

WolfStone Ranch Newsletter

Issue #3

February - June 2015

Big News in Brief

February... Caught the first of the stray cats (**Savannah**) who showed up in the cat barn over the winter.

March... Caught the second of the stray cats (**Felicia**)... One more (**Maverick**) to go!

April... Terrified Pit-Bull mix (**Chloe**) dumped in the front-yard sally port...miraculous story to be shared another day, when I have time... Long story short, she ended up in the perfect home!

May... Precious Beagle-Chihuahua puppy (**Harley**) thrown over the fence into the front yard, transferred two weeks later to Five Acres Animal Shelter in St. Charles, adopted out within two days. Also, **Chloe** was adopted by a very special family. **And my first drum circle was a glorious triumph!**

June... **Duke** and **Annabelle** were finally transferred to Five Acres and both were adopted within one week. **And I just started a weekly yoga-meditation group!**

Current Head Count

3 adoptable dogs (**Juli, Sundance, Lady**), 3 dogs needing rehab (**Skyler, Denver, Durango**), 4 sanctuary cats (**Joey, Angel, Shayla, Cricket**), 3 highly adoptable cats (**Jada, Savannah, Shadoe**), 5 difficult-to-place cats (**Loki, Paprika, Koala, Felicia, Clover**), 1 stray cat (**Maverick**)

Last Spring, as you may recall, Best Friends Animal Society took our 4 adoptable dogs and 10 adoptable cats... all of whom were adopted out within a few months. Last Summer, I felt compelled to rescue **Duke** and **Annabelle** (*we were their last chance*), thinking Five Acres Animal Shelter would take them within a matter of weeks... but when we picked them up, *she* turned out to have severe hair loss due to a flea allergy, and *he* tested positive for heartworms. That meant she wasn't going anywhere until her skin cleared up and her hair grew back, and he wasn't leaving until he tested negative for heartworms, six months after treatment. Plus, he had to be crated 24/7

except for leashed walks... 6 to 8 times a day! Last Autumn, we also rescued **Jada** and **Shadoe** (*due to be euthanized the next day*), with the understanding that Best Friends would try to help find them homes. But in spite of several attempts, we've not yet been able to provide Best Friends with photos they deem worthy of publication, so these sweet girls are still hanging out here. **Good news, though, I've finally found a professional photographer willing to donate her time for one photo shoot!**

The point of rehashing old news is to remember why **WolfStone Ranch** simply can't keep relying on help from Best Friends and Five Acres to find good homes for our animals. **Which means we've somehow got to create a network of really, really good homes for ourselves.** Because...

- ✓ Last year I adopted out two cats (**Pistachio** and **Cappuccino**) to a local family and I now think I made a terrible mistake, because a few days ago when I happened to drive by their house, their garage door was open and I saw **Pistachio** sleeping on a shelf. How long until she gets run over?! These people lied to me, saying they firmly believed cats should be indoor-only.
- ✓ Last week I got a call from the Farmington Pet Adoption Center (FPAC)... A neighbor of mine had listed me as a reference. I was shocked. This neighbor has an intact outside-only dog who is never even allowed out of his tiny kennel, a bunch of near-starving, unaltered outdoor-only barn cats (*mousers*)... and last year he forced a puppy on me, saying that if I didn't take it, he was going to destroy it! Just because I recently called him to alert him that his pony was foundering on the new grass, he somehow thinks that I will now recommend FPAC let him adopt another dog?! I swear, I often feel like I must be from another planet... I just cannot relate to so many of the people who live around here!

But then, **that's precisely why I feel God brought me back to Farmington.** No, not to be judgmental (*that's something I've somehow got to get over*) but instead... **to help change attitudes and behaviors.** In the same way that Martin Luther King Jr. helped to change attitudes (*and laws*) about civil rights. And where did MLKJ make his famous march? In Selma, in the heart of the most profuse and violent expressions of racism. And Missouri, home to more puppy mills than all the other states combined (3000), is arguably in the heart of the worst animal neglect and abuse in the nation.

Which means WolfStone Ranch's #1 priority simply must be COMMUNITY-BUILDING. But the conundrum I face is... how to find the RIGHT KIND of people to get involved? Because I can't just put out an appeal to the general public without pulling in tons of

the wrong kind of people eager to find out where they can dump their unwanted animals. **Chloe** and **Harley** are perfect examples of the WRONG KIND of people finding out about **WolfStone Ranch!**

I still maintain that the best ways for me to build community with people who have INTEGRITY, COMPASSION and INTEREST IN ACTIVISM are...

- ✓ to develop a socially-conscious (*even spiritually-based*) **Community Drumming Circle** and
- ✓ to produce a **Community-Building Experience** with the FCE (*M. Scott Peck's Foundation for Community Encouragement*)

As some of you already know from attending, **my first drum circle...** at Presbyterian Children's Home (PCH) in mid-May... **was a total success!** We on the Recreation Team now just have to figure out how to get our hands on a bunch of hand drums so that we can turn this into a weekly happening, first at PCH, and then in outreach to socially conscious organizations in Farmington and the surrounding Mineral Area.

On top of that, I've recently started a weekly yoga group for the staff at PCH, in which I will soon be introducing meditation... And also this Summer I will start playing guitar at campfires for the kids at PCH (*including some of my own prayer and Rocky Mountain songs*). **So the "outside" job I miraculously "tripped and fell into" is providing me with the perfect opportunity to develop the very skills and experience I need to do much of what I personally want to eventually be doing at WolfStone Ranch's proposed spiritual retreat for pets (and their people)!**

Moreover, although it's a bit early to bring up the subject with them, I feel certain my bosses at PCH will also be interested in helping me produce a Community Building Experience... just as they are now totally enthused by the therapeutic and community-building benefits of the drum circle and yoga programs I've begun for them.

These may be unconventional ways to build an animal welfare organization, but then **WolfStone Ranch** is not your typical animal shelter. Yes, our 3-pronged Mission Statement begins with "Canine and Feline Rescue, Rehabilitation and Placement"... Followed by "Creating an Environment that Supports Healing for All Living Beings"... but it ends with "Building a Community Around a Shared Ethos of Compassionate Treatment of All Animals."

And I have come to believe that we cannot really begin (*or I might say "continue"*) to meet the first two goals without successfully addressing the third. We cannot move forward from where we are today without first building a higher-powered community of like-minded souls. No, it's not going to happen overnight, but I actually see this dream finally starting to become reality!

And with your continued help, I shall persevere until I build this beautiful community, one kindred spirit at a time... Turning **WolfStone Ranch** into a thriving organization that magnificently meets all of our goals of reducing suffering and saving lives.... And of bringing peace and healing into the lives of all the animals and people who will ever be touched by the “sacred magic” we are working to create here at **WolfStone Ranch!**

And oh, how wonderful and incredibly special are these kindred spirits... which, of course, includes each and every one of you!! The right kind of people, my kind of people, the ones who really care about Making A Difference in this world... in spite of how difficult or impossible it may sometimes seem!

Namaste