

# CELEBRATION OF CANINE LIVES SANCTUARY A NON-PROFIT, 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

## GEE'S HOME: PHASE 1 COMPLETE! ON TO PHASE 2

In our last newsletter (Winter 2021), we talked about the progress CCLS had made on the barn aka "Gee's Home." (To read more about Gee, please visit our website at <https://celebrationofcaninelives.com>). The cement floor had been completed, the sewage and water supply lines were installed and the concrete block walls were brought in and started. That was the end of Phase 1.

Phase 2 began in late 2021 and continued through Spring of 2022. The construction company framed the inside of the barn to prepare for the spray foam insulation to be installed. After the insulation was installed, the concrete block dog rooms were completed. Now when our supporters walk through the barn, they are able to see the impressive amount of space dogs will have to live in. Of course, there is still a lot that needs to be completed before the rooms are cozy and "move-in-ready," (see next article for more information about the rooms), but a lot of progress has been made.

Our next step in Phase 2 is to secure electricity, which has been estimated at \$4,000.00. After that, the sewage system will be completed. Finally, heat and the preparation of the first two rooms will need to be completed before we are able to accept our first rescues.



Concrete block walls completed.



Inside of one of the dog rooms. Notice the spray foam insulation and the window. The dog rooms are spacious enough to house 2-3 dogs comfortably. The walls will be covered and other work will be done to make the rooms safe, cheerful and homey.



## PROGRESS CHART

Below is a chart that outlines our progress and what still needs to be accomplished.

### PHASE I (\$53,000)

Beginning stage of concrete walls
Additional water hydrants installed
Sewage and water supply lines installed
Excavation and cement floor
Blueprint

### PHASE II

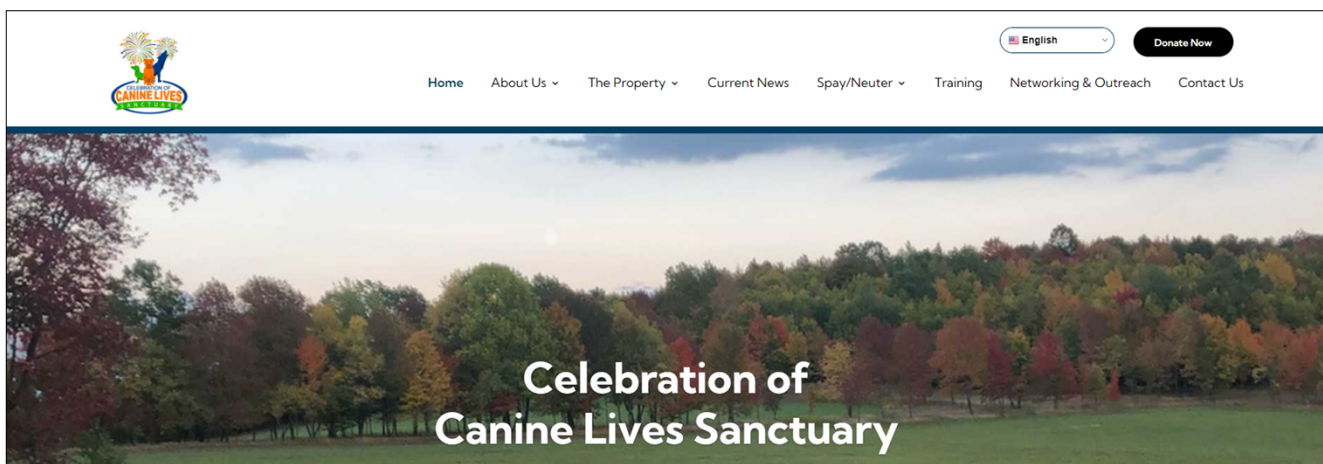
1 or 2 rooms completed
Heat (propane)
Sewage system completed
Electrical Hookup (estimated cost \$4,000)
Completion of concrete walls
Insulation (\$14,630)
Framing and concrete walls (\$18,659.71)

Total Cost to Date: \$86,289.71

#### KEY

= COMPLETED!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us. As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, CCLS receives no governmental funding or funding from outside organizations. CCLS is entirely dependent on donations from the public, the personal money we put into it and grants we may be able to obtain. We couldn't do this without your support.



Can't donate at the current time but still want to support us? Here's a great way to help us...share our website! Our website is full of information about who we are and what we do. It is kept current on and is set up with paypal so animal lovers can donate online. Our goal will always be to get as many people as possible to visit the site. Please share it with everyone you know. Thank you!



## WISH US LUCK!

This April, Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary applied for a \$10,000.00 grant from the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation. This grant money would be used to help us complete our first two dog rooms. We have made wonderful progress turning what was essentially an uneven dirt floor with four walls around it into a comfortable living space for homeless animals. So, when are we taking in dogs and what is so important about the first two dog rooms?

Our goal has always been to be able to start taking in our own rescues as soon as possible. When we visualize the entire barn complete and functioning the exact way we want it to, we realize that certain projects can wait until after we take in our first rescues but other projects must be completed before we are able to accept dogs. Things that can wait include but are not limited to: our visitors' room, my office and some of the dog rooms. (As in eight dog rooms do not have to be completed before we can accept two or three dogs.) Therefore, we are not waiting until everything is "perfect" to take in dogs. However, every project related to a dog's quality of life must be completed before simply "putting some dogs in the barn."



The barn will need to be heated with propane so the dogs will stay warm and comfortable throughout the cold months. We need proper, thick rubber flooring so the dogs are not living on cement, which can cause discomfort and health complications, especially over a long period of time. The rooms need doors with the option of privacy panels so the individual dogs aren't exposed to more or less environmental stimuli than what feels right for each of them. Then these divided sections of the barn need to be made homey...while a dog may not care if his walls are pink, yellow, or blue, they do respond to their environment and certainly know the difference between a slab of concrete and a spacious room with a comfortable raised bed, toys, brightly colored walls and calming energy. If CCLS can complete the first two rooms, we will be ready to take in our first rescues.



We will let our supporters know if and when we receive the grant money. If we are the lucky recipients, we will keep you posted on the progress via our website and Facebook page. If we do not get the grant, we will continue full steam ahead. While grants are wonderful, it should be noted that there is a lot of competition for them. In many cases, the foundations giving the grants aren't choosing which organizations they do and don't want to give money to, but rather which organization(s) they want to give to the most. Depending on the Foundation's criteria and popularity, hundreds and sometimes thousands of organizations may be applying for funding. We are crossing our fingers and toes, hoping that CCLS will be the lucky recipient.

Either way, donations from the public have always been our greatest asset. People giving what they can when they can has brought us a long way. Donations of all different amounts have helped us complete projects, directly assist animals and move forward. Thank you for supporting us! YOU are making it happen!



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## A CHAIN OF LOVE FOR SONNY

It is a rare occurrence when an animal (whether it be a dog, cow, tiger, hamster, etc.) ends up in a terrible, life-threatening situation due to the actions of just one person. It is also a rare occurrence that an animal (regardless of the species) ends up in living out his/her life happily ever after due to the actions of just one person. Rather, it is a systemic chain of events and personal decisions made by many people that lead to each individual animal's life well lived or their demise. In this article, you will read about Sonny, a dog that was hours away from death and how a chain of events led to Sonny finding his place in the world.

Late in May, I received a call from a woman who was planning to have her Maltese mix put down. She said that the dog was relieving himself in her home and was getting snippy with the grandchildren. My first thought was, "How does a dog end up with someone that doesn't want him and makes an appointment for him to be killed?" (Answer: people mass produce dogs and sell them for money. As long as animals are considered property in the legal system where they can be bought and sold, a certain number of "consumers" will eventually find fault with their "product.") If the housebreaking issues and reactivity to grandchildren were the only issues and Sonny was a treasured family member that this family would never consider putting down, CCLS would have responded by providing a positive reinforcement training program to help the children and dog better communicate with each other. If the family could not afford to provide veterinary care, CCLS would have gladly stepped in and offered to pay for veterinary bills that could help determine if something like a urinary tract infection or gastrointestinal issue was causing inappropriate elimination. But I was quickly informed that Sonny had a vet appointment at 2pm that day to be destroyed. A true date with death. The time was 11:30am. My stomach flipped and I felt a lump forming in my throat. My second question was, "How could the medical field cooperate and follow through with this careless disregard for life?" (Answer: animals are property in the legal system. It is not illegal to discard a product.) Having property status makes animals systemically vulnerable. If an animal ends up with a person or entity that has a great reverence for his/her life, it appears as though that animal has rights because of the wonderful life humans give him/her. But don't be fooled. An animal can just as easily end up with someone who treats them as property without doing anything illegal.



Night of the rescue. All Sonny needed was someone that cared.



Sonny...loving his new life

What could CCLS do? Well, CCLS has great working relationships with other rescue organizations as well as experience in networking animals to safety. I contacted Lisa Hitchcock, founder of Rescue Pups, and asked her if she had room to take in a new dog in two hours. In no time at all, Lisa said, "Bring him to me. I will help him." What makes this answer so special? Rescue Pups receives calls on a daily basis asking them to accept new dogs. Some dogs are local strays, some are from kill shelters in various areas and also had "dates with death", others are from "consumers" who don't want their "products" anymore and others are from people who genuinely loved them and took wonderful care of them but due to tragic unforeseen circumstances, (like death or a crippling illness) are no longer able to provide the care the animal needs. Being bombarded by calls of animals needing help is a nightmare...so the last thing I wanted to do was to mention another dog in a life-or-death predicament to an organization that already does everything in their power to help as many dogs as possible. But

pushing to get Sonny into Rescue Pups was the way to save his life.

I quickly called Sonny's owner back and told her I'd secured a safe place for him to go. Later that afternoon, my Dad and I picked Sonny up, along with his vaccination records and headed towards Rescue Pups. It was almost as if Sonny knew life was about to become much better; he happily hopped in the car and never looked back. We were warned that Sonny was aggressive and may relieve himself in the car, so we were prepared with heavy gloves and seat protectors. However, Sonny was a really good boy in the car. While many dogs are naturally more cautious and polite with unfamiliar people in unfamiliar situations, we also felt as though we provided the calmness that Sonny needed to relax.

Fast forward to today. Sonny is thriving at Rescue Pups! He went from being a piece of unwanted property to being a beloved member of a rescue family. Rescue Pups has 6 fenced in acres for the dogs to run on and Sonny loves chasing the big dogs around and finding gross things he can roll in. He got a brand-new haircut to compliment his brand-new spirit and lease on life! As I write this, Sonny is available for adoption, but when you are reading this, he may already be adopted. Rescue Pups carefully screens potential adopters and always provides a safety net, so if an adopter is ever unable to keep a dog, the dog is always welcomed back there. And if a dog does not get adopted, he/she has a home for life at Rescue Pups. Rescue Pups is supported by awesome people who love dogs and want to see systemic change in the way they are treated. If you would like to make a donation to Rescue Pups, please check out their website and facebook page.

Sonny's story is one of the thousands of examples as to why CCLS exists and why we are working so hard to prepare Gee's Home to take in dogs. We want to provide a safe haven as quickly as possible. We have received calls asking us to take dogs and although we currently are able to help network animals as best as we can, the barn needs to be habitable before we can take in animals of our own. Dogs all over the United States are dying because there are not enough facilities taking them in, so every donation to CCLS has and will continue to have a direct effect on the lives of homeless dogs. As we tackle the barn project head on, we will also continue to work on the systemic issues causing canine homelessness. Thank you so much for your support!



## CCLS IN THE COMMUNITY

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Getting the word out



Sonny, a dog CCLS helped save, is now living the good life!



## WONDER WOMAN: CCLS WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER

Many people are familiar with the television series/movie, "Wonder Woman." This amazing actress's name in real life is Lynda Carter. Well, our new board member's name is Linda Carter, and she too is a wonder woman.

Those of you who have been reading CCLS newsletters for a long time may remember that Linda adopted a dog that had been at the SPCA in Cattaraugus County for approximately six years. That dog, Breeze, was very shy and reactive toward strangers. Linda spent about eight months coming to the SPCA and building a trusting relationship with her before taking her home. That was back in 2016. Breeze, although quite old now, is continuing to thrive in Linda's home.



Then in 2018, CCLS was made aware of an unwanted former racehorse that faced an uncertain and bleak future. Who had a 110-acre property, other horses and was happy to bring another needy animal into her family? Wonder Woman, of course! That horse, Moe, also continues to thrive and loves life on Linda's property.



Breeze and Sheena

CCLS is honored to have such a compassionate person join our team. Linda has already been a huge asset...she locates businesses that will let CCLS leave donation jars, her husband gives us sports memorabilia to sell and her family will be working on a drone video of our property for our website and Facebook page. This technology will help our donors and potential donors get a better feel for what our property is like as well as a close-up look at the progress that has been made. We are incredibly grateful for this service, as we already have more than enough ideas to work with, but needed professional help to carry out these ideas.

Thank you, Linda!

### **Here are a few words from Wonder Woman herself:**

“I am so humbled and honored to be asked to be on the board at CCLS. Meg is the kindest, most selfless person I have ever had the privilege of knowing. If it weren't for her, I would not have been successful in adopting Breeze or Moe. I will do everything I possibly can to help make the mission of CCLS as successful as possible.”



## THANK YOU

Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary could not exist without the incredible support of our donors. We would like to use this page to thank everyone who has contributed to our mission. Because we weren't sure which donors wouldn't mind their names being mentioned and which donors would rather remain anonymous, we thought we would share some of the individual ways people/families have shown they care about righting the wrongs that have been done to homeless animals.

\*A woman had her children sell items such as jewelry and candy to earn money for CCLS, teaching future generations compassion for both animals and the people who are helping them.

\*A woman sends us a monthly check, helping to give us the sustainability we are trying so hard to establish.

\*People who actively support other rescue organizations and are active in programs such as helping feral cats also choose to donate to CCLS as well. There are many wonderful organizations that need support; a happily ever after ending for any animal of any species is a cause to celebrate!



\*Cuba Antique shop offered CCLS the opportunity to put a donor jar at their store. They have a wide variety of amazing items and if you're in the area and like antiques, please visit their store.

\*Four Seasons Auto Body in Cuba also allowed us to leave a donation jar at their shop. If you need any vehicle work done, please support them.

\*Our largest donation was \$1,000.00 from an awesome family!

\*Some donors have been supporting CCLS even before we obtained our property because they valued the help we were/are giving needy animals in the community. These consistent donors are vital for the sanctuary's success.

\*One lady bought us CCLS t-shirts to pass out.

\*One man gave us professional photographs he had taken for us to sell at fundraising events.

\*One woman took beautiful drone photos and videos of our property which will be posted on our website.

\*Every person who has ever donated to CCLS has made a positive difference in the lives of animals. Each and every donation is needed and means the world to us. Thank you!

