

# New Baby Goat Takes An Unexpected Trip To OSU For Emergency Surgery

**He loves to be held.** He'll lay his tiny body against your chest and tuck his sleepy little head up under your chin and half close his eyes and lick his nose. He's just a baby.

On Tuesday, June 26, this precious eight week old baby goat arrived at Happy Trails, compliments of an animal control officer in

comply with zoning codes, the owner of the chickens decided to make matters worse and get a goat, just to show the authorities he could do as he pleased. Well, wrong move. The animals were seized by animal control. The chickens were placed elsewhere, but the baby goat was brought to Happy Trails.



Too young to have been taken from his mother, baby Napoleon was purchased by someone trying to prove a point in a zoning issue.

Bedford. The short version of the story is that a resident owned chickens in a neighborhood that was not zoned for anyone to own farm animals. After flatly refusing to

**Things started out well.** The volunteers were all over this little guy and he got way more than his share of hugs and smooches. He was christened "Napolean". Dr.

Randy Alger, our field service vet, gave him an initial examination, vaccinations, deworming, de-licing, and decided we should wait for a while before castrating the little guy to give him a chance to develop more fully.

This past Saturday I was out of town, and luckily long-time volunteer, goat adopter and goat expert, Jason Wolboldt, was the Team Leader in charge of the sanctuary. Jason called me after he noticed that Napolean was crying inconsolably. He was crying in pain and turning and twisting his tiny little body this way and that way. Something was obviously wrong! An emergency call brought Doc Alger out back out to Happy Trails. An exam revealed that little Napolean had a common health issue typical for male goats. However, Doc Alger hadn't normally seen this problem in goats this young. Napolean had a blockage in his urethra, a painful crystallized blockage that would not pass easily from his body. Dr. Alger performed an emergency partial penile amputation at Happy Trails, the typical way to begin to fix this painful problem. Unfortunately this did not work for Napolean. The young baby could not pass the stones. **A trip to OSUVMC (Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center) in Columbus would be needed to save his life**, and a more extensive, more detailed surgery would have to be performed. Without hesitation, Jason carefully loaded baby Napolean into his vehicle and set out on the two hour trip, with Dr. Pentecost at OSU and her vet tech and student vet crew awaiting his arrival.

Several hours later Napolean was under anesthesia with Jason anxiously awaiting the outcome of

the surgery. Dr. Pentecost finally announced the good news that the baby came through with flying colors, and that she expected a full recovery. *Excellent* news actually!

The small goat had already stolen the hearts of volunteers, staff members and visitors alike. Something so devastating simply could not happen to this precious little man!

**As I write this article, Napolean is in recovery at Ohio State and probably will be for several days.** When he returns to Happy Trails, he will be placed in the air conditioned environment of the office as he continues his recovery so as not to expose him to the record-breaking heat we've been experiencing and to protect his surgery site from the biting flies of summer.

We are grateful that his life was able to be saved and that Napolean will soon be available for adoption after his recovery.

**In the meantime, Happy Trails has incurred the burden of an impressive combined vet bill. The cost for the emergency exam and field service surgery from Dr. Alger is \$350, and the expenses for Ohio State is \$1,200, for a whopping total of \$1,550.**

What a crappy situation to be in, to decide to end the little goat's life because it's cheaper, or to give him the surgery that he needs to survive so that he can live many more years in happiness and joy. *Obviously we chose the latter.*

Of course the OSU bill will need to be paid before we pick up Napolean, **so we are scrambling to raise as much of the funds** before we are called with the good news that he will be ready to be



*While Kevin and I were out on a pig rescue the other night, Jason caught the goat on the chair in the office, sitting in front of the computer. Everyone was in stitches when he sent out the following picture, telling us in the email that he heard we were looking for office help and thought he found someone for the job. Thought this was worth sharing to bring you your laugh for the day!*

released from the hospital.

**We are truly grateful for any donation amount toward his vet expenses, even if it's only an extra \$5 you care to throw in an envelope** and write his name on the flap. Donations are tax deductible.

### WAYS TO DONATE

- Via **PayPal** on our website, [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org), and just write the name "Napolean" or "baby goat" in the memo.
- You can **send a check** by mail to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.
- Or **call the sanctuary with your credit card information** and we can process a donation for you over the phone. If you get our voice mail, just leave your name and number and we'll call you back asap.

*Thank you for helping us save Napolean's life!*

## FUNDRAISING GOAL

**TO COVER SURGERY  
WE NEED TO RAISE  
\$1,550**

**Make a tax deductible donation of any amount toward the emergency medical expenses of Napolean and receive his autographed picture!**

***And that's not all!***

**Donate \$30 or more and you will receive a special invitation for a free personal tour and get to meet the baby goat in person!**