

(January 2014)

A few weeks ago we received a call from one of the veterinarians we work with... asking us if we could help in the rescue of a number of goats that were living in an overcrowded and unhealthy environment. According to the veterinarian the owner was overwhelmed by her situation and was desperate to find help. The owner had planned on breeding her goats so that she could use and sell goat milk and to use the milk to make "goat soap" as well. But things had gotten out-of-hand.

When we arrived at the site we discovered that the nine goats were living in a small muddy and frankly filthy environment. According to the owner she had originally planned to have the goats on an acre subsection of the property she was living on. But due to a change in plans by the landowner the acreage was not going to be available.

Despite her apparent good intentions the situation had become overwhelming. The goats had little space to move around in and despite the fact that the owner had separated her fully intact males from the herd, she had one doe that was pregnant and several others that had health issues.



After several days of discussion with the owner and the veterinarian we agreed to take in three of the goats and help re-home another goat IF the owner had her two male goats altered so that there were no more pregnancies. The owner agreed and we assisted the veterinarian and owner in altering the boys the next week.

We then worked with the owner to bring Daisy (a nine month old Nigerian Dwarf and Nubian mix) and Pearl (a two year old Angora and miniature Nubian mix) to the sanctuary where they were placed in quarantine for eight days. While in quarantine they had their hooves trimmed, received vaccinations, went through de-worming treatments and had multiple dust baths to get rid of the millions of lice that were feasting on them.



During this time Daisy and Pearl also began a socialization program as they were not used to being handled, petted or being around humans a lot. Their progress was notable. After eight days both came up to the caregivers to have their heads scratched and to be generally loved.

Then yesterday we released Daisy and Pearl from quarantine and walked them up to our upper pasture where they were introduced to Sally and Errol, our resident goats. After a quick introduction through the fence and gate we released Daisy and Pearl into the pasture. After the initial meet and greet with Sally and Errol they quickly formed an inseparable herd.



At first Daisy and Pearl seemed puzzled by the grass, the large pasture and the freedom that was theirs. But that didn't last long. Within a few minutes they were running with joy and exploring their new "digs".



It was so obvious that they were overjoyed by their new environment and their ability to run in green pastures where there wasn't mud that Errol decided to join them in their romps around the pasture.



Daisy and Pearl will spend the next three to four months here at the sanctuary. If their health remains good and their socialization programs go well they will be put up for adoption in the late spring or early summer.

The third goat we have rescued is named Fawn and she is a two year old Nubian and miniature Nubian mix. She is currently pregnant. The father is a Nigerian Dwarf. Fawn is going into one of the sanctuary's foster homes where she will be cared for until such time as she delivers her kid or kids.





Fawn is on the right!

During her stay at the foster home she will receive hoof treatments, be de-wormed and receive amble lice treatments. She will also go through a series of vaccinations to improve her health and help with her pregnancy and delivery.

Assuming a successful delivery and initial nursing period, Fawn and her kids will be moved to the sanctuary at the end of April or early May.

We are thankful that we have been able to assist in this rescue. Unfortunately this type of situation is not uncommon. We often are called into situations where people have become overwhelmed and overcrowded when they allow unaltered animals to breed. We unfortunately have too many animals now of almost every species who need good homes. We would encourage all pet owners to be responsible in the spaying and neutering of their animals.

As always we appreciate your interest and support of the work we do. If you would like to assist us in this endeavor we greatly appreciate any donation you can afford in this regard. Every cent received goes directly to the animals' care.