



# Compassion Ranch & Institute

Photos-Progress-People-Plan News / Edited by Dr. David Dyson, Trustee

## Mission

1. **Compassion Ranch** (2008/2020-): care of animals, student development, education;
2. **Patriotism in Action** (2001-): teach *Veterans Day Started in Alabama*, *Pledge of Allegiance*, plus care for retired military equines from The US Army at Arlington National Cemetery;
3. **Life Leadership** (1991-): plan for life, personal leadership, character traits *Courage*, *Compassion*, *Patriotism*, *Perseverance*...mandated in Alabama schools.



## Progress May 1-31

Pages 1-3 Photos / 3-7 Progress-People-Plans-Possibilities



Barefield Flagpole got a new flag.



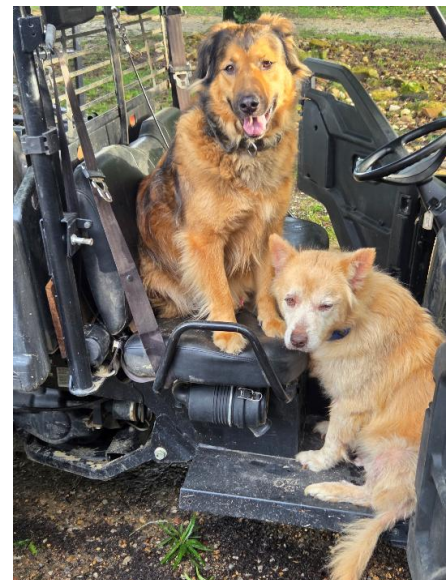
Hank the Tank loves his hay.



Donations to Shelby Humane Society.

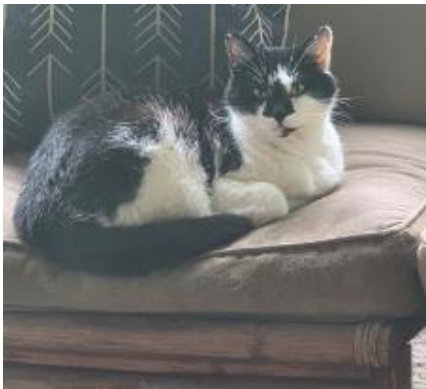


Lancelot was rescued from starvation by deputies 6 years ago.



Chief and Annie love the Gator.

# Animals and Spaces



# The First Rescue: Indy's Story Highlights

The beginning of the calling to do more to protect and care for animals escalated with Indy in 2008.

At Auburn Vet Fest April 11 [Denson Lipscomb](#) asked,

*When did you start this work? Why did you start?*

Officially, Compassion Ranch started in 2020 with adoption of the name and inclusion in the nonprofit. The unofficial start was 2017 when I moved to this farm with horses, rescued dogs and cats, plus adopted horses living here, and began to host students and groups.

Yet, the seeds of this calling started in 2008 with the birth of Indy and earlier during the pregnancy of his mare. When the owners learned Indy's mare was pregnant, they ignored her. A feeling stirred inside me that I needed to at least give her TLC and took over feeding. Blessing: the morning Indy was born, his mare invited me into the stall like family. I was Indy's first human and we have been instinctively close since. The owner of Indy did not want him so I paid for him to join Patriot and Star.



<=Indy Day 1.

Indy Day 5. =>

Early on he gained 2 pounds per day so picking him up ended soon 😊



1 year old.=>

Loved to run & prance.



hip has man's face.

<=Age 3. Spirit and strength! Challenge to ride.

He learned to be gentle. My injuries healed. 😊

[John Decker](#) (Georgia) donates to co-sponsor Indy's needs.



# Progress and People

## New Treasure Donated

Alabama Power Foundation visited, assessed, and pledged a grant to support operations.

Caring Foundation of Blue Cross Blue Shield awarded a grant supporting students and programs.

Charlie Barnes (Florida): sent funds and a great book he wrote about FSU Coach Bobby Bowden.

Judy Dove: sponsored on Facebook a birthday fundraiser for Compassion Ranch and Institute. *If you donate, please let us know because Facebook has not been telling us of progress or donors.*

Laura Bynum Tucker Foundation: Pledged a donation for the animals.

Temple Wells: brought us ornaments for a horse and pig, plus paper plates for serving guests.

## Treasure Donated by Partners Monthly or Often

Anonymous (Texas): mails a check monthly to help us buy feeds and treats.

Anonymous: donates "In Loving Memory of Anna Nall."

Joyce Cochran: "use this check where you see the need."

John Decker (Georgia): co-sponsors Indy (Indian Legend) to help with feed and care via bank autopay.

Dawn Dixon (Mississippi): products and supplements to help animals with diet and skin care.

David Dyson: use of land, equipment, facilities, work as trustee-manager-ranch hand, plus \$.

Lutavia Heaton: "most pressing need."

Ramona Price: dog food for Major, peanut butter Major and Ripley love, flea protection for them.

Celeste Rodgers: sponsors food for 3 cats Daggers, Nat, Scarlet.

Caroline Uhl (Arizona): sponsors food for Tessee (rescued in Tennessee as an abandoned kitten).

Carol Schauffhausen: sends cans of wet cat food, adds donations, advises on cat care.

United Pet Care & Dr. Zeke Zekoff: donation keeps helping us to use items and donate to caregivers.

## Time Donated

Priscilla Daly: led efforts to invite Alabama Power Foundation to work with and support us.

Diamond Dodson: grooms horses & dogs while Braxton catches and releases fish.

Judy Dove: sponsored a birthday fundraiser on Facebook--3 anonymous donors gave \$167.

Preston Hard: visited, distributed our donated AU and AL merch to VFW members and kids.

Sandra Ivey: Shelby Humane Society advising on dog tests and treatments.

Dr. Doug Meckes: advising us on animal care and connections to Auburn University Vet School.

Keith Norton: helping with ideas for advocacy to help us attract funds for Arlington horses.

Ovie Powell and Katelyn Ayres: help with projects, animal care, and events.

Ramona Price: visits Major weekly to feed and groom him, plus Ripley, and cares for Bendi.

Friends of Cats & Dogs: Peggy Cropp helped us assist a lady with dozens of cats needing surgeries.

## Compassion Ranch



July: 6 year anniversary of rescuing our Shetland Pony, July. She needed surgery day 1 to trim her hooves and remove an abscess. She is still here, still has arthritis and walks slowly. She gets food, shelter, and peace. She is approaching 30 years old and shares the orchard paddock with donkeys, June and Jill, and pig, Wilbur.

RIP Lanny: one of our beautiful senior Arabian horses tried to recover from challenges before he came here: surgery to remove front teeth, ulcers, loss of 150 pounds.... We provided grass and hay 24/7, plus 6 pounds supplemental feeds daily, but he did not gain weight. Shock: I found him next to the hay feeder with his herd mates nearby. Shawn and I buried him in the cemetery for Wild Oaks Arabians.

RIP Cinnamon: our most senior horse, almost 30, picked her place of final rest under shade of a fruit tree. Mike Powell and I used his excavator and the Triple D tractor to give her a respectful burial.

## Land Improved

### Ranch Entrance:

- ☆ Wood gates built at the interior ranch entrance.
- ☆ Gate Posts (double 6" x 6") installed 15' from the county road.
- ☆ Fence posts and rails added from road to interior gates.
- ☆ Fortified wire fence in the tree line on both sides of entrance.
- ☆ Stump removed from fence line.
- ☆ Replaced rotten corner post at Southwest corner of property.



### South Pasture:

- ☆ Pond deepened to collect natural water when rains.
- ☆ Started another watering hole to provide spring water.
- ☆ Got pipes to install from spring water to watering hole.



### Bryant Barn:

- ☆ Cleaned stalls, troughs weekly.
- ☆ Repaired broken wood.

### Hangar (storage barn):

- ☆ Donated supplies to shelters & caregivers to help and clear space.
- ☆ Insulation ceiling more repaired.

### Orchard Barn and Pasture:

- ☆ Roadside Paddock: repaired three spaces in fence damaged to protect pig and dogs.

### North Barn & Pasture:

- ☆ Burning rotten wood off fence removed to recycle the metal.

### Lower Pond:

- ☆ Cleared more invasive saplings off the island so you can enjoy the bench and table.

### Front Corrals & Homestead Entrance:

- ☆ Compassion Corral: remove xl oak limb that fell on fence.
- ☆ Fence fortified to secure dogs from digging under.
- ☆ Front corral/yard: grass cut, weed eat, limbs and sticks.



**Mission:** To provide land, facilities, and labor for Compassion Ranch and Institute animals, students, and programs.

Lease for land, facilities, equipment...donated by Triple D Ranch & Farm.

Donations to Compassion Ranch pay for animal feed and care, students, programs and services.



Flashback: Bryant Barn 30+ years ago





## Partners Wanted to Improve Care and Capacity

*Menu: you are invited to look for at least one action we can take.*

### Recurring Funding Needed

- ❑ Dogs need checkups for heartworms and medicine plus flea protection.
- ❑ Horses need deworming paste more often.
- ❑ 50 animals: food, shelter/repairs, labor, health/vet care, hoof trims, grooming.
- ❑ Rainbow Bridge Watch List: extra TLC for seniors, health care, same day burials.
- ❑ Student workers: sponsor teens to help clean troughs, bowls, spaces, prep events....
- ❑ Carpenter: build and repair stalls, gates, doors, fences, vehicle repairs....

### Items Needed you may no longer need or could donate or discount

- ❑ Fence building materials: 2x4" x 10', 2x6" x10', 5" x8' round wood posts, sakrete, screws 3".
- ❑ Water troughs: for horses.
- ❑ Saddle stands (wood or metal) to support kids/guests to sit on saddles during programs.
- ❑ Square bales for hayrides.

### Volunteer and Community Service Project Opportunities

- ❑ Land clearance labor: limbs on ground cleared to stumps to burn & improve pasture grass.
- ❑ Veterinarian: dedicated to animals in nonprofits to advise and serve.
- ❑ Vet tech: advise and assist guiding on treatments for worms, fleas, flies...
- ❑ Farrier: caring and competent to trim and touch up hooves (barefoot).
- ❑ Grooming: brush coats and manes, bathe, help with skin care.
- ❑ Web & tech: 1-2 hours weekly – advise and assist.
- ❑ Grant applications to boost funding for animals, students, programs, shelters.
- ❑ Advocate: share our purpose/plans/progress with people who may be looking for us.

### 2 Retired Military Working Equines from Arlington



These horses helped pull a caisson carrying a green beret to his grave at [Arlington National Cemetery](#). A fellow soldier adopted the horses when they were retired. Since, he learned he has cancer and seeks a caring lifetime home for [Reuben and Rowdy](#), black Percheron senior horses of about 1300 pounds.

We have land donated to use, though need to [build fence and shelter, transport from Virginia to Alabama](#), then provide [food and care, plus present programs](#). We can [inspire students and patriots](#) plus *Advance Alabama* for these national treasures (along with Hank and Lincoln).

Phase 1: Fence around pasture.

Phase 2: Pavilion Barn to provide covered arena for programs and hay storage for food security.

Phase 3: add stalls for horses and rooms for people to use.

Perhaps you are inspired to help these horses and a veteran or you *may know an action-oriented*

*[ ]foundation [ ]patriot [ ]veteran organization [ ]company*

*and introduce us to explore if we match.*



## Options to Help

Donations to Compassion Ranch and Institute (501 c3)  
pay for feeds, students, services, operating.

Donate: Once Monthly Recurring Annual Recurring Legacy/will  
animal care student work and development shelters  
honor/remember someone or an animal you miss.

Silver  
Transparency  
2026

Candid.

## Online Address

[www.CompassionRanch.org/Donate](http://www.CompassionRanch.org/Donate)

Donors typically use the web site with PayPal or Venmo, send mail, or bank auto pay.

*PayPal reduced fees on donations to us to 49 cents + 1.99%.*

## Postal Address for Mail / Bank Autopay / Shipping Goods

Compassion Ranch / 354 County Road 33 / Calera, Alabama 35040

Some prefer to ship food/supplies for delivery (WalMart, Chewy, Amazon...).

## Options to Influence

1. **Partner** sponsor an animal monthly \$1-10 per day to sustain food, care, shelter security.
2. **Donate for where the need is greatest.**
3. **Visit/see** what you are supporting, possibilities to improve, and add TLC for an animal.
4. **Add our program to your will** to leave a legacy and help our sanctuary and programs sustain.
5. **Request a call, comment, or suggest:** [Doc@CompassionRanch.org](mailto:Doc@CompassionRanch.org)
6. **Forward our info & advocate us** to friends, foundations...looking for a mission like ours.
7. **Request** the latest edition of our docs to inform you of actions and intentions:

Brochure (pics & summary) Plan This Year Progress News Last Month Progress Last Year

## **Our Vision for Multiplying Care**

*People who care about animals, student development, and public service donate treasure so we can do work.*

**Compassion Ranch and Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit approved for charitable donations (63-1091241).  
Personal Leadership (1991/1992-); Patriotism in Action (2001-); Compassion Ranch (2008/2020-).**