. Fortunately for Fuzz and the other cats and kittens living in and around the barn, Tip Me Frederick was able to help. Tip Me Volunteers were helping the farm by providing spay/neuter services for the adult cats and finding forever homes for the kittens. As soon as they saw Fuzz, they knew he needed help immediately. They took Fuzz to an emergency vet and got the prognosis: the eye could not be saved and needed to be surgically removed. Fortunately for Fuzz, Tip Me was planning to bring all the adults to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook to be fixed. Would it be possible for Fuzz to have an emergency surgery too?

Fuzz did great with his eye surgery (and got neutered too!). Although his sight is greatly reduced, the pain from the badly infected eye is gone. Fuzz plans to live a long life as a spoiled indoor kitty!

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook: Saving Lives One Spay At a Time

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, Rude Ranch’s High Quality, Low Cost veterinary clinic will be 8 years old on October 16! The clinic is still providing world class service and care to animals in the area.

In response to COVID-19, the Maryland Department of Agriculture ordered all veterinary clinics to stop performing all non-emergency veterinary services, including spay/neuter last March. This forced the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook to close for 9 weeks. The clinic re-opened with many changed procedures at the end of May. Most of the new procedures include curbside drop off and pick up, reorienting our surgery prep areas to allow for more distancing and housing less animals during the day. Thanks to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook many animal controls, shelters and rescues in the area have seen significant decreases in the numbers of homeless, unwanted and accidental litters of puppies and kittens surrendered. As a result, animal controls and shelters no longer need to euthanize as many homeless animals because there is no room for them.

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook is available to anyone that wants to have an animal spayed or neutered, regardless of income level or geographical location. We do have some programs available to low income, senior citizens and disabled veterans for reduced fees. For more information or to make an appointment call the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook at 443.607.6496.

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 donate 5% of your purchases to Rude Ranch (or another registered charity) at no cost to you! It’s simple to sign up and every thing from your existing Amazon.com account will still be there! To get started just go to Smile.amazon.com, sign up and start shopping!

Rescheduled and Back By Popular Demand!

Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo at Rude Ranch!

Our Bags, Bracelets, Baskets and More Bingo was postponed due to COVID-19. However, get your bingo daubers out because we’ve rescheduled! Back by popular demand, Rude Ranch will hold a Fall Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo on November 8! If you’ve never “bingoed” at a Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & 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 Vera Bradley, Coach or Kate Spade Bag, Pandora Jewelry or a Longaberger Basket 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 November 8 and games begin at noon. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch! The Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info 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 21225. Please make sure to mail your check on or before November 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@ruderanchfoundation.org) to Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776, and write Basket Bingo Donation in the memo field!

Sheltering Through The Crisis

The current unprecedented health pandemic has and still is affecting almost every aspect of our lives, from where and how we work, shop, and eat our meals to the organizations that provide help and care for humans and animals. These changes also included the Rude Ranch sanctuary. When the Maryland Government issued “Stay at Home” directives and ordered all non essential veterinary clinics to shut down, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook was easily locked up with out too many worries. However, the 40 - 50 4 legged animals at the Rude Ranch Sanctuary still needed their day to day care. Additionally, all areas of the sanctuary’s operations as a stand by critical care foster and rabies quarantine facility for Anne Arundel Care and Animal Control. When Anne Arundel County owned buildings were directed to close, AACACC asked us to house several additional cats during the shutdown.

We had to make many drastic changes to how the Sanctuary operated. While the sanctuary employees were considered essential and allowed to come to work, there was a limit of how many caregivers were allowed in the building at one time. (One!) Masks were required. Volunteers were definitely not allowed and we were no longer able to let visitors and potential adoptive families see the residents. Likewise, non cash donations (food, bedding, etc.) now needed to be dropped off using “No Contact Delivery” and could not immediately come inside.

Day to day life at Rude Ranch seemed strange at first. Many of the 4 legged residents missed their favorite volunteers and visitors. Eventually the animals and people adapted. We (and several helpful cats) became experts at Zoom meetings. Additional bottles of disinfectant were deployed around the sanctuary. If someone was interested in adopting a cat, we sent videos. Donations were left on a set of shelves by the door. Food and litter deliveries were tossed in the driveway. As an organization, Rude Ranch was able to adapt to the “New Normal” and plans to continue to adapt to changes in the future. We are grateful to everyone that has supported us through this crisis and hope you and your family continues to remain safe and healthy.
Quarantining to a New Life

The two little kittens were barely 7 weeks old and absolutely terrified when they arrived at Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control. The kittens had gotten off to a rough start in life. They were born under a porch when most of Maryland was under strict COVID-19 stay at home orders. Without much human interaction during those early weeks, they had no idea that humans were there to help them.

On intake the kittens were named Jamie and Jessie and entered into the system. Then came the big test: were they adoptable? Someone had to try to hold and pet the kittens to make the determination. The kitten now named Jamie was so terrified she curled up into a ball. Jessie had the opposite reaction and tried to make a run for cover. She curled her little body around and tried to scratch her way free. Even though Jessie didn’t bite, she broke the tester’s skin meaning that she had to either undergo a 10 day rabies quarantine or be tested for rabies, a procedure that is fatal to the animal if it is positive.

Fortunately, the kitten control caretakers chose to quarantine her. Now they had a new problem: part of the COVID-19 shutdown included a ban on spay/neuter. Unfortunately, there was now a study overflow of young kittens coming in and there wasn’t really room to quarantine Jessie for 10 days.

Knowing that Rude Ranch had the capacity to care for animals under rabies quarantine, the agency asked us to help both Jessie and Jamie. The kittens make the trip to Rude Ranch and quickly looked for places to hide. Although Jessie could only have limited contact with us, she watched her sister interact with us over the next few days.

Jessie made it through her quarantine without any problems and with food, treats and a few toys, both kittens started to come around. They will start looking for their forever homes soon.

A Helping Paw

Atti is a semi sweet heart (if she knows you). She was spayed and vaccinated for rabies 6 years ago through a TNR program and was happily living (and working rodent control) in a neighborhood in Severn. One day last April, Atti’s caretaker noticed that she was limping and one front paw was bloody. Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 directives at the time, her caretakers had very few options. Fortunately, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and our SAVCECats program popped up when the caretakers Googled for help. Even though both the clinic and the SAVCECats program were shut down at the time, we were able to bring our veterinarian, Dr. Alison Mocko, and a vet tech in to help Atti.

Once she was sedated, it didn’t take long to find Atti’s injury: the metacarpal (the large puffy pad in the middle of her paw) was almost completely torn off and the underlying tissue was infected. Dr. Mocko was able to drain the infection and needed 8 stitches to re-attach the pad. Atti was sent home with additional antibiotics and strict orders to stay indoors and rest.

Atti stayed in her caretaker’s enclosed sun porch while her injury healed. Ten days later, her metacarpal pad was totally healed and the infection was gone! Atti happily went back to her job patrolling her area. Atti is healthy now and back to rodent control.

Quarantined with a Little Feline Help

Over the years many employees of Rude Ranch and the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook have used the shelter and clinic work experience to move onto other careers. One of our former employees contacted us last March, just before Maryland’s COVID-19 “Stay At Home” orders were implemented. She was going to be laid off from her current job as a dog groomer as part of the shutdown. She recently lost her elderly cat to kidney failure. Would Rude Ranch let her foster a cat to keep her company?

Hutch is enjoying his stint as quarantine companion.

It didn’t take long for Hutch one of Rude Ranch’s best known cuddlers to “cuddle” his way into her heart. Over the next few weeks, Hutch and his new best friend hung out together watching TV, reading and doing projects around the house. He even got used to wearing a harness and leash and started exploring the back yard with her.

Although businesses are slowly restarting, Hutch has decided to stay on as a quarantine companion for another few weeks.

I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It’s not. Mine had me trained in two days.”

Bill Dana, Comedian

Maryland Spay / Neuter Program Saves Lives!

Did you know that Maryland’s Department of Agriculture has been working diligently since 2014 to reduce the number of homeless pets in Maryland’s animal control agencies and shelters? The Maryland Spay and Neuter Grants Program was created from the hard work of a legislative task force led by Former State Delegate Barbara Frush and State Senator Joanne Benson. The results of this task force was signed into law in May, 2013. The spay/neuter program is designed to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs euthanized in shelters across the state by providing grants to local governments and animal welfare organizations that promote and provide spay and neuter services to pets of low income Marylanders and to colonies of feral cats. Since then, the program has funded over $9,250 spay/neuter surgeries. The funds distributed in the grants are paid from fees paid by the pet food industry.

Rude Ranch’s veterinary clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook has provided many spay/neuter surgeries for many pets throughout Anne Arundel County using funds from this grant. (Currently we are offering spay/neuter surgeries to pets that belong to senior citizens in Brooklyn Park and our SAVCECats program). We are also helping several other groups by providing spay/neuter and vaccines to cats and dogs that are located in other locations throughout Maryland.

This program has already shown numerous benefits from significantly decreasing the numbers of dogs and cats euthanized at animal shelters to reducing stress on shelter employees and reducing the costs of running animal controls.

This program has shown many benefits. However, it is still considered a pilot program and is scheduled to end in 2022. To help this program to continue to help thousands of animals, contact your state representatives and encourage him or her to vote to continue this program.
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Orphaned by COVID

Before COVID-19 8 year old Isabella was content with her current situation. She was originally rescued from Baltimore City and living with her rescuer in her home with other cats, dogs and a parrot. The rescuer was a client of Spay Spa & Neuter Nook’s Dr. Kip Imperato’s House Call service. Unfortunately in April, when Dr. Imperato came to the house to provide veterinary care, the rescuer herself was also very sick. Dr. Imperato called an ambulance to take her to the hospital where she later died of COVID.

Her son was overwhelmed by both his mother’s passing and the responsibility of all the animals that were left behind. He asked Dr. Imperato to care for the animals and to help find homes for them. Dr. Imperato asked RRAR to help Isabella, who is a little older and not as likely to find a home. Isabella is settling into her new home at Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, but would love to find a forever home of her own!

Moving On to a Better Life

Mia was a community cat that was featured in our Spring Newsletter. Until a few months ago, Mia lived most of her life scrounging for food behind an Italian Restaurant just off of a busy highway in Bowie, MD. At some point Mia was in an accident, most likely hit by a car and suffered extensive injuries. She had a bad fracture to her front leg. She had an infected de-gloving injury, crushed and dislocated toes on her hind leg. Fortunately, for Mia, she has a loving caretaker that was able to catch her and brought her to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for emergency care. Spay Spa’s Dr. Kip Imperato performed a series of surgical procedures including amputating her crushed toes and removing infected tissue from her leg. He tried to save her front leg by resetting it, but unfortunately, the leg was too badly damaged to ever support her weight. We did have to perform another surgery to amputate the leg. Although she was never a fan of us humans, Mia came through the surgeries and recoveries with no problems. She spent several months at the Rude Ranch sanctuary, for recovery and rehabilitation. Now that she is completely healed, her original caretaker has decided that she will become a rather spoiled housecat, and will spend the rest of her life with him... even though she still doesn’t like humans!

Still in Love

Former Rude Ranchers Tarzan and Dakota still like to nap together. Adopted by Dalla & Barry Conner.

Your Pet and COVID-19

We all know how COVID-19 impacts humans, and that we need to wear a mask, keep social distance, and avoid public places to slow its spread. But how does COVID-19 impact our furry friends? Here, we review data and recommendations from the CDC and AVMA.

Do coronaviruses infect humans and animals?
Yes, coronaviruses infect both groups. However, some coronaviruses infect only people. Canine and feline coronaviruses, on the other hand, do not infect humans. Rarely, coronaviruses that infect animals spread to and between humans. This appears to be what happened with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the current outbreak of COVID-19, with the virus likely originating in bats. The first reported infections were linked to a live animal market.

Can I give my pet COVID-19?
Unlikely, but possible. As of early July, there were 2.9 million cases of COVID-19 in humans, but only 20 animal cases. According to the CDC, cats, dogs, and a few other types of animals can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 by humans. The mode of transmission is unclear and under investigation by CDC, USDA, and state public health and animal health officials.

Can I get COVID-19 from my pet?
According to the CDC, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading COVID-19. Based upon limited available data, there is a low risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people.

What can I do to keep myself and my pet safe? Follow the recommendations of public health officials. Wear a mask. Avoid large gatherings and public restrooms. Wash your hands. Sanitize common-use surfaces. Maintain social distancing. Stay home if you can. If you or your pet are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, get tested. If positive, consult a medical health professional immediately.

https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets

Mark Your Calendars for the Crofton Pet Expo

Stop by the Crofton Village Green on the Crofton Parkway on Sunday, September 20 between 11 am and 5 pm. In addition to lots of fun contests like a canine pie eating contest you can visit with lots of pet based local businesses. Rude Ranch will even be there to provide microchipping services to any pet that needs one (Only $25)

The event coordinated by Jill Weissenbach of Higgins and Friends Pet sitting. Proceeds of the silent auction and some contests benefit Rude Ranch.

Have a pet based business and want to participate? Contact Jill at jill@higginsandfriends.com.

Where Are They Now: Pumpkin Wobbles

Remember Pumpkin Wobbles, the little orphan kitten with severe cerebellular hypoplasia that was found trying to survive in the woods 2 years ago? He is now two years old and doing great! He still doesn’t always go in a straight line to get to his destination but he gets there! Best buddy Indie is his physical therapist and support kitten!

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Her son was overwhelmed by both his mother's passing and the responsibility of all the animals that were left behind. He asked Dr. Imperato to care for the animals and to help find homes for them. Dr. Imperato asked RRAR to help Isabella, who is a little older and not as likely to find a home. Isabella is settling into her new home at Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, but would love to find a permanent home of her own!

Injury to Front Leg

Mia was a community cat that was featured in our Spring Newsletter. Until a few months ago, Mia lived most of her life scavenging for food behind an Italian Restaurant just off of a busy highway in Bowie, MD. At some point Mia was in an accident, most likely hit by a car and suffered extensive injuries. She had a bad fracture to her front leg. She had an infected de-gloving injury, crushed and dislocated toes on her hind leg. Fortunately, for Mia, she has a loving caretaker that was able to catch her and brought her to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook for emergency care. Spay Spa's Dr. Kip Imperato performed a series of surgical procedures including amputating her crushed toes and removing infected tissue from her leg. He tried to save her front leg by resetting it, but unfortunately, the leg was too badly damaged to ever support her weight. We did have to perform another surgery to amputate the leg. Although she was never a fan of us humans, Mia came through the surgeries and recoveries with no problems. She spent several months at the Rude Ranch sanctuary, for recovery and rehabilitation. Now that she is completely healed, her original caretaker has decided that she will become a rather spoiled housecat, and will spend the rest of her life with him... even though she still doesn’t like humans!

Moving On to a Better Life

Isabella would love to find a forever home of her own.

Still in Love

Former Rude Ranchers Tarzan and Dakota still like to nap together. Adopted by Dalia & Barry Conner.

Indie and Pumpkin Wobbles tucking in for a cozy nap.

Moving On to a Better Life

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Mark Your Calendars for the Crofton Pet Expo

Where Are They Now: Pumpkin Wobbles

Remember Pumpkin Wobbles, the little orphan kitten with severe cerebellar hypoplasia who was found trying to survive in the woods 2 years ago? He is now two years old and doing great! He still doesn’t always go in a straight line to get to his destination but he gets there! Best buddy Indie is his physical therapist and support kitten!

Your Pet and COVID-19

We all know how COVID-19 impacts humans, and that we need to wear a mask, keep social distance, and avoid public places to slow its spread. But how does COVID-19 impact our furry friends? Here, we review data and recommendations from the CDC and AVMA.

Do coronaviruses infect humans and animals? Yes, coronaviruses infect both groups. However, some coronaviruses infect only people. Canine and feline coronaviruses, on the other hand, do not infect humans. Rarely, coronaviruses that infect animals spread to and between humans. This appears to be what happened with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the current outbreak of COVID-19, with the virus likely originating in bats. The first reported infections were linked to a live animal market. Can I give my pet COVID-19? Unlikely, but possible. As of early July, there were 2.9 million cases of COVID-19 in humans, but only 20 animal cases. According to the CDC, cats, dogs, and a few other types of animals can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 by humans. The mode of transmission is unclear and under investigation by CDC, USDA, and state public health and animal health officials.

Can F cath COVID-19 from my pet? According to the CDC, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading COVID-19. Based upon limited available data, there is a low risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people. What can I do to keep myself and my pet safe? Follow the recommendations of public health officials. Wear a mask. Avoid large gatherings and public restrooms. Wash your hands. Sanitize common-use surfaces. Maintain social distancing. Stay home if you can. If you or your pet are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, get tested. If positive, consult a medical health professional immediately.


https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets
SAVECats Continues to SAVE Lives!

Like many other programs, our SAVECats (Spay And Vaccinate Every Cat) program was temporarily shut down during the COVID-19 crisis. While we were able to re-start SAVECats, due to current guidelines SAVECats services are restricted. However, we are happy to report that SAVECats is continuing to save lives throughout Anne Arundel County and surrounding areas. The SAVECats program goal is to work with many communities, Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control, local SPCAs, other animal welfare organizations, and the Spay & Neuter Nook to provide a comprehensive solution to Anne Arundel County’s problems with an overpopulation of community cats.

In addition to encouraging neighborhood cooperation and harmony, SAVECats is having a major impact at the county’s animal care and control agency. In 2017 the county impounded and euthanized 503 healthy community cats. In 2019, after SAVECats started, the county impounded and euthanized 241 community cats. That is a 53% decrease! Through SAVECats, the number of healthy euthanized community cats will become 0.

SAVECats Is Ready To Virtually Invade Government Agencies!

There is always so much to do in the Fall: Labor Day, Halloween, Veteran’s Day Thanksgiving, and for many corporate and government employees, it’s the start of the Workplace Giving Campaign Season. Once again Rude Ranch is participating in several Workplace Giving Campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign, Maryland Charity Campaign, the Baltimore Charity Campaign, and the National Capital Area United Way!

If you’ve never heard of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) or the United Way, here’s how it works: If you work for the federal government, state government, or a corporation, you can pick one (Rude Ranch!) or several charities to donate to through payroll deduction. Once you designate Rude Ranch, your agency will deduct your tax deductible specified amount from your paycheck and send it to Rude Ranch. Your generous donations through CFC, MCC and the United Way help us to provide the day to day care, medicine, food and litter to our residents, veterinary care for low income families and spay/neuter surgeries for homeless animals. In these uncertain times, these animals need your help more than ever!

Not a government employee but have a friend or family member who is? Let them know about Rude Ranch. Our Agency numbers are: CFC: 45379, MCC: 52-2312763, United Way: 9664.

Your Legacy Is Your Love For Animals

What legacy would you like to leave the world? As animal lovers, we know the importance of our pets and the care and love for companion animals. Those contributions and that love is your legacy. We at Rude Ranch Animal Rescue want you to share your love with the world for generations to come.

In its 20th year, the Rude Ranch Animal Rescue (RRAR) provides care, respite, and sanctuary for abused, abandoned, and special needs animals in the Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC metro area. Many of these animals receive veterinary care at the RRAR’s animal clinic, Spay Spa Neuter Nook (SSNN). Both RRAR and SSNN has been blessed with and honored by your sustained support through annual and monthly giving campaigns, donations, and virtual sponsorships. Your kindness has directly helped fund spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, microchipping, and other services for homeless animals and for under-resourced community animal caregivers. As a non-profit organization, the RRAR would not be able to help the community of animal lovers without all of your love.

Looking to our future, we think about our shared mission in caring for and loving animals and about how we can build our legacy together. We are building toward the day when no animal is killed for want of home, no animal dies for lack of shelter or food, and no companion animal caregiver goes without veterinary support due to unemployment, indigence, or lack of transportation. With this vision in mind, RRAR is excited to announce its Planned Giving Program, slated to launch in 2021. The goal of this Program is to give our sustained and annual donors a financial mechanism to provide long-term support for our mission, the expansion of our services and served communities, and establish a lasting legacy for you that affirms your love for animals.

Rude Ranch Is Participating In Several Workplace Giving Campaigns

Please look for additional information in forthcoming newsletters and emails. If you are interested in learning more about this Program, please contact Erik Andrulis, Planned Giving Coordinator, at 443-607-6496.

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 $520 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. Right now most of our FIV cats have sponsors, but a lot of the feral and abused cats are still hoping for a sponsor.

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SAVECats

As SAVECats grows, we need more volunteers to help with a variety of tasks from data entry, trapping, transporting cats, and even talking to people about the program. To learn more about the SAVECats program, go to our website at https://aacsavecats.org. If you would like to help, fill out a volunteer form at https://aacsavecats.org/volunteer/. If you would like to donate to this program, go to https://aacsavecats.org/donate/. If you are feeding stray, feral or community cats, or know of a colony of cats, please contact SAVECats at 443.607.2290. The SAVECats program will provide spay/neuter and vaccines for free!

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Helping the Little Ones
Fuzz was a cute kitten with a couple of problems: his left eye was badly infected and painful and he was one of many cats and kittens living in a barn. Fortunately for Fuzz and the other cats and kittens living in and around the barn, Tip Me Frederick was able to help. Tip Me Volunteers were helping the farm by providing spay/neuter services for the adult cats and finding forever homes for the kittens. As soon as they saw Fuzz, they knew he needed help immediately. They took Fuzz to an emergency vet and got the prognosis: the eye could not be saved and needed to be surgically removed. Fortunately for Fuzz, Tip Me was planning to bring all the adults to the Spay & Neuter Nook to be fixed. Would it be possible for Fuzz to have an emergency surgery too? Fuzz did great with his eye surgery and got neutered too! Although his sight is greatly reduced, the pain from the badly infected eye is gone. Fuzz plans to live a long life as a spoiled indoor kitty!

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook: Saving Lives One Spay At a Time
The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, Rude Ranch’s High Quality, Low Cost veterinary clinic will be 8 years old on October 16! The clinic is still providing world class service and care to animals in the area.

In response to COVID-19, the Maryland Department of Agriculture ordered all veterinary clinics to stop performing all non-emergency veterinary services, including spay/neuter last March. This forced the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook to close for 9 weeks. The clinic re-opened with many changed procedures at the end of May. Most of the new procedures include curbside drop off and pick up, reorienting our surgery prep areas to allow for more distancing and housing less animals during the day. Thanks to the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook many animal controls, shelters and rescue groups in the area have seen significant decreases in the numbers of homeless, unwanted and accidental litters of puppies and kittens surrendered. As a result, animal controls and shelters no longer need to euthanize as many homeless animals because there is no room for them.

The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook is available to anyone that wants to have an animal spayed or neutered, regardless of income level or geographical location. We do have some programs available to low income, senior citizens and disabled veterans for reduced fees. For more information or to make an appointment call the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook at 443.607.6496.

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 donate 0.5% 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! Get started just go to Smile.Amazon.com, sign up and start shopping!

Rescheduled and Back By Popular Demand!
Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo at Rude Ranch!
Our Bags, Bracelets, Baskets and More Bingo was postponed due to COVID-19. However, get your bingo daubers out because we’ve rescheduled! Back by popular demand, Rude Ranch will hold a Fall Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo on November 8! If you’ve never “bingoed” at a Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & 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 Vera Bradley, Coach or Kate Spade Bag, Pandora Jewelry or a Longaberger Basket 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 November 8 and games begin at noon. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch! The Bags, Bracelets, Baskets & More Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info 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 21225. Please make sure to mail your check on or before November 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!

Sheltering Through The Crisis
The current unprecedented health pandemic has and still is affecting almost every aspect of our lives, from where and how we work, shop, and eat our meals to the organizations that provide help and care for humans and animals. These changes also included the Rude Ranch sanctuary. When the Maryland Government issued “Stay at Home” directives and ordered all non essential veterinary clinics to shut down, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook was easily locked up with out too many worries. However, the 40 - 50 4 legged animals at the Rude Ranch Sanctuary still needed their day to day care. Additionally, the sanctuary was supported by a phone line of help. As a result, the sanctuary was able to continue to adapt and keep the social distancing and housing less animals during the day. Volunteers were definitely not allowed and we were no longer able to let visitors and potential adoptive families see the residents. Likewise, no cash donations (food, bedding, etc.) now needed to be dropped off using “No Contact Delivery” and could not immediately come inside.

Day to day life at Rude Ranch seemed strange at first. Many of the 4 legged residents missed their favorite volunteers and visitors. Eventually the animals and people adapted. We (and several helpful cats) became experts at Zoom meetings. Additional bottles of disinfectant were deployed around the sanctuary. If someone was interested in adopting a cat, we sent videos. Donations were left on a set of shelves by the door. Food and litter deliveries were tossed in the driveway. As an organization, Rude Ranch was able to adapt to the “New Normal” and plans to continue to adapt changes in the future. We are grateful to everyone that has supported us through this crisis and hope you and your family continues to remain safe and healthy.
A Note from our Executive Director

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter!

We hope everyone is having as good a year as possible and enjoying their pets during this difficult time. Covid-19 has definitely changed how we live our lives and even how we operate Rude Ranch and our clinic, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook. We had to shut down completely for six weeks and right in the middle of kitten season. Happily we were able to reopen and are quickly catching up on all the missed surgeries.

I’m also happy to report that our County is approaching a zero percent euthanasia rate thanks to the passing of the community cat bill just 2 short years ago. This led to the creation of our SAVE Cats program which fixes any community cat in Anne Arundel County for free. It also protects community cats from automatic euthanasia. If they are already ear tipped, they can stay in their location and if they are not, the people are given the option to get them fixed, ear tipped, rabies vaccinated, microchipped and returned to their outdoor home.

I am very excited to announce that we have two new board members. Dr. Sandra Andrulis and Dr. Erik Andrulis. They have come on board to help us continue our mission to help people who help animals. They will be running our Spay Spa & Neuter Nook Clinic and will eventually take over the entire organization as Kathy and I ease into retirement. We are so grateful that we’ve been able to help animals for the past 25 years and that our legacy will continue into the future under their leadership.

As always, I want to thank all our supporters especially during these difficult times. We would not be able to accomplish our mission without your help and support.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Rude
Executive Director

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.

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 areas. 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
Katherine Evans Rude
President
Robert J. Rude
Executive Director
Dr. Robert L. Harrison, DVM
Director of Animal Care
Diane VonSeggern, RD
Director of Shelter Nutrition
Lynn Hopkins
Member at Large
Dr. Sandra Andrulis
Member at Large
Dr. Erik Andrulis
Member at Large

Thanks to generous people like you we’ve been able to help all of these animals and many more. Your donation will allow us to continue to work toward a day when animals are no longer killed because they are homeless.

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: ( ) $25 ( ) $50 ( ) $100 ( ) $500 ( ) $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 Give logo. Donate online with PayPal.com. Our account name is “donations@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 choose one of your donations toward the animals by sending your request by email.

Stowaway
Continued from page 1

promptly named Otis. Otis quickly decided that living at a sanctuary was a lot nicer than living in a car bumper! Once the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook re-opened, Otis was neutered, vaccinated and given an overall clean bill of health. He soon moved in with some of Rude Ranch’s younger residents, and finding ways to get into trouble with the older residents. (Elder feline Rags was especially unhappy when Otis tried to wrestle her to the ground!)

Otis was now ready to find a home of his own. Soon a perfect family including two children, a dog and a bunny stopped by to meet him. They recently lost their cat to old age and everyone wanted another feline companion. Otis would fit right in! Otis loves his new kids and furry companions. His family named him Charger, partially for the way he takes off running. He loves to chase the dog throughout the house, then settle in for long naps together.

Otis snuggles in for a long nap with his canine buddy.
When Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC essentially shut down in response to the COVID-19 crisis, many people’s lives changed dramatically. People that normally commuted to work everyday were suddenly ordered to stay home or were now unemployed. Likewise, many public transportation options such as the subway, buses and light rail were suddenly closed or deemed unsafe. For many people living in Washington DC that relied on public transportation and didn’t even own a car, the impact of COVID-19 was even greater.

One day in April, a young carless couple from Washington, DC decided to treat themselves; they would rent a car, drive to a park on the Eastern Shore and have a picnic. When they saw the shiny Ford Mustang Convertible in the rental car lot, they knew that was the car they wanted to drive. They had fun driving the car 20 miles or so to a grocery store in Edgewater, MD, where they stopped to pick up a couple of last minute things. The wife went in the store while the husband stayed behind and checked out the car’s stereo system. A few minutes later, Rude Ranch’s overnight caretaker, Allison parked her car next to the Mustang. As soon as Allison got out of her car, she noticed something odd about the Mustang… there were a lot of sounds coming from it. Sounds that were not coming from the car’s stereo. These sounds were more like a kitten screaming at the top of its lungs. Allison quickly asked the driver if he had a cat in the car with him. He was pretty sure they didn’t knowingly bring a cat along with them. But still there were distinct cat sounds coming from the car. By now more people heard the cat screaming and were coming to see what was going on. The cat sounds were coming from the back of the car, they eventually found the trunk release and were disappointed that the cat was still meowing, but wasn’t in the trunk. Eventually they found the source of the meows: a small kitten was in the bumper of the car. Now they just had to find a way to get the kitten out of the car without hurting the kitten or destroying the car.

Fortunately, they found a small opening into the bumper that was just big enough for Allison to reach in and retrieve the little guy. The little kitten was very happy to be out of the car bumper and quickly snuggled into Allison’s arms. Although he was dirty and dehydrated, the 5 week old stowaway managed to survive his car ride without any other problems. Allison brought the kitten back to Rude Ranch where he was...