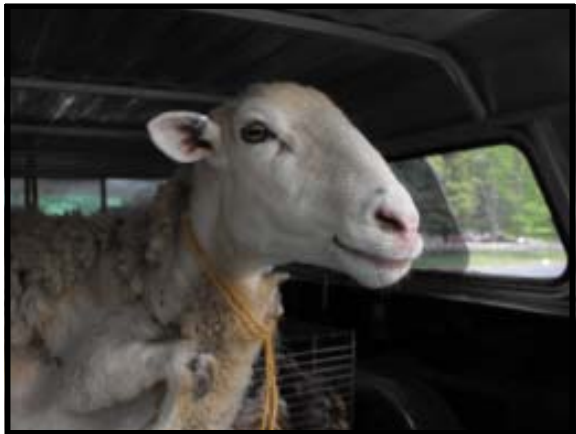


Tatiana The Beautiful Sheep

On Thursday, May 28th, a large, white female sheep was brought to Happy Trails from a rescue situation in Medina County. She was unable to walk without extreme difficulty, and was kept in a small barn area that was overcrowded with many other farm animals such as young bull calves, goats, sheep and pigs. Struggling to stay out of the way of the healthier and more dominant animals, this gentle ewe would drag her back legs with her as she tried her very best to stay standing for as long as she possibly could to not get trampled.



Though she is shown standing up here in the truck that brought her to Happy Trails, she wasn't able to stand for very long. We originally thought that her back leg was broken, and that she also had an injured front leg. Her wool was spotty at best, and appeared to be coming out in unhealthy, uneven clumps. Though she had not been shorn, she was losing her coat. Something else was wrong too. Her nose showed signs of sore mouth, a sheep disease that is contagious to people and that is similar to the humane version of the herpes virus. Though she was clearly uncomfortable, she was still kind to her handlers and cooperated as best as her crippled body would allow.



Upon arrival at Happy Trails, she was made comfortable until the vet could arrive to examine her about an hour and a half later. Dr. Randy Alger, one of Happy Trails field service veterinarians, handles many of our sheep, goat, cow, horse and farm pig health issues.

A thorough examination, blood tests and a fecal count would reveal a great deal about the new resident's health. We needed to quickly give her a name, and we needed a pretty name for a pretty girl. She was dubbed "Tatiana".

(PHOTO RIGHT) Doc Alger (left) and Happy Trails Board Member, Cheri Rider, work on Tatiana in front of "The Lazy Hog Inn", a log cabin now claimed by Queenie the pot belly pig. Queenie was more than happy to share her home with her new sheep, goat and chicken friends that had just arrived.





The vet examination revealed that Tatiana has a variety of health issues. She needed to be treated for an upper respiratory infection. The sore near her lips was indeed sore mouth. She was completely infested with lice. Her patch-work wool coat was not normal, and Doc Alger explained to us that she was not a breed of sheep that would normally shed her own coat, but rather a breed that would need to be shorn. Chances are that her wool had started to break off due to a high fever at some point.

And after careful manipulation, it was determined that her legs were not broken, but rather the problem with her inability to walk had to do

with the horrific condition of her feet. Tatiana's hooves were in terrible shape to say the least.

Untreated hoof rot had taken over in several hooves, and in some areas was so bad that it had created large and very deep holes that went from the bottom of her hooves up into the soft tissue of her painful feet. Each step she took had to be sheer agony. To help her endure her much-needed hoof trimming and medical treatments, she was given a painkiller.

The rotted material had to slowly and very carefully cut away, and the deep holes had to be cleaned out and treated. Dr. Alger, with his usual perfect bed-side manner for sick or injured animals, quietly reassured Tatiana as he worked on her. "It's OK girl," he would softly tell her. "Does that hurt? Well we'll let you rest a minute." Cheri, too, talked quietly to the beautiful sheep, who seemed to know that everyone was trying their very best to help her. Cheri gently pet her head and rubbed her neck while trying to keep Tatiana comfortable.



The big girl was also placed on anti-biotics, vaccinated, dewormed, and de-liced. She was given electrolytes to help give her the boost that she needed to begin to heal, and was provided with some good hay that she happily munched after her exam.

She seemed to be happiest laying down in the thick bed of soft, dry straw inside The Lazy Hog Inn near Queenie the pig and resting comfortably, with her painful hooves tucked up underneath her. Queenie sniffed toward Tatiana and gave her a snort of approval.



We were able to remove one of her ear tags, but she was very done with all the poking and prodding by the time we got to the other tag, so we decided to let well enough alone and work on it during her next vet visit.

I am happy to report that Tatiana is eating and drinking well and is responding to medical treatment! Yesterday, she carefully and tenderly took her first steps out into the soft grass in the yard at the sanctuary. She tested her newly trimmed hooves and was able to walk a little bit better already! She was thrilled to be outdoors, and for a long time, she simply stood with her head up in the air and sniffed the fresh country air. She seemed at peace and content.

Every once in a while you run across a rescued animal that seems grateful for having been rescued and for having been given a chance to enjoy a life free from pain. Tatiana seems to be one of these animals — she is quickly learning to trust us, and has been very cooperative though she obviously has not been feeling well. She is kind to all the other animals at the sanctuary, including Queenie her roommate, and the baby goats and chickens who share her barnyard.

SPONSORING TATIANA

As Tatiana begins her road to recovery, her vet expenses and those of the other animals who arrived from the same location have added up rather quickly. We sure could use your help with a sponsorship of Tatiana or one of the other animals in this rescue series.

To date, her medical expenses are at \$175. We anticipate several additional follow up visits, which we estimate will be about \$120, giving us a grand total of \$295 in vet bills for Tatiana.

If you could help with her vet costs, we will be happy to send you one of her very best pictures and updates as to her progress. All donations are tax-deductible, and donations marked “Tatiana” can be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or can be made through PayPal on our website (though PayPal does take out a fee for this service) at www.happytrailsfarm.org.



ADOPTING TATIANA

We are seeking a home where Tatiana will have other sheep or other farm animals for friends, where she will have a large yard to play and enjoy life, and will have a safe and cozy shelter which will protect her in all types of weather. If you are interested in adopting Tatiana, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

Tatiana and all the other rescued animals at Happy Trails continue to grateful for your kindness and support!!!