Message from the President

Leading by Example

There are so many styles of leadership that we don’t always recognize it when we see it.

We are all familiar with the bold, charismatic leader who puts forth a compelling vision and inspires others to make it a reality. This style of leadership motivates followers and supporters to take actions, thus amplifying the power of the vision. For any major societal change to begin, this type of leader may be an essential ingredient.

Another form of leadership is evident in the invention of alternative paradigms, creating other, better, ways of doing things. An example of this method is the work of scientists who are devising alternatives to the use of animals in research and experimentation.

A third leadership approach relies on sustaining and sharpening an existing vision—and putting it into practice in the real world. This leader is a dedicated practitioner focused on implementing the vision. Its success depends on perseverance and dedication. People are inspired by this leadership strategy because it puts their vision and ideals directly into action, day to day. They see that change is not only possible but has begun—and they want more.

I see the Kindness Ranch embodying this third style of leadership. We are not the bold forgers of cataclysmic change. We know that experimentation on animals is a complex and nuanced moral issue. And we know that fiery rhetoric alone will not bring about the societal changes we seek.

We do not proselytize, we act. We apply our vision of kindness every time we receive a former research animal, give them shelter and care, and find them a home. This commitment to the principles of kindness and love to all, especially to the animals we save from untimely deaths, is our form of leadership.

Despite the challenges we've faced since our founding in 2007, we continue to act in the spirit of our vision and implement our mission, one former research animal at a time. We have coped with brutal Wyoming winters, tried to balance the confidentiality needs of the research facilities with which we work with the need to keep supporters like you informed, and endured the ravages of the pandemic, including having to close our gates to visitors. Nevertheless, we were able to rescue the most recent batch of eight feisty beagle boys.

With the backing of animal lovers like you, we have built a facility that proves the concept that animals who have been experimented upon can be socialized and adopted out as pets. We have been extraordinarily successful. We have had a positive impact on the families who have adopted from us, on the animals we have saved, and, as a model of compassion and second chances, on the society we live in.

We trust that you, our powerful community of supporters, will help us keep our vision strong and ever more vivid. If you appreciate our pragmatic form of leadership, I’m asking you to send us a tax-deductible donation and offer your volunteer hours, so we can sustain the model practices our animal friends need from us. Thank you.

—Daniel “Oyster” Ziskin, President

Ranch Residents Report

Eight Beagle Boys Blow In!

The wind in Wyoming is a constant presence. You might be caressed by a warm breeze one day and get rocked by 70 mile-an-hour gusts the next. On their February 22nd drive back from picking up eight beagles just released from a research facility, Executive Director, John Ramer, and Animal Caregiver Manager, Rachel Marie Batcher, were met with hurricane-like winter blasts.

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Eight Beagle Boys Blow In!

Fittingly, the newcomers all have wind-themed names. Here's a quick look at our lucky beagle boys. They are all between three and four years-old and will soon be ready for adoption. We'd like you to meet Twister, Dusty, Cierzo, Chinook, Drift, Zephyr, Hurricane, and Gust.

We currently have a waiting list of potential adopters who we will be contacting very soon. If you would like to be considered for this and future adoptions, please fill out The Kindness Ranch Adoption Application form on our website at https://kindnessranch.org/pages/kindness-ranch-animals-for-adoption.

Twister is one of the more friendly and energetic of the bunch. He sometimes runs in circles when he's excited, a tail-chasing whirlwind.

His confidence is increasing as he adjusts to a life of freedom but Cierzo is still shy and timid. He likes to be petted but sometimes gets nervous when the other dogs get worked up.

Drift is as friendly and playful as a beagle can be. He will be someone's loving companion by the time you read this.

His tail is always wagging, and he loves people. Because Zephyr has had several seizures, he will need lifelong medical care. Do you have what it takes to give a devoted dog the special attention he needs?

If you're looking for a cuddler, look no further. Hurricane is a lap dog by nature who likes to be noticed.

Handsome, friendly, and playful. What more could you ask of a beagle boy like Gust?

Smallest of the group and a little more bashful than the rest, Chinook is sweet and affectionate and enjoys attention.
Where Are They Now?

33 Puppies In, 33 Puppies + One Cat Out

As you know, the Kindness Ranch received 33 beagle puppies in November. Thanks to supporters like you, every one has been adopted. Caring for 33 puppies was an interesting, and in some ways, exhausting experience for a team that typically handles a maximum of twelve adult dogs in two yurts.

We speculate—though the lab would not disclose what testing the 33 puppies were subjected to—that they were used in vaccination studies. Bred specifically for use in animal experiments, these puppies knew nothing of "normal" life. If they had not been released to us, they probably would never have had the chance to run and jump, roll in the grass, play freely with people and other dogs, or felt truly loved.

Puppies are fun, but their number and youthful energy presented challenges. We introduced them to the new experiences they would face in their forever homes, like sharing toys and climbing stairs. We introduced them to basic commands and rules of doggie etiquette. And every time we turned around, there was another mess to clean up, another puppy who required attention. In weeks, every puppy was adopted and is now thriving in a loving home.

We only have space here to highlight a few of them ...

Allen Watts was renamed MOOSE by Steve and Sable D. on New Year’s Day. He now lives in Casper, with Kindness Ranch alumnus Quinn.

Jennifer holds her new life companion, PALAYE, now home in Golden, Colorado.

SIENA found a happy match with Dominic and Paula R. in Colorado.

Not only dogs found homes in the last couple of months. MARY the cat was adopted by Renee of Lead, South Dakota.

Born in a veterinary training facility in Wyoming, ACORN the goat was going to be auctioned off to the highest bidder when a concerned person contacted the Kindness Ranch. We arranged to pick her up and give her sanctuary. Here she is making friends with GRACE, a three-legged sheep, another refugee from animal testing.

In January, we took in DAYALUTA, when she was only 16 weeks old. Dayaluta was also born in a veterinary training facility, this one in Idaho. Luckily, a student intercepted her just as she was about to be sold to a local farm and contacted us.

Ranch Residents Report

You Give Them All Second Chances
Grace the sheep and Sally the pig show us that kindness and compassion transcend all our differences. You can help them, and hundreds more former research animals, by naming the Kindness Ranch in your will.

Depending on the size of your estate, a charitable bequest may significantly reduce your estate taxes. And you will be helping the Kindness Ranch rescue, rehabilitate and rehome former research animals for years to come.

An experienced professional can help you draft a will that meets the technical and procedural elements of your state. Gifts made to the Kindness Ranch are deductible as charitable contributions under federal income, estate and gift tax laws. Please consult your tax advisor for further information on contributions.

Naming the Kindness Ranch in your will can help us provide lifelong care to former research animals like Grace the sheep and Sally the pig and find forever homes for hundreds more dogs, cats, horses, cows, and other animals formerly used in research.

For more information, please call Executive Director, John Ramer, at (307) 735-4177.

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A MATTER OF TRUST

The Kindness Ranch receives former research animals from universities, medical schools and private laboratories on condition of strict anonymity or with an agreement to reveal only limited details. Many facilities would not allow us to bring animals to The Kindness Ranch if we did not follow this protocol. This arrangement allows us to continue to work with the facilities to ensure we are able to rescue even more animals in need.