

# CELEBRATION OF CANINE LIVES SANCTUARY

## A NON-PROFIT, 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

### BETTY'S STORY

On the first day of October, my family and I were purchasing pumpkins from a farm not too far away from our home. I asked my Mom if we should go visit Case Lake first and then pick up the pumpkins on our way home. "No, let's get the pumpkins first," she said.

We picked out several pumpkins and I was starting to hop in the truck when my Mom asked, "Do you mind just checking out what type of vegetables they have?" I went over to the vegetable stand and found green peppers, cucumbers, yellow squash and...a kitten! But something was very wrong. This kitten had a bad wound on her right hind leg. There were maggots crawling on her foot and flies were starting to eat at her flesh. She was also malnourished. I knew we couldn't leave her there.



**Betty right after we took her to urgent care.**

I mustered up the courage to talk to the property owners, as conversations involving an animal's welfare can be difficult. Also, there were many unknowns. The kitten could be their personal pet and by "challenging" their ability to provide adequate care for the kitten, they could easily tell me to get off their property, which could completely ruin any chances I had of making the cat's life better. On the other hand, this kitten could have recently wandered onto their property or have been dumped there, already injured. At this point, the only thing that mattered to me was to get the kitten help as quickly as possible.

I asked one of the women working there if the kitty had a name. The women told me the kitty didn't have a name. "Do you mind if I take the kitten to the vet to get that leg looked at?" I blurted out. The woman said it was okay with her but that she'd have to talk to her husband first. The husband came down and I made small talk with him for a few minutes then asked if I could take the kitty to the vet.

He said, "Sure...if you want to." Then he added, "You can actually just have her if you want."

"Thank you!" I replied. He said he was going to get back to work and I carefully put the little kitten in a crate and we were on our way to Urgent Care. On the way down, a million thoughts raced through my mind...was the kitty going to survive, or did she have even more serious internal issues going on? What would my two male cats think of her? Should we keep her or should we find a wonderful adoptive home for her?

Several hours later, we were taking the little kitten home from Urgent Care. The wound had been treated and she was sedated, given a bandage and antibodies. She would need the bandage changed every couple of days. But, besides being too thin, she was generally in good health. On the way home that night, I made my decision (which took no thought). The little white kitten would be a permanent member of our family.

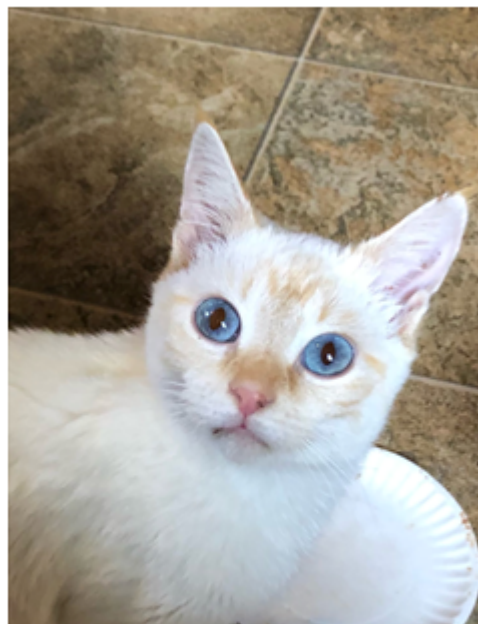


I carried her into the kitchen where my other two cats were waiting. The look on their faces said, "What on earth do you have in there, Meg?"

"Welcome Betty to the family," I told them. Then I set up an area for her where she could be safely quarantined from them until it was determined she didn't have anything contagious. The name "Betty," came easily. This little kitten was full of strength, compassion and determination and reminded us of one of our donors who selflessly gives us \$15.00 every month.

Fast forward to today: Betty is thriving! Her leg is completely healed and fur is growing back on the once wounded area. Every day as she healed more and more, she started acting more and more like a kitten. She is now a "full blown" kitty that loves to run through the house, climb the furniture and chase plastic golf balls. She also enjoys food puzzles and running through a dog agility tunnel. Betty is also a social butterfly and likes to sit on visitors' laps. I taught her how to walk with a harness and leash so when the weather gets a little better, she will be able to enjoy this beautiful property as well. She loves to cuddle and has a purr as loud as a diesel engine!

As much as I'd like to say that my older two male cats adore Betty as much as the human family members do, that is not true. Finn, our 17-year year old cat "tolerates" Betty but has never been a big fan of other cats and playing with her is not in his vocabulary. Ned, our approximately 5-year-old cat, was quite jealous of Betty at first, despite the fact that I work hard to ensure each cat receives the same amount of attention and affection as they did before Betty's arrival. As time has passed, Ned has gradually grown to like Betty a bit more. He wrestles with her. It's not exactly aggressive but it's not exactly 100% sweet play either. Betty initiates some of it so we know that it's not something she is afraid of. At first she was a little creeped out by Ned but they have grown familiar with each other. My hope is that they will become best friends over time. Cross your fingers.



The addition of Betty was totally unexpected, but there was no way we were going to drive away with our pumpkins knowing a kitty just a couple of miles away was suffering and slowly starting to die. She is a blessing to our family.

CCLS is often asked what types of animals we will be rescuing, what breeds of dogs we plan on taking, where will we rescue them from (as in locally, out-of-state, internationally, etc.) and under what circumstances (as in pulling dogs from kill "shelters", guardian surrenders, etc.) Our answer is consistent and simple: when we can help, we will help. If we are asked to take in a species that we do not have the facilities and resources for, we will do anything and everything in our power to locate a reputable rescue/sanctuary/home for that animal. If we are notified about a Golden Retriever at a kill shelter, we will not sit back and wait to help a different breed of dog at a kill shelter. If we receive a desperate call from a person who can no longer provide proper care for his/her dog, we will not sit back and tell the person we only save dogs from kill shelters.

**After just a week of being with us, Betty was cleaner, healthier and was starting to have the energy to do kitten things.**



Rescue organizations receive multiple calls and emails a day about animals in desperate situations, and no single organization can say "yes" to taking in every animal in need. When rescue groups pick and choose animals to admit into their care, they are not deciding who to help based on how cute an animal is, who they "want" to rescue, etc. Instead, they are asking themselves many serious questions such as, "Do we have an environment that is safe and comfortable available? Do we have or can we easily obtain the financial resources needed to help this animal with veterinary care? Do we have a lifetime plan for this animal's care and well-being if unexpected medical and/or behavioral issues begin to manifest?" In Betty's case, the answer to all of these questions was "Yes!" so who cares if Betty is a cat and not a dog? CCLS loves all animals. In fact, Betty is not the first animal we've welcomed into our family...

When we first moved to Carpenter Hill Rd., we only had one cat, Finn, our family pet that we rescued from a shelter back in 2007. While we were preparing the property to rescue dogs, our neighbor's barn cat, "Ned" started hanging out at our place more and more. The neighbor spoke highly of Ned and gave him bread and milk. Ned also had access to the farmer's barn which provided shelter from the elements. But bread and milk are not a proper diet for a cat. Also, Ned was intact. So, I began feeding Ned high quality meals and asked the farmer if I could get Ned neutered at our expense. He agreed so Ned was neutered and vaccinated. Then Ned came down with ear mites, so back to the veterinarian he went. While this was all going on, Ned started to spend more and more time at our property. Back when we first noticed Ned, he kept his distance. Then he came once a day, in the evenings around 7pm for his meal. As the weeks went by, Ned started spending and more time with our family and less time at the neighbor's barn. Ned was eager to do whatever I was doing, so he'd follow me around for a while before heading back to the neighbor's barn. While Ned was certainly happy, it was becoming more and more apparent that emotionally he needed a lot more human contact than the barn was providing. Also, even though the neighbors were kind to him, his medical needs had gone unattended.

As the cold weather set in, I assumed that he was sleeping in the neighbor's barn, as the neighbor's barn did have several places a cat could get in. Ned would also smell like cow poop from the barn. But one dark night as the snow was starting to fall, I turned on the driveway light and found him walking around our barn. "He's out there!" I wailed, knowing right then and there it was time for him to make the complete transition into our family. So, we welcomed Ned in from the cold and gave him a little room off of the kitchen to sleep in equipped with a fluffy, cozy bed, a heater and a litter box. Then next day, we asked the farmer if we could officially adopt Ned and he said sure.

Fast forward to today: Ned has been a member of our family for a couple years now. Finn hated him for quite awhile but has learned to tolerate him and occasionally they both can be seen sleeping together on the rocking chair. (What actually happens, though, is that Ned jumps up on the chair after Finn has fallen asleep and Finn is unaware of Ned's presence. Then Finn wakes up, looks disgusted and jumps off the chair.)

**Even though our sanctuary's name is "Celebration of Canine Lives" we love all animals and the stories of Betty and Ned demonstrate why we are here. CCLS is a place where animals find refuge and when we can help, we will help.**



## WILLIAM AND CHARLOTTE PARKS FOUNDATION-GRANT RESULTS ARE IN!

This past April, CCLS applied for a grant from the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation. We featured an article about it, "Wish Us Luck!" in our Summer 2022 Newsletter. Well, the results are in! CCLS did not receive any funding from the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation. We wanted to share this experience with current and future donors for several reasons.

First of all, we wanted to refresh the public about how far we've come with the sanctuary's facilities and what we hoped to receive from the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation. Secondly, we pride ourselves in being transparent with supporters and sharing the challenges non-profits face with fundraising. Lastly, we wanted to share this story so our supporters know their vital role in helping animals, both now and long into the future.

Our Summer 2022 Newsletter detailed the steps we've completed on the barn and the projects still needing completion. We are eager to be able to start taking in rescues of our own and the entire barn does **not** need to be completed before we can accept dogs. The visitors room, office, etc. can all wait. But comfortable living quarters for dogs are essential and we are almost there. To give you a reference, \$86,289.71 has been put into the barn so far. We applied for \$10,000.00 from the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation to help us complete the first two dog rooms. This would cover heat and electricity installation, comfortable flooring material to put over the cement, doors for people to enter the dog rooms, paint to make the rooms bright and cheerful, amenities such as comfortable beds, toys, enrichment puzzles and dog doors leading to small, fenced in outdoor areas. (Sidenote: these outdoor areas would be small because the dogs will already have access to a play yard that is nearly an acre in size). We were hoping if the William and Charlotte Parks Foundation could not fund the full \$10,000.00, they would be able to at least partially fund the rooms project, but we received absolutely nothing from them.

As always, CCLS will continue to move full steam ahead, but we want to make the public aware of the challenges of fundraising. Non-profits receive no federal or state funding; they rely entirely on donations. Non-profits also do not rely on grants. Grants are wonderful to receive, but they are for specific projects such as constructing play yards, spay/neuter, etc. In almost every case, foundations that award grants have absolutely no interest in assisting with the day-to-day expenses a non-profit incurs, nor do most foundations even have the funding to be the "backbone" that keeps an organization in operation. It would be wonderful if everyone who applied for a grant received a grant, but the reality of running a non-profit is trying again and again and hearing "no" many times before there is a breakthrough. After volunteering for other animal rescues for over 18 years, we are well aware of the challenges of obtaining funds and the different types of fundraising tactics. While we work to implement various tactics making sure that the revenue we receive greatly outweighs the expenses put into doing them, we always reach the same conclusion: donations (of all amounts) from many people doing what they can to help CCLS continue to grow is the greatest form of support.

So lastly, but most importantly, we wanted to let all our donors know how vital their role is in our success. Donors are the backbone of nearly all non-profits. The same way a well-paying job enables one to carry on successfully with projects as well as find security in the future, donors are what provide that to a non-profit. We want to thank everyone who supports us- your love and consistent support mean so much more and are far greater than any event or grant! Always know how much your support means!



## CCLS OUT AND ABOUT

CCLS has put up fundraising tents at various festivals in Cuba, Livonia and areas around Conesus Lake. We bring items to sell, copies of our newsletters, sign-up sheets for individuals who wish to receive our newsletters and dog cookies for any canines attending the event to sample. These events are a great way to educate the public about our mission, goals and accomplishments thus far. Public relations are an important part of our work, so we engage every person who comes to our tent in conversation. The most



heartwarming thing about these festivals is talking to people who have brought their dogs along and hearing the stories of how dogs who were once homeless are now cherished family members. Each of these fundraisers brings in, on average, \$100.00 to \$200.00.



Our board member Linda kindly pays the vendor fees. While these festivals are a great way to get our mission out to the public, the greatest source of funding remains our consistent donors who give what they can when they can. CCLS would like thank everyone who has put money in our donation jars and everyone who supports us throughout the year. We will share what festivals/events we will be attending on our facebook page, so please follow us on facebook and visit us at a festival if it is nearby your home.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

October 31st, 2022 marked our 3<sup>rd</sup> year at our property. Although the COVID pandemic slowed down construction work on our barn (in finding a contracting company, delays in shipping material, etc.) we kept working hard and have made a lot of progress since we first moved in. Here are just some of our accomplishments we've made in the past three years.

### 1. The Barn



We named our barn, "Gee's Home," in loving honor and memory of a shelter dog I took care of years ago. Our investment in CCLS to date has been \$86,689.71.



The entire barn was insulated with spray foam.



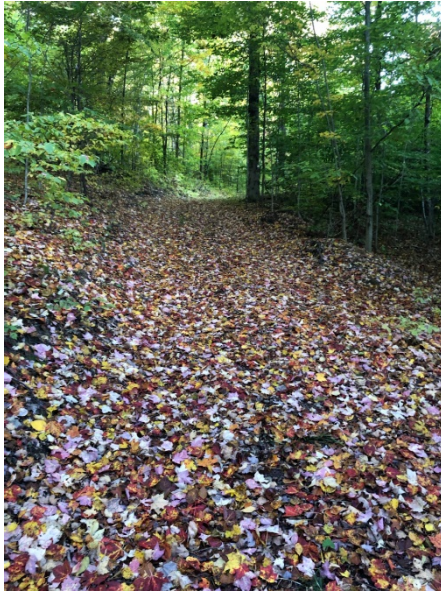
Concrete block walls are completed on the dog rooms.



Asphalt was delivered for our future driveway.



## 2. The Property and Wildlife Preservation



At CCLS, we believe that all animals have the right to live out their lives and should not be regarded as property for humans to use, prey on, etc. Physical and mental suffering is real and it hurts us to see other's pain minimized because he/she happens to be of a certain species. A gunshot hurts a coyote as much as it hurts a domesticated dog, yet there is a "season" on coyotes and other wildlife. Humans intentionally breed and bring millions of animals into



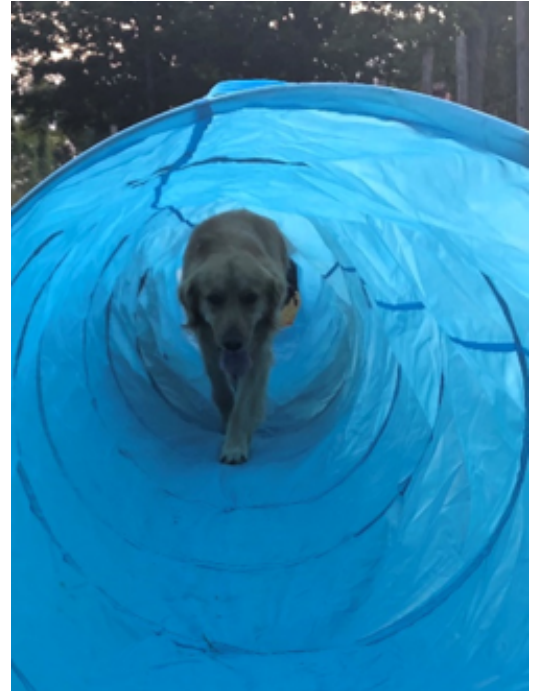
existence, only to use them and destroy them when they are no longer "useful." Over hundreds of years, humans have pushed out wildlife both directly (such as rounding up wild horses out West) or indirectly (such as cutting down forests and building villages). Then humans complain that wildlife has encroached on "human" territory.

CCLS has 85 acres and it is part of our mission to make this property a safe haven for animals that call the trees home or are just passing through. No hunting, fishing or trapping are allowed. We have POSTED signs around the perimeter of our property and we patrol the property regularly to ensure we are doing the best we can for our non-human neighbors.



### 3. Training and Education

Countless dogs have come to visit CCLS for training, play dates, swimming, hiking and just visiting. With 85 acres, our property is a great place for dogs with reactivity issues and their "parents" to come hiking without worrying about encountering loose dogs or other triggers. Dog-friendly dogs are able to enjoy carefully supervised play sessions and their guardians are able to learn the newest force-free tips for helping their newly adopted dogs adjust or overcome fears from their past. CCLS would like to give a shout-out to all the awesome Dog Moms and Dog Dads that work hard to give their furkids happy lives.



**Rusty mastered the tunnel.**



**Tucker and Cooper love to play tag.**



**Nellie says, "This place is fun!"**





#### 4. Networked Animals



Noah (dog on the left) and Cooper (dog on the right). Noah's mother was pregnant with him and his siblings when she was rescued from a high kill shelter in Texas. She and her pups all found wonderful homes and Noah was the last pup to be adopted. CCLS helped locate an amazing family in the Adirondacks that fell in love with Noah. Now he and his big brother Cooper (not biological, but also a rescue) spend their days hiking, swimming, visiting Tractor Supply and enjoying the true meaning of home.



Sonny was featured in our Summer 2022 newsletter. CCLS rescued Sonny from a home that had him scheduled to be put down that very same day. We transported him to Rescue Pups in Friendship, NY where he lived happily until he was adopted into a loving home with a woman who is able to spend quality time with him every day.



Bo (dog on the left) belonged to a wonderful man that passed away. CCLS worked with other rescue organizations to help place Bo in a new, loving home. Here he is playing with his new brother.



## 5. Rescues



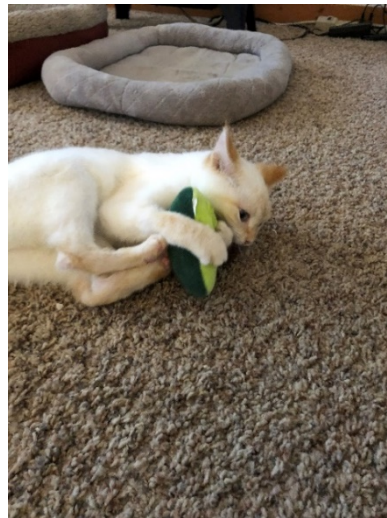
While CCLS is renovating a barn for dogs, we love all animals and when Ned the cat showed up on our property, offering his love and friendship, we knew there was no better place in the world for him than in our home with us.



Ned and Betty keep Finn busy. Finn is 17 years old and has no desire to play with them or cuddle with them. However, he makes sure that they don't take any of his food. Around 10:30pm every night, Finn gets very playful and runs wildly through the house for about 5 minutes. Ned and Betty find this to be quite silly.



Without our intervention, it is likely that Betty would have died slowly and painfully. CCLS strives to teach society that the world does not have to be a bad place for animals. There is no limit to the number of lives that can be positively impacted by people working together and using their unique skills to right the wrongs.



## VEGAN RECIPES

Vegan food simply means food that does not contain animal products. The obvious animal products are meat, dairy and eggs, but other foods (such as gelatin) can contain ingredients that come from animals. Animals in the food industry suffer exponentially more than homeless dogs. We would like to thank all the vegan farm sanctuaries that save animals from terrible lives with terrible fates. While veganism does have health benefits and greatly benefits the environment, the reason we promote veganism is to help animals. Vegan food is not a diet; French fries, Pepsi and many cakes are vegan. Fruits and vegetables are vegan as well as many types of pasta, bread and other common foods. We'd like to share two of our favorite desserts with you.

### Mexican Wedding Cakes



Mix:

- 1 cup of Earth Balance (vegan butter)
- ½ cup of powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 ¼ cups of flour
- ¾ cup walnuts
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Form the cookies into 1-inch balls. Put on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake on 400 degrees for about 10 minutes. Then roll the cookies in confectioners' sugar.

### Chocolate Snowballs



Ingredients:

- 2 cups of sifted all-purpose flour
- ½ cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- 1 ¼ cups of Earth Balance (vegan butter)
- 2/3 cup of granulated sugar (raw)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups of chopped pecans (optional, this is if you like pecans in cookies)
- confectioners' sugar

Directions: In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream Earth Balance with sugar until fluffy; stir in vanilla. Gradually stir in the flour mixture. Stir in pecans.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Form dough into 1-inch balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 15 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Roll in confectioners' sugar. Refrigerate for 3 hours. Makes 5 dozen cookies.



## THANK YOU

CCLS would like to thank all of our donors. You are the foundation of everything we are able to achieve. You are the backbone of the non-profit and you are the hope for all the animals that will need us. Without you, none of this would be possible. Thanks to each of you. Your support means everything to us and to the animals.

CCLS would like to thank the following businesses for letting us put a donor jar at their facilities. Their willingness to help plays an integral role in changing the fate of destitute animals.

\*Cuba Antique Shop-Cuba, NY

\*Four Seasons Auto Body, Cuba, NY

\*Scott's Auto Repair-Hinsdale

If you run a business or know of anyone that does and would like to have a CCLS donation jar at the facility, please let us know. Also, if your business would like to help CCLS in any way, please reach out to us.

Donations can be sent snail mail to:

Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary  
1401 Carpenter Hill Rd.  
Cuba, NY 14727

OR

Donate through Paypal on our website: [celebrationofcaninelives.com](http://celebrationofcaninelives.com)

Please check out our website and share it with others. Thank you!



# CELEBRATION OF CANINE LIVES SANCTUARY

## **The Mission of Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary:**

- \*Rescuing homeless dogs and placing them in permanent, loving homes utilizing comprehensive adoption procedures to ensure dogs and families are well-matched.
- \*Providing lifetime sanctuary for dogs that are difficult to place in adoptive homes due to having significant behavioral and/or medical issues.
- \*To put an end to the killing of homeless dogs in our nation and to practice and promote resources, relationships and activities that encourage canine well-being.

## **The Vision of Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary:**

- \*To provide a compassion paradigm of canine rescue that can be replicated by organizations and individuals, ensuring that once a dog is rescued, his/her safety, quality of life and needs are never compromised again.
- \*A nation where dogs are not considered property in the legal system, subsequently ending the practices that create mass homeless and perpetuate dogs as disposable commodities.
- \*A day when animal shelters are only needed for unforeseen circumstances and where every dog is guaranteed a safe and happy home.
- \*An end to the killing of homeless dogs.

Sidenote: CCLS focuses its work on rescuing and advocating for dogs, which is why dogs are specifically mention in the mission and vision statements. It is important to note that CCLS believes all animals, regardless of species, deserve the same respect and consideration that we outlined for dogs.

**If you'd like to make a donation, please mail donations to:**

Celebration of Canine Lives Sanctuary  
1401 Carpenter Hill Rd.  
Cuba, NY 14727  
[celebrationofcaninelives.com](http://celebrationofcaninelives.com)  
We are also on Facebook

**Thank you for helping CCLS save lives!**

