

JUNE 2021

NEWS LETTER



The Happy Herd
— farm sanctuary —

www.happyherd.org  /thehappyherd  /HappyHerdBC



Welcome To The Family

Please join us in welcoming Shawna Gail in her new position as Sanctuary Operations Manager. Shawna is likely a familiar face to many of our volunteers and supporters as she has been a dedicated volunteer and worn multiple hats during her journey with us, proving to be a committed sanctuary advocate and asset to Happy Herd. Shawna brings a number of valuable skills and over 12 years of prior management experience including event, program and business management, making her a great addition to our team. Congratulations Shawna!



OVERVIEW:

- Welcome Pickles & Beepbop
- Gibbles the Goat Update
- RIP Charlie, Roxanne, & Popcorn
- April the Turkey
- Tours & Sponsorships
- Pig Yoga
- Thank YOU!

The Happy Herd Farm Sanctuary has a lot of exciting news to share. We've got a number of new residents, a sponsor an animal program, and a new operations manager joining our team.



Pickles joining Gibbles for an afternoon nap after entertaining guests with her acceptance of belly rubs.

PICKLES & BEPBOP

BY JACQUELINE WALKER

Pickles is a young female pig who joined The Herd in the summer of 2020. She was discovered wandering around Crescent Beach in White Rock. As for Bepbop, this young male was found roaming around Langley in December of 2020 and was subsequently picked up by Langley Animal Protection Society (LAPS), and taken home by one of their employees, soon to be returned to LAPS due to his aggressive behaviour. After deciding to neuter Bepbop, LAPS and The Happy Herd thought Bepbop would be best suited to a life at our sanctuary, so he was brought here. While we don't have the full details of their stories, we know that experiences like these can leave animals feeling worried and shaken— it would be scary being a wandering baby pig without your piggy parents to make you feel safe! We are so happy Pickles and Bepbop made it to the sanctuary where all of their new family and friends will make them feel secure and adored for the rest of their years.



Though she began as a skittish girl wary of contact, Pickles has quickly become one of The Herd's most popular and sassy socialites. She can be found clearing her roommates out of their building with her zoomies, sunbathing on her bed, going for long strolls around the sanctuary, or relaxing in her pig-loo.

Pickles has recovered from her recent spaying surgery, and now she is ready for a summer of fun and sun with her buddies.

Bebop lives with his big pig brother, Garth. Since Garth was the runt of his siblings and had suffered their rejection, there was hope that Bebop could become a companion to Garth, and vice-a-versa. The pair met through the fence on the day of Bebop's arrival, and they were very excited to meet one another. When Bebop was initially introduced to Garth, he would try to mount Garth, but this has since stopped and the two are getting along perfectly.

We think Garth likes having a pig who is smaller than him for a friend, and Bebop is happy to have Garth's company and leadership.

Whether he's happily grazing amongst his friends, making a mud pit with Garth, or napping in his house, Bebop has clearly made himself at home here. Even Lucy's tolerance for little Bebop has grown!



We are excited to see how these young pigs will grow over their time here. Next for Pickles is learning the art of summer mud-baths—hopefully her new friend Bebop can show her how it's done!



Gibbles returning home from his surgery with his mom Loraine

GIBBLES THE GOAT

BY JACQUELINE WALKER

You'll notice from his photo that Gibbles is now sporting three legs rather than his usual four. After a poorly placed headbutt while playing with friends resulted in Gibbles being taken to the vet, it was decided that a metal plate would be necessary to stabilize the connection between his leg, shoulder, and chest. However, the bone where the plate needed to be secured to lacked the necessary integrity for this to be a viable option for Gibbles. Determined to see him well again, Diane and Dr. Gibson at Langley Animal Hospital decided that amputating Gibbles' injured leg would be the next best solution. They ultimately hoped that Gibbles could learn to manage with three legs instead of four.

Far from letting this get him down, Gibbles seems to have embraced the positives of his situation. He has learned to plunk himself down in the hay mangers for naps in the sun. Previously, Gibbles' leg would have prevented this method of taking a load off, but now he can let the manger do the work of keeping him up for his beloved afternoon sunbathing. Keep up the great work, Gibbles!



You might spot Gibbles enjoying his makeshift couch the next time you are at the Happy Herd, so keep an eye out and be sure to congratulate Gibbles on his strength, optimism, and ingenuity!



Rest In Piece Charlie, Roxanne, and Popcorn

BY JACQUELINE WALKER

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Charlie, Roxanne, and Popcorn. Unfortunately, meat industry practices of genetic manipulation leave these birds fighting chronic health conditions for their whole lives; even for those who are lucky enough to make it into a sanctuary environment, their legs and internal organs can be strained to support the rapid growth and massive weights of their bodies. The recent losses of Charlie, Roxanne, and Popcorn remind us of the unnecessary and detrimental impact animal industries have on these undeserving victims' quality of life.

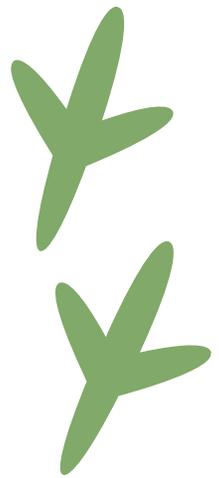
Although the genetic makeup they inherited could not be remedied, The Happy Herd was honoured to provide every other opportunity for these animals to feel love and companionship for the rest of their lives.

We look back on the lives of Charlie, Roxanne, and Popcorn with gratitude and appreciation; gratitude for knowing that these three got to live out their lives receiving the love and care they always deserved, and appreciation for all of the love, strength, and character they showed to those who knew them.



Danielle Huntington

EMILY WRITES OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHARLIE AND ROXANNE



BY EMILY WILKES

Though I've been an animal lover and a vegan for many years, I never used to think much of chickens. To me, they all seemed aloof, uninterested, and devoid of any unique personality traits. Little did I know that two unassuming chicks would show up in my life and change my heart forever.

Charlie and Roxanne were only a few weeks old when they arrived at the Happy Herd in August 2020, saved from a transport truck bound for slaughter. Roxanne had such an adventurous little soul--from day one he was out and about, making friends and exploring the farm. Charlie, who already struggled to walk at only 5 weeks old, hid inside the coop. I remember reaching out to pet him... the poor baby screeched in fear. Within seconds Roxanne arrived back in the coop to protect his older brother, putting his tiny body between Charlie and me. At that moment, something inside of me changed... I will remember it for the rest of my life!

It brought me tremendous joy to watch C&R settle into their new lives at the Herd. Roxanne continued to explore every inch of the farm and befriend sheep, pigs, turkeys, dogs, and humans alike.

It was impossible to sit or kneel down with Roxanne nearby, as he'd instantly jump into your lap for affection! One of our new volunteers even declared that she would never eat chicken again after experiencing Roxanne's cuddles. He won the hearts of so many, and quickly became one of the most popular critters on the farm.

Charlie was a shy and sensitive boy... even at five weeks old he had trouble walking due to his massive size. In only 9 months he grew so large that he could only take a few steps before needing to sit down for a break. Though his entire existence was a struggle, Charlie persevered... he just loved being alive! He enjoyed sunbathing with his brother outside of their coop, eating grapes, and singing to anyone who would listen. Some weeks I would pick up an extra two or three volunteer shifts just to be able to see him! I fell in love with his gentle soul, his kind eyes, and his quirky personality.

Not a day goes by where I don't think of these two... their passing devastated me and left a giant hole in my heart. Though they only spent 9 short months on earth, I believe they were sent to help me discover my purpose in life: having my own sanctuary and rescuing chickens and roosters from the meat and egg industries. I plan on calling it "Charlie's Angels."

I miss you every day C&R, love you forever

~Emily Wilkes/@naturally.nemo

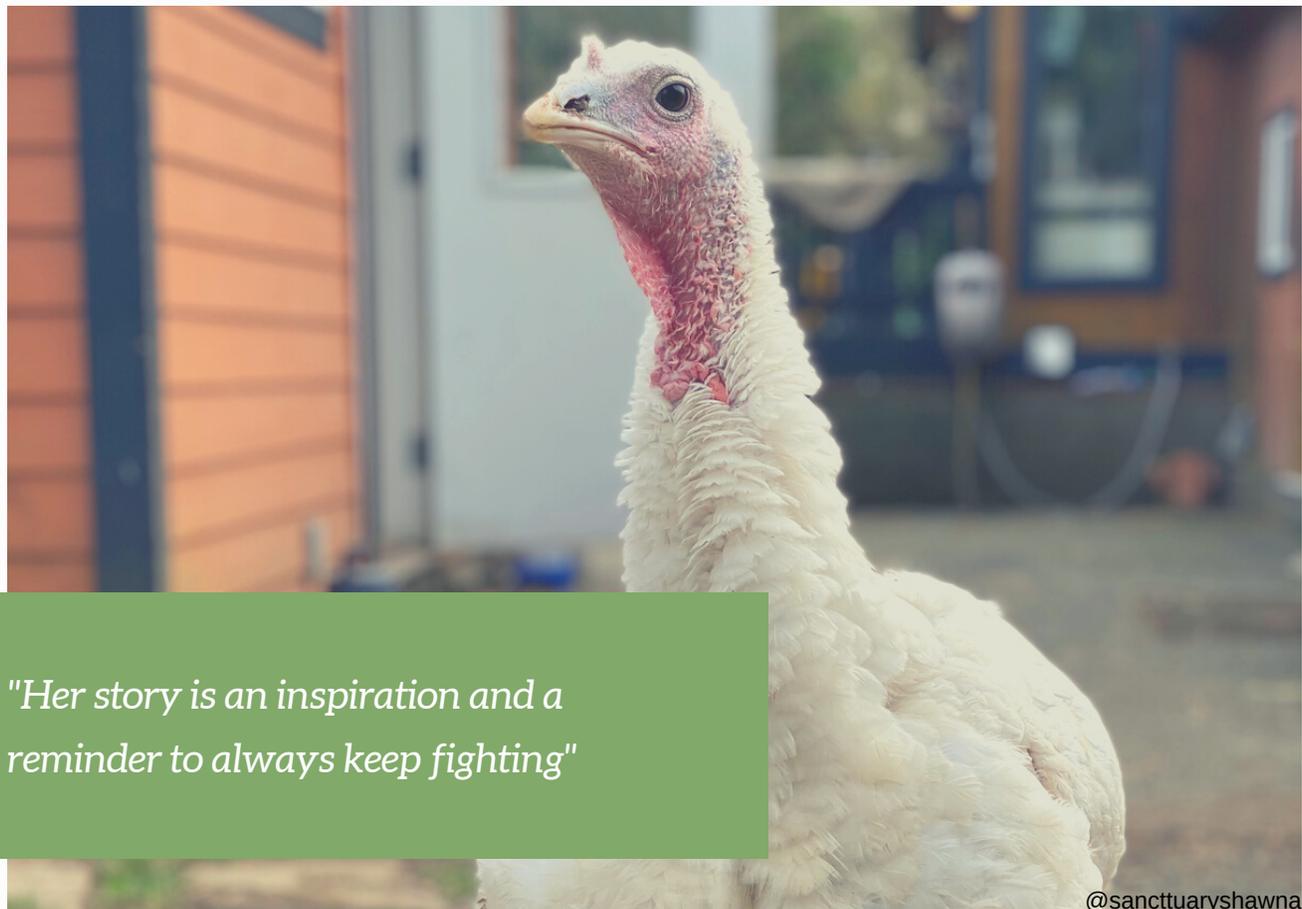
April The Turkey

BY JEN SOTI, SHAWNA GAIL, & JACQUELINE WALKER

April the turkey was born on a factory farm and if it weren't for her determination and fortitude, she would have been someone's thanksgiving dinner. Every year approximately 20 million turkeys are slaughtered for food in Canada alone, but April somehow managed to alter her fate and get a second chance at life; April was found after her escape from the factory farm. It was evident from her injuries that April, with a will to live and nothing to lose, fought hard for her life in order to succeed against all odds of the industry system.

We wonder what April must make of her early life compared to now— what would it feel like to grow up in the grave world she did, to fight towards her freedom, and to subsequently learn of other, happier ways that animals could live their lives?

This incredibly brave turkey arrived at the Happy Herd in April, 2020, which is where she got her name. Like many turkeys from factory farms, April has struggled with health issues such as respiratory issues and endured mutilations of her toes. Cutting the toes off turkeys is a common practice on factory farms. Turkeys on factory farms are kept in tight quarters. To prevent the turkeys from injuring one another, parts of their beaks and toes are removed without the use of anesthesia.



"Her story is an inspiration and a reminder to always keep fighting"

April was initially shy and timid, but it didn't take her long to become one of our most social, loving and talkative residents. In fact, she is known to accept hugs from volunteers, and serenade with her sweet songs. Turkeys each have their own unique voice and can make over 20 distinct vocalizations, including, a yelp, crackle, cutting, putt, and purr. Each of these sounds is used for an intended purpose, April can often be heard "Purring", which is a sign of contentment.

Turkeys are intelligent and sensitive animals who enjoy receiving hugs, listening to music, and socializing with their friends. They can naturally live up to 10 years. On factory farms turkeys often never know the satisfaction of their natural behaviours. They are denied even the simplest pleasures, instead, they endure crowding, disease, neglect, abuse and a short life of only 3-5 months. We are thrilled that April has found her way to the Happy Herd where she will get to live out her life surrounded by love.

April loves spending time with her friends and meeting new people, her unique and loving personality has won over the hearts of so many individuals who have had the opportunity to meet her.

Her story is an inspiration and a reminder to always keep fighting. She is an excellent ambassador for Happy Herd and one of the few residents included in our sponsor an animal program. If April's story has resonated with you, please check out our sponsor an animal page!



@sanctuaryshawna

"Her unique and loving personality has won over the hearts of so many individuals who have had the opportunity to meet her"



@sanctuaryshawna

TOURS & SPONSORSHIP

BY JACQUELINE WALKER

Following us online is a great way to connect and stay up-to-date on life at The Happy Herd, but we know that many of our supporters would love to meet the animals in person. Well, we don't blame you! After all, nothing beats learning about our animals' stories while looking into their eyes and connecting with them yourself.

If the company of chickens, turkeys, pigs, goats, sheep, cows and a donkey seems like your kind of get-together, send a tour-booking request to Shawna at tours@happyherd.org. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with our guidelines and COVID-19 safety plan (available at www.happyherd.org/visit-us) before booking. We are currently asking that guests limit their groups to those of the same household/bubble. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate this situation using current public health guidelines.

The Happy Herd relies on the commitment of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors to give our animal friends their best lives. We are especially grateful for the contributions made by those who join us for tours, and we hope that our tours can be as rewarding a look into these animals' lives for our guests as it is for us.

Another great way that you can help the animals of The Happy Herd is to become a sponsor! A number of our animals are available for sponsoring, and gift sponsorships are a great option for those looking for alternatives to the traditional, but often short-lived, material gift. With perks such as priority visits to your sponsored animals, sponsor-exclusive animal updates (with pictures), this makes a thoughtful gift for those who value helping and connecting to animals.



SPONSOR AN ANIMAL TODAY!

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THANK YOU

We truly couldn't do it without you!



2020 was a difficult year for everyone, We are beyond grateful for the generosity and loyalty of our donors, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers , your support has enabled us to continue our mission , and provide the very best care for the animals. It fills our hearts to have your support through it all. We can't thank you enough

Ways to give

- Donate: Happyherd.org/donate
- Donate your time/ skills/ talents (I.e:Handyperson/contractor, musicians, veterinary professionals, etc)
- Start a fundraiser
- Show us some love on social media
- Come for a tour or pig yoga class
- Donate food or unused animal medication

Volunteer inquiries: volunteers@happyherd.org | Tour inquiries: tours@happyherd.org
Sponsor/fundraising inquiries: sponsor@happyherd.org