

WolfStone Ranch

12 May 2017

Another beautiful spring day... although we were under severe-weather watch all last night and, yes, the cats were in the basement AGAIN ☹️ But also once again, we dodged the bullet... No damaging weather here at **WolfStone Ranch (WSR)**... watching the radar, I saw it all go to the south or to the west of us... whew! Now if I can just find the time by Memorial Day weekend to knock out April's Accomplishment List, I'll be caught up... I'm keeping my fingers crossed!!

So here I am, belatedly writing to you about **MARCH's** accomplishments...

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FINALLY! Yes, in early March I finally mailed out my complete Community-Building Experience (CBE) packages to **WSR** supporters (*that means YOU!*) and began talking to local supporters... and others! Yes, even walking up to total strangers at Walmart, for heaven's sake!

After searching high and low, I finally found a pair of carpenters (*father& son*) to replace the rotten barn-roof fascia boards... and they then spent two days in early March on the rather frustrating project. What a relief to have found Charlie and Garrett, not just for this project, but for future needs as well! Turns out that the handyman is a dying breed... if you're not married to one, you are simply Out Of Luck!

While here, Garrett (*the 20-something son*) asked me questions about caring for the stray cat he's rescued who seemed to have a serious flea problem... Long story short, I ended up agreeing to pay for his initial DVM expenses (*testing, spaying, vaccinations, flea preventative*)... as a way to begin building a relationship with him... **Because that's what COMMUNITY-BUILDING is all about!**

So now each month, Garrett is either putting in a couple or more hours of handyman help OR paying me \$20 or more toward **Shelby's** veterinary bill. Plus I'm going over to his place each month to help him apply the flea treatment. I've talked to him not only about my vision of **WSR** but also the CBE, both of which he's very interested in!

A couple weeks after the fascia boards were replaced, I was able to have the new gutters installed (*with leaf-guard*). Now my barn is virtually MAINTENANCE-FREE! No more paying a handyman every 6 months to re-tar the roof, only to have it leak anyway. No more mopping up the water on the cat barn ceiling after heavy rains, no more worrying like crazy about the \$1,000 mini-central-heat-and-air unit that keeps my barn cats comfy and healthy... and no more cleaning out the gutters (*in the fall, that meant every few days*)... HOORAY!

Twice in March I had the lawn-mower repairman come out to fix the riding mower, absolutely critical for minimizing the dogs' exposure to ticks and snakes in their kennel and play yards (*plus walking trails on the property*). Now I'm prepared for mowing season, next month!

Juli (*black-and-tan coonhound mix*) was suddenly very sick... Took her to the DVM who said she sees a lot of this, this time of year. Turns out it wasn't the flu, but some other seasonal "bug"... fortunately, her symptoms only lasted a couple of miserable days. Then later the same week, **Charlize** (*long-haired tortoiseshell*) went to the veterinarian for what turned out to be either an ear infection or allergic reaction. Ear drops for ten days fixed her up!

Raji's five precious kittens were born on March 28th! Three male orange tigers (*just like mama*)... **Romeo**, **Rugby** and **Rio**. And two female tortoiseshells... **Ruffles** and **Roo**. Because **Raji** was freaked out when I trapped her, and rushed her to the DVM for testing, we weren't able to test her... so she and the kittens have to stay in the outdoor quarantine pen until the kittens are old enough for me to sedate **Raji** and take her to the DVM... Once we know that **Raji** tests negative for FIV and for leukemia, I can move the little family into the kitchen, where they will all (*mama included*) be easier to tame.

Three times during March I had to bring the barn cats into the basement for severe weather watches... once for 12 hours, and twice for 24 hours! The cats get so freaked out, but it's better than getting killed, if **WSR** ever suffered a direct hit from a tornado... or even a tree limb coming down on the barn from high winds. It takes so much time and effort to do move the cats, but if we ever did get hit and any of my babies were injured or killed because I hadn't moved them inside to safety, I'd never, ever forgive myself. That's why I bought a place with a BASEMENT!

Yes, March was a very wild and wet month... it never just rained, it always poured! Buckets. And enough to cause local flooding. BUT MAMA AND KITTENS STAYED WARM AND DRY BECAUSE THE BARN ROOF DID NOT LEAK... Thank God for excellent timing and fabulous workmanship!!!

Koty started getting “squirrely” in March, so I made arrangements to put him in an AKC Canine Good Citizenship 6-week obedience course beginning in May... He’s become utterly devoted to ME, but he’s shown some mixed signals (*friendly with aggressive behavior*) towards others. So I need to “nip this problem in the bud” (*pun totally intended*)!

Current Head Count

3 adoptable dogs (**Juli Sundance Lady**), 4 dogs needing rehab (**Skyler Denver Durango Koty**), 7 adoptable cats (**Joey Clover Jada Savannah Felicia Maverick Charlize**), 7 difficult-to-place cats (**Loki Paprika Koala Lollipop Skidoodle Pansy Raji**), Raji’s 5 adorable kittens (**Romeo Rugby Rio Ruffles Roo**), and 2 sanctuary cats (**Shayla Cricket**)

Personal

Finally found the time in March to write and even mail out my Christmas thank-you letters... I sure hope it’s true that late is better than never! My apologies to everyone for my tardiness... it wasn’t for lack of trying. I have many faults, but procrastination is not one of them! ☹