We kept this big guy. Look at that face! How could we not? Mary calls him Happy. That’s fine for a house pet but not for a hunter. I’ll call him Happy when he’s in the field. It works.

Happy was the firstborn and the biggest pup all the way through weaning. By the second week a strange large growth developed on his skin and matted deep in the fur. It was unsightly and impossible not to notice. Happy was blemished and the prospects of someone wanting him were slim.

Happy got his name because his mood was a constant bright light. The first to pounce, the first to wag, the first to lick in love. He was the biggest but never bullied the smaller and weaker. It is almost like Happy knew he was blemished so had to be...better. I told Mary he was ours if no one wanted him. Candidly, I had my favorite picked out from day one and it wasn’t Happy.

By week four it was time to have the vet take a look at the growth in his fur. She was very gentle and methodical. Happy’s fur was shaved down to the skin and it was difficult to tell how deep the growth went. We’d just have to see what grew back. Week five and six, potential owners came by to check out the pups. They all inquired to the bald spot and mottled skin on the largest male. After hearing what we knew, they quickly moved on to the other pups. Clearly, Happy-pup was damaged goods. Over the weeks, we’d accepted Happy’s imperfection and focused on the virtues making him so special.

People, Animals & the Earth: Better Together
by Megan Flowers, Sanctuary One Executive Director

In 2007 Sanctuary One became the first care farm in the United States. Located near the Applegate Lake on 55 acres, Sanctuary One is surrounded by forestry land, and encourages people to disconnect from the busy world by connecting directly to the world in front of them. Care farms are a part of health care systems in other countries, offering needed mental therapy sites where youth and adults work and learn. Since we established our care farm, there are now dozens starting in the United States.

We have a three prong focus at Sanctuary One. Our mission is to provide a refuge for animals and a healing place for people while promoting environmental stewardship. We believe that when people, animals, and the earth connect, good things happen.

We also believe care farms can serve as models for treating animals humanely and acknowledging their intrinsic physical and spiritual value.

Since its founding over ten years ago, Sanctuary One has provided a refuge for over 1000 animals in need. Mistreated, frightened, sometimes sick, they have found a healing home with us, thanks to the generosity of our donors and the teamwork of staff, volunteers, and interns.

Sanctuary One has a luxury not all animal rescuees have: if an animal isn’t adopted, we are their forever home. Animals, however, are not the only ones who find happiness at the farm. Volunteers often tell me Sanctuary One is an island of peace in a world of chaos. Volunteers of course, are the only ones impacted by our care farm.

We are now in our third year partnering with Maslow Project, a local nonprofit serving youth experiencing homelessness. One recent high school graduate told us on her very first visit to the farm that “working with Sanctuary One has showed me that there are people who care more about the animals than themselves; with my past experiences in life it is hard to believe that there are people that have so much love to give.”

Through our partnership with the RASA Center for Yoga and Wellness, we started a new program series in 2017 called Farm Flow. We expanded in 2018, and with support from community members, Silver has been able to provide sponsored participation in three-series: one for veterans, one for breast cancer survivors, and another for those going through grief. 100% of participants say the Farm Flow yoga retreats exceed expectations. A breast cancer survivor told us, “Farm Flow Yoga provided not only a healthy form of exercise to ground and connect in a positive way—it was emotionally, spiritually, and environmentally wonderful. You are a gift to us as well as the animals.” From our veterans session we heard that “practicing yoga to the sounds of happy pigs, I didn’t even know that was my bucket list! Such a sweet way to connect with myself, others, veterans, rescued animals and nature.”

This summer, we have an amazing supporter who will match every tour ticket sold in June. Each $10 tour ticket will be matched with a $10 donation. We hope you join us Friday or Saturday at our 10:30am tours and come experience the Sanctuary One magic yourself. You can reserve your spot online at sanctuaryone.org.

If you’re looking for a volunteer opportunity out in the country, contact us about our monthly volunteer orientations, learn more and apply online. We hope to see you on the farm.