

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Peace Ridge Sanctuary

A LOVING HOME FOR NEGLECTED AND ABUSED ANIMALS

THEY NEED US, SO WE NEED YOU

WE RESCUED 86 ANIMALS IN 2019 - WE NOW CARE FOR 300+ ANIMALS!

33 - Pigs!!!	3 - Cows
12 - Rabbits	3 - Horses
10 - Goats	1 - Donkey
10 - Ducks	1 - Chicken
7 - Sheep	6 - Dogs

WE ADOPTED OUT 14 LUCKY ANIMALS TO WONDERFUL HOMES IN 2019

Including two dogs, one horse, and eleven indoor rabbits!

WE WELCOMED THOUSANDS OF VISITORS IN 2019

We gave away thousands of FREE vegan lunches at the sanctuary
We gave FREE educational tours to thousands of visitors
We hosted nature walks and educated about how to help our planet
We launched our first ever sanctuary camp for kids

WE REACHED TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE WITH OUR MISSION

Social media enabled our stories to be shared around the world!
We tabled at several festivals & special events throughout the Northeast
We gave presentations in our community and in classrooms
We gave out FREE vegan cookbooks to anyone wanting one
We expanded our 'Ditch Dairy' Campaign to the Boston subway

WE EXPANDED OUR ANIMAL HOUSING & HABITATS

We built an additional pig barn, cow barn, special needs goat barn, bird barn, staff housing and fenced in more habitats for pigs, birds, and dogs!

OUR LIFE-SAVING WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONORS LIKE YOU

All of this work was made possible by compassionate donors like you!

**AND COUNTLESS ANIMALS WERE SAVED
BY OUR VEGAN ADVOCACY**

Dear Fellow Friends of Animals,

Founded in 2001, Peace Ridge Sanctuary is a non-profit, state-licensed animal shelter and conservation organization in the heart of coastal Maine. But Peace Ridge is so much more than a shelter – it's a world class animal refuge with an important mission. For animals rescued from some of the worst state cruelty cases imaginable, Peace Ridge is their only hope.

Sited on an historical estate farm in the rolling hills just outside of Belfast, it's a very special place built by visionary leaders and made possible by compassionate people like you. And with 791 acres of important habitat which we steward for the benefit of rescued animals, wildlife, and the environment, it is truly a hidden gem.

At any given time, there are over 300 rescued animals here and we focus on helping the hardest to place animals – those for whom Peace Ridge is their only chance of survival. When state and local animal control officers need a safe place to bring horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, pigs, special needs dogs, or other animals that most shelters are unable to take on, we open our doors time and time again. Animals like Josephine the pig who was one of the saddest animals we've ever seen. She arrived in 2019 emaciated and pregnant. Before too long, she had put on much needed weight and given birth to seven healthy, perfect little piglets like little Olga, pictured below. After having countless babies taken and killed, this litter will stay with her now and forever. Animals like Josephine love - just like us.

Our lifesaving work is enabled by generous supporters and carried out by our dedicated team that supplies the absolute best in veterinary care and sheltering practices. While our work is grounded in professionalism and knowledge, at the end of the day, every thing we do is fueled by love. We are grateful for the privilege and opportunity to do this important work in a community where there are so many who need our help. We are constantly striving to stretch to do as much as we can – a promise to our donors we will always keep. With you, we will continue to save and advocate for the most vulnerable animals in our society.

Thank you for walking this path with us, friends.



Daniella Tessier
Founder & Executive Director



OUR LEGACY PROPERTY IN MIDCOAST MAINE

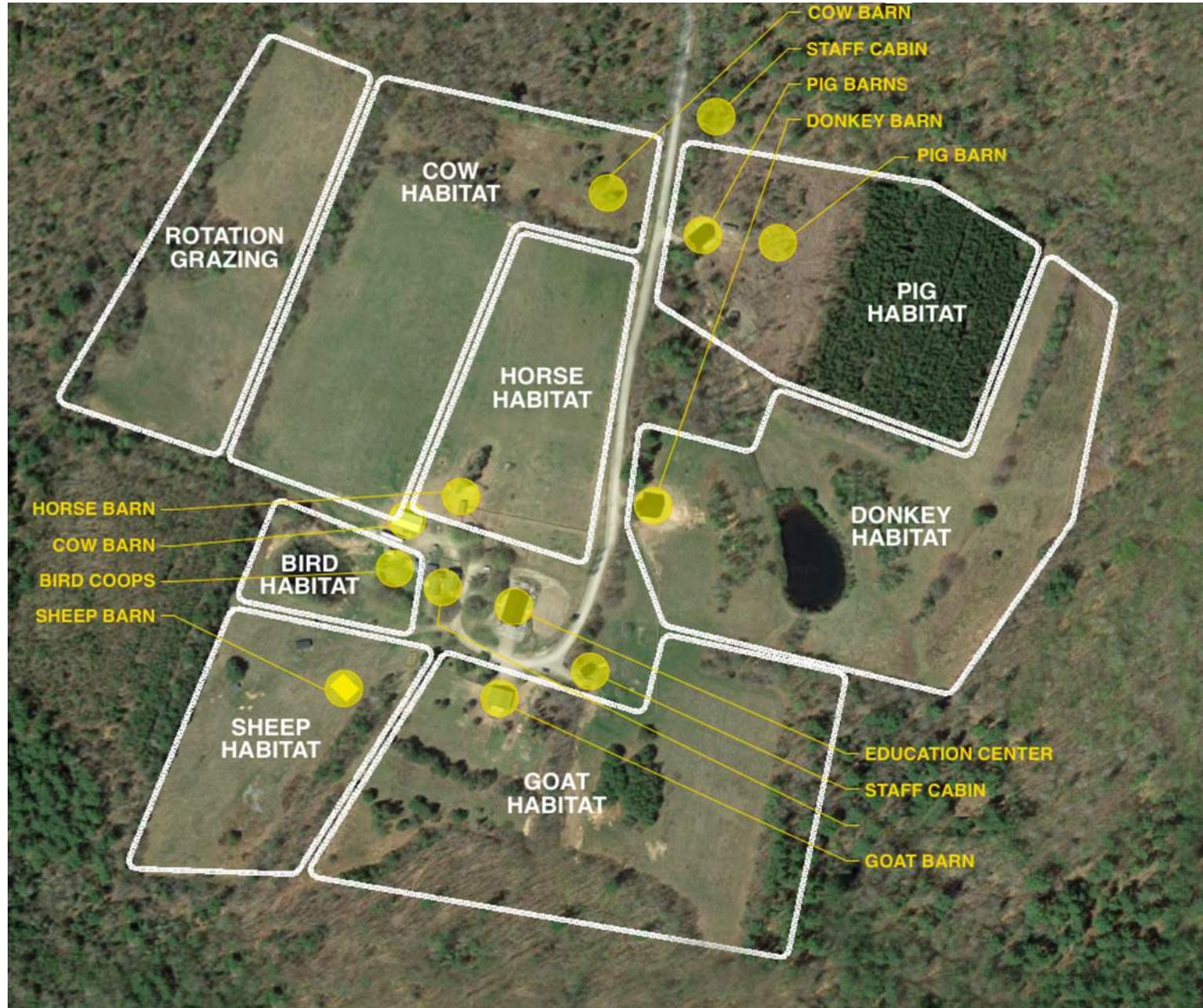
Located in the rolling hills of mid-coast Maine, our animal sanctuary offers 791 acres of land that is used to help and protect myriad animal species. Over 300 rescued farmed animals, equines, and dogs have found a permanent, loving home at Peace Ridge Sanctuary. We also steward and protect over 650 acres of critical wildlife habitat, providing a home for species who are all too often pushed out by development. Coexisting with other species is central to our mission and overall sanctuary philosophy.

Since purchasing our legacy property in Brooks in 2015, we have been very busy growing our world-class animal shelter to accommodate more animals. 2019 saw a big push towards finalizing the majority of our development including additional staff housing, building an additional cow barn, building an additional pig barn and expanding our pig habitat fencing for the 33 new pigs rescued in 2019, adding a special needs goat (CL positive) barn and fencing, adding a special need bird coop and fencing, building an aviary for guinea fowl, and expanding our fenced areas for sanctuary dogs.

We are so grateful to all of our generous supporters who have helped us transform this beautiful estate farm into one of the most active farmed animal and equine rescues in the Northeast. Here, animals rescued from cruelty and neglect cases finally get the care they deserve.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

With development of our Brooks shelter nearly complete, we are planning for ways to expand our reach further, including plans to consider developing a new satellite sanctuary in 2020-2021 so we can help state and local officials with more of the overwhelming number of cruelty cases and seizures they reach out to PRS about.



2019 WAS FILLED WITH MEMORABLE RESCUES

PRS WELCOMED HOME 33 NEW PIGS IN 2019 ALONE!

2019 wasn't only the "Year of the Pig" in the Chinese Zodiac, it was undoubtedly the "Year of the Pig" here at Peace Ridge. January started off with Opal and Onyx being rescued from a state cruelty case that brought a lifetime animal ownership ban to their abuser. In March, we took in Susie, Petunia, and Celia, three "pet" pigs who found themselves waiting in a holding pen at a local slaughterhouse for an entire week when their guardian decided to have them killed instead of improving their neglectful living conditions after being reported multiple times. A twist of fate brought these three slaughterhouse survivors to PRS.

In May, we welcome three little piglets (Casper, Leili, and Magpie) who quickly stole the hearts of everyone they met. In June we rescued several pigs from the same state cruelty case including six potbelly pigs and one emaciated, pregnant pig who was in such bad shape the state deemed her "unfit for human consumption." This pregnant pig, Josephine, gave birth to seven perfect, healthy piglets who will live here with their mother for the rest of their lives. Another piggy family came home to PRS in August when a local farmer arrived pleading for help with a distressed pig who was dying giving birth because she had a stillborn piglet lodged in her birth canal. Our director quickly rushed over, removed the stillborns, and helped Eleanor finish giving birth. The farmer was so grateful she survived that he wanted her to live out the rest of her life in peace with her babies instead of being slaughtered. We also welcomed home a group of six guinea hogs after a local farmer slaughtered half of his pigs and couldn't bear to finish the job.

PRS WAS ON SITE ASSISTING STATE OFFICIALS WITH CRUELTY CASES

Throughout the year, PRS managers were on site with state officials for cruelty cases, seizures and investigations. Our first big rescue of 2019 included helping remove over 100 animals from a starvation case, 20 of whom came to PRS.

THREE MORE HORSES CAME TO PRS IN 2019

Three horses and one donkey were rescued by PRS, including Buddy, one of the most emaciated horses we have ever seen. When his guardian got engaged, she decided she didn't have room in her life for her horse and was going to send him to auction - a death sentence for a skinny old horse - until we pleaded with her to relinquish to PRS. When Buddy arrived, nothing could prepare us for the terrible condition he was in. PRS also rescued two other horses from neglect cases, Dancer and Handsome, both of whom were adopted by one of our amazing supporters.



Pauline & Faustine - January 2019



Helga, Rowena, Myrtle - January 2019



Opal & Onyx - rescued January 2019



Fredrick & Douglass - May 2019



Buddy - rescued May 2019



Casper - rescued May 2019

MEET MORE OF THE 2019 RESCUED ANIMALS

THREE COWS CAME HOME TO PRS IN 2019

One of our most memorable rescues of 2019 was Sadie the calf. This little fighter arrived at PRS in the summer of 2019 after suffering a severe traumatic brain injury that left her unable to feed herself. She also had a life-threatening case of pneumonia. Her rehabilitation case was complicated but our team was determined to try to save her. Once we were able to clear her pneumonia, it took over three months of round-the-clock bottle feeding and slowly hand feeding Sadie grass until she figured out how to eat as her brain recovered. By the end of 2019, she was thriving.

Our other bovine rescues included Annabelle, a sweet Jersey cow who was living in a small, waste-filled stall with the floor rotting away beneath her. Annabelle's guardian had stopped feeding her and she would have died had PRS not stepped in. We also rescued a horse (Handsome) and rabbit (Basil) along with Annabelle. Nathan was our last rescue in 2019 and we were alerted to his situation by a concerned neighbor who said his guardians had moved out weeks before, leaving Nathan to die. We quickly got state agents and police involved and within hours, had Nathan removed. He won his case in court and his legal custody was transferred to PRS where he will spend the rest of his days getting the love and respect he deserves.

SEVEN NEW SHEEP FOUND SAFETY HERE

In May of 2019, we were contacted about 50 lambs who were set to be slaughtered when the adult children of the farmer stepped in and pleaded for some to be sent to sanctuaries. While PRS offered to take in as many as they would relinquish, in the end, the farmer only released two lambs, whom we named Fredrick and Douglass. Five more sheep came to PRS in November from a local cruelty/starvation case where the situation had gotten so bad the starving survivors had resorted to eating wool off of each other to try to stay alive. It breaks our hearts to think of how hungry and desperate they must have been. Included in that rescue was Maia, a pregnant sheep who needed emergency care to support her and her growing baby, Leopold.

TEN GOATS WERE SEIZED FROM A LOCAL "SANCTUARY"

State officials brought ten goats to PRS in October of 2019 when conditions at the "sanctuary" they were at were so dire that they found dead animals among the living during their investigation. Sofia was one of the lucky goats from that rescue to have found safety and peace here. We also welcomed three more rabbits (Fleur, Percival, & Andomeda), one donkey (Cinderella), one rooster (Champion), and six lucky dogs (Bonesy, Callie & Violet, Anna, Oma, and Lena) home to PRS.



Sadie - rescued May 2019



JoJo & piglets - rescued June 2019



Annabelle - rescued September 2019



Sofia - rescued October 2019



Maia - rescued November 2019



Nathan - rescued December 2019

HUMANE EDUCATION



Some of our 2019 campers learning about farmed animal care



Our 2018 'Ditch Dairy' campaign was expanded to Boston subway cars in 2019

2019 SAW AN EXPANSION OF OUR HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

While direct rescue and lifelong care of farmed animals, equines, and senior dogs is a key part of our mission, another vital part of our work is making a greater impact by educating the public about the issues faced by animals in our society.

WE WELCOMED THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO PRS IN 2019!

Throughout the summer and fall visiting season, PRS hosted many public events, most of which were free to anyone in our community wanting to come meet the animals and learn more about our mission. Here are some highlights of our 2019 Educational Programming & Events:

- PRS Hosted a Dozen Free Open House Educational Tour Days
- FREE Vegan Lunches Provided to Thousands of Visitors
- Our "This is What Real Happy Cows Look Like" Event
- Our Annual "Gentle Thanksgiving" Celebration
- Outreach Events Throughout New England
- Public Lecture at Local Nature Preserve
- School & Youth Group Educational Tours
- FREE Vegan Cookbook Give-Aways
- Our First Sanctuary Summer Camp
- Hosting Graduate Student Program
- Guided Educational Nature Walks
- Volunteer Work Parties & Tours
- In-Classroom Presentations
- Expanding our Online Advocacy
- ... and More!

Time and time again, visitors tell us that their tour at PRS was life-changing. Meeting the animals and hearing their stories, people are inspired to make compassionate choices that are better for their health, gentler on the planet, more equitable for other humans, and kinder to all animals.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Peace Ridge Sanctuary cares about all of the animals that share our world. That's why we have dedicated the majority of our 791-acre landholding - containing prime forests, wetlands, and fresh water habitat - to our wild animal counterparts.

This vast allotment supports an abundance of species including all of the state's 58 mammal inhabitants, reptiles and amphibians, and a plethora of key aquatic species. On any given day here at Peace Ridge we see beaver, fox, muskrat, deer, moose, bear, mink, and ferret, just to name a few. The property also serves as a special nesting ground for great blue heron, bald eagles, osprey, bitterns, and a variety of ducks and other water and ground birds.

While Maine has an abundance of wildlife, several species of mammals have either gone extinct or have been extirpated from the state, according to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Those considered endangered, including the New England Eastern Cottontail, the Little Brown Bat and the Northern Bog Lemming are all inhabitants of our landholding, which is largely undeveloped. We are very happy to be able to give habitat to the wildlife that we love, who will remain free and safe within our borders.

We are always open to opportunities to partner with donors, wildlife protection enthusiasts, and pro-wildlife organizations. Our vision is for this landholding to be kept in its wild state to protect wildlife in perpetuity. As we rely on public support to make this goal a reality, we invite participation of interested partners who share this vision.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Our goals include the purchase of additional conservation holdings adjacent to our current acreage, and the establishment of a restricted endowment to grant future security for our protected landholding. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, we would love to hear from you!



This little fawn found his way to PRS in late spring of 2019. Severely dehydrated (a sign he was orphaned and needed help) we got to work right away stabilizing him under the direction of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Once he was healthy enough to transport, the rehabilitator took him in with plans to release him here in 2020 with other yearlings.

Front: Opal was rescued in January of 2019 from a state cruelty seizure that brought 20 severely abused and neglected animals to PRS.



Back: Cinderella was rescued by PRS in August of 2019 when her guardian was going to have her euthanized (there were no medical reasons to justify this) simply because she no longer wanted to care for her.