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VINE Sanctuary News





Wow! in 2020, the hardworking team at VINE Sanctuary managed to organize **more educational events than ever before**, all the while caring for **more than 700 animals** in the midst of a pandemic that made everything more difficult!

We could not possibly have done it without the help of a huge community of care ranging from local volunteers to far-off supporters. That includes you, so please do take a moment to look over the 2020 Year in Review below and feel good about your own contribution.

To make sure that we close out the year ready for whatever 2021 has in store for us, one of our steadfast friends has offered a challenge: **Every donation made between now and the end of the year will be matched!**

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Thank you for being part of our community,
and we hope you will enjoy our 2020 Year in Review!

2020 On-Site Highlights

Population 700+

We will close out the year with more than 700 animals in residence, including 43 cows, 363 chickens, 6 sheep, 127 pigeons, 9 goats, 58 ducks, 3 alpacas, 27 doves, 14 geese, 18 guineafowl, 12 turkeys, and 20 others. In addition to these occupants of coops, barns, and aviaries, scores of rewilded pigeons and dozens of rewilded ducks use the sanctuary

as home base, breakfasting with us each day. Countless wild turkeys and deer find refuge from hunters here.



As always, the year started and ended with snow (we're still digging out from the last blizzard), but that was just about the only normal thing about 2020. From the local feed store shutting down to the cancellation of volunteer days, the pandemic made it more difficult for us to maintain the sanctuary. But, thanks to the hard work of our on-site staff and the steadfast help of a few local volunteers, life went on as usual for our nonhuman community members. Since everyday life was so unusual for so many people, we began offering regular livestreams, to allow folks to catch a glimpse of relaxed animals just living their lives.

Calf-a-Palooza!

Three calves came to the sanctuary in quick succession, bringing jolts of joy along with them. First came Nina, whose mother Norma had injured a worker at a dairy while protecting her. Instead of calling for revenge, the worker begged the dairy to let Norma go to a sanctuary, and our Cheryl convinced them to surrender Nina too. They were still settling in when Ebony, who had (unbeknownst to us) been pregnant when she arrived late last year with her calf Ivory, gave birth in the back pasture.



The two mothers made friends, and it was such a joy to see two calves with their mothers! Calves Nina and Cora were soon joined by Splash, who had won the heart of a teenaged farm worker at a local dairy, and we ended up with a trio of calves romping around the pastures, bringing evident delight to the elder members of the front pasture cow community.

Fine-Feathered Friends

Because many people began keeping chickens during the lockdowns, the always-high demand to take in roosters became even more intense. By the end of the year, 85 roosters were in residence at the sanctuary. Other new feathered friends included groups of ducks, turkeys, and guineafowl — some saved from slaughter, others seized by authorities due to extreme neglect. As always, we welcomed numerous survivors of the Kaporos ritual, and we also helped to transport some of those birds to other sanctuaries.



The most recent new residents are three goats, including another mother-daughter duo, rescued from starvation by a local animal control officer. Other new arrivals included Ice the white peacock, Moon the quail, Mistletoe the pigeon, and Church the goat, each of whom made a big impression on their communities. Moon and Mistletoe are hanging out with the doves, Moon because that's the safest spot and Mistletoe because she prefers doves to pigeons and who are we to disagree? We respect self-determination and love to see the sometimes surprising cross-species friendships that evolve at the sanctuary!



In Memoriam



Poncho

Poncho and his brother Jasper came to VINE in 2010. As calves, they were a dynamic duo, always up for hijinks. Exuberant, charismatic, and exceptionally clever, Poncho grew up to be a leader in the back pasture. Later, as his joints began to bother him, he became a giant-sized mentor of calves in the front pasture.



Lamby

Lamby came to VINE with her friend Coco the cow and immediately adopted Nigel the lamb. Lamby was forthright, sociable, charming, and persistent. A natural leader, and always doggedly determined to achieve her goals, she was the opposite of the stereotype of sheep.



Ramona Q

Ramona the hen was fearless and curious. She was the smallest of the chickens rescued from Kaporos in 2019, but her personality was larger than life. Always on the go, Ramona seemed in a hurry to see as much of the world as possible in her all-too-short life.



Napoleon

One of the first adult cows to come to the sanctuary Napoleon immediately became a surrogate big brother to calves Poncho and Jasper. Napoleon's low-key gentle friendliness made a big impact on the cow community. The day he died, grieving cows and calves lingered by his grave, not ready to say goodbye.

20th Anniversary



As we celebrated our 20th anniversary in the midst of a pandemic, we found new ways to care for and challenge the people in our extended communities, including activists across the country, children around the world, and denizens of our rural town.

Along the way, we more than **quadrupled** our annual tally of events, more than **tripled** the number of children served by our humane education programs, greatly **expanded** the range and reach of our other educational programs, and gave (virtual) tours to **more people than ever before**.

All told, we organized or participated in **more than 200 events**, including 16 adult online education sessions; 36 humane education lessons for kids; 115+ livestreams, virtual tours & "field trips;" 31 local workshops, vigils & other events; and 7 other outreach and educational events.

Emergency Outreach

Last year, we literally seeded change by starting the **Free Seed Library** at our local public library. This year, as lockdowns and shortages led to more demand, we distributed seeds and veganic gardening tips to **triple the number of households**. At the same time, Cheryl sewed **hundreds of homemade masks**, which we distributed locally via the PTA and the public library. We also mailed scores of masks to activists doing vegan food distribution in hard-hit cities. We also came to the **emotional rescue** of our extended community by offering plentiful opportunities to visit the sanctuary virtually, in order to feel connected to the larger-than-human world.

Worldwide Humane Education

We expanded our humane education programs in every possible way this year: **more children, more parents, more teachers, new programs, more and different educational institutions, and a wider geographic reach**.

From a kindergarten in New Zealand to a public library in the Midwest USA, educators coping with the shift to online education gladly seized the opportunity to take a one-time **"virtual field trip"** or sign up for a series of **personalized lessons**. Parents and daycare providers tuned into our weekly **"Barnyard Buddy" livestreams**. All told, we served more than 600 children. The growth will continue in 2021 with a new set of lessons for home-schoolers.

Educating Activists

We've always considered it part of our mission to nurture and educate other activists, as well as the general public. This year, our new **VINE Book Club** brought activists into

conversation with the authors of important books. For example, more than 80 people joined our conversation with Sunaura Taylor about her book that explores intersections between disability rights and animal liberation. As usual, VINE cofounder patrice jones spoke at numerous **campus and community events** — including those at Cornell University, Indiana University, UC Santa Cruz, and the International Istanbul Vegfest — and also authored essays published in the USA and abroad.

Local Motions

Now more than ever, we all must help to co-create local communities that practice empathy, equity, imagination, inclusivity, mutual aid, and dialogue. We did our part locally, by distributing free seeds and masks as well as offering workshops on veganic gardening both in person (before the pandemic) and via Zoom (in cooperation with a local environmental group). We continued our local anti- racism efforts too: Miriam and Anna organize a weekly community vigil in support of Black Lives Matter, with VINE providing signs, sanitizer, masks, and vegan snacks to all participants. That has lead to so many fruitful (albeit socially distanced) dialogues!

Message from the On-Site Team



What a year! Like everyone else, we were turned around and upside down by the emergencies of 2020. And yet, the animals in our care counted on us to maintain the sanctuary while other animals needed us to continue our educational programs.

With your help, we did. We're so proud of what we managed to accomplish during this long, hard year, and we're so grateful to the extended community of donors, sponsors, boosters, and volunteers who joined us in our shared struggle to co-create a more equitable, sustainable, and compassionate world.

One of those friends asked us to pass along a challenge to you: She will **match** every donation given by others between now and the end of the year!

DONATE

If you prefer to donate by mail, you can send a check to the address below:

VINE Sanctuary, 158 Massey Road, Springfield, VT 05156

