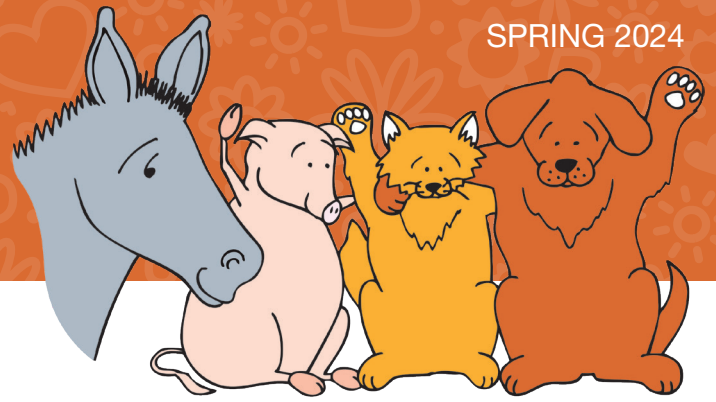


Forever Friends



MARJORIE SPENCE

The tall and short of an animal lover's life

Of all the possible life paths taken by our fellow animal advocates in the making, inspiration by giraffe must be one of the more exotic. So it was for Marjorie Spence, who — after a somewhat conventional childhood in Pennsylvania accompanied by cats, dogs, and parrots — took a job as a 20-something-year-old nurse in Kenya, so she could live close to the iconic wildlife of Africa. More precisely, Marjorie went for the giraffes.

“That was what really cemented it,” says her nephew Justin Sabree. “Just being there in the wilderness, up close with the giraffes, seeing how majestic they were. It really touched her.”

Returning to the States, Marjorie would regale young Justin with her African adventures among the towering giraffes while she broadened her resolve to help all animals. She discovered Best Friends and became a lifelong supporter, eventually naming Best Friends as beneficiary

of her trust and financial accounts. She also adopted two dogs, Tembo and Rafiki (ironically enough two of the shortest, most un-giraffe-like pups), who became her inseparable pals.

“Marjorie was very comforted to support an organization dedicated to improving the lives of dogs like Tembo and Rafiki,” says Justin. “She wanted to live on through her animals.”

And so she did. Nearing the end of her life, bedridden from ALS, Marjorie would find daily solace in her two eternally devoted companions, cuddled right and left at her sides. And there they would remain through Marjorie's final hour — Tembo and Rafiki, her majestic little giants of comfort.



LINDA AND BRAD'S backyard sanctuary

Linda and Brad Walton have a home with two acres of land on the outskirts of Highland, Utah. And on their back porch's heated tiles, you will find several plastic igloos (also heated), an array of padded seats and food bowls, and a rather conspicuous congregation of around 25 stray cats — taking full advantage of these afforded comforts.

Not that it was ever the Waltons' intention of becoming the neighborhood hostel for wayward cats. But then, it has never been the Waltons' habit of turning away any fellow creature in need.

"Growing up," says Linda, "we always had a lot of animals people didn't want — animals they'd throw out into the woods. We had horses, a donkey, a goat, two desert tortoises, a box turtle, a cockatoo and parakeet, goldfish. And cats — we had nearly 50 of them in the backyard. We became a kind of sanctuary of stray critters in Provo."

If that sounds a bit suggestive of another popular sanctuary a few hours south, it's probably not surprising to find that the Waltons and Best Friends have long been fans of each other. The Waltons have been giving generously and repeatedly for 20 years since discovering their kindred souls in Kanab. "We had a lot in common," says Linda. "They needed help. How could we not help them?"

Linda, aside from her professional life as an advertising executive, volunteers through the Red Cross to help homeless people. She also raises money to help feed the cats congregating outside her office, not to mention those two dozen others who have taken up residence on her back porch.



Brad, an electrical engineer in his other life, is otherwise busy these days tending to some of the wilder denizens of the Waltons' backyard menagerie. Brad treats the local herd of mule deer to a thousand pounds of grain every winter ("No, it's not cheap," he says, "but we're not going to have animals starving on my lot") and is constantly filling the bird feeders — set extra high to escape all those cats.

Despite previously trapping and spaying/neutering nearly all the cats calling Brad and Linda's backyard their own, more cats in need have shown up. "If anybody hears about somebody who has a cat who needs a home, they end up on our driveway," explains Brad. "But we're not of the mindset that we're just going to chase them off or let them go hungry. I'm sure the cats have put a sign out on the highway: 'This way to the Waltons.'"

On the more sociable side of the Walton sanctuary, there's Claudio and Giovanni, the pampered orange tabbies who are thoroughly enjoying their indoor lives while talking to their cousins through the window.

The Waltons are now discussing another round of spay/neuter for the back porch crowd. Whatever comes, they will be there with open arms and a familiar refrain: "We've got to do what we can," says Linda. "We've got to help people and animals as best we can."

FRANKENSTEIN'S CAT

The Frankie behind Frankie's Place

Frankie's Place is an inconspicuous, one-story building at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, where the planned giving team that brings you this newsletter is based. On first glance, it's a rather drab, utilitarian piece of architecture, tucked away in an obscure corner of the Sanctuary and exuding all the charm of an aging travel trailer. But for those who know anything of its history, there's a feisty spirit to Frankie's Place that belies its humble façade. And that spirit is none other than Frankie himself.

Frankie arrived at the Sanctuary as a blond, blue-eyed kitten who'd been found by a tourist who hoped to find him a home. The adorable little Frankie was quickly adopted but just as quickly returned with a report card that would have been torn to pieces had Frankie had his way. Frankie had apparently shredded both the furniture and the limbs of his adopters. So back he came to eventually become a permanent fixture as office cat in the building that would one day bear his name.

Over time, the legend of Frankie grew. "Frankie and I were great friends," says Chandra Forsythe, a co-founder of Best Friends. "I knew him when he first arrived as a young cat, and he loved to cuddle and go for rides on your shoulder. Whenever



I visited Frankie's Place, it was essential to visit Frankie as well."

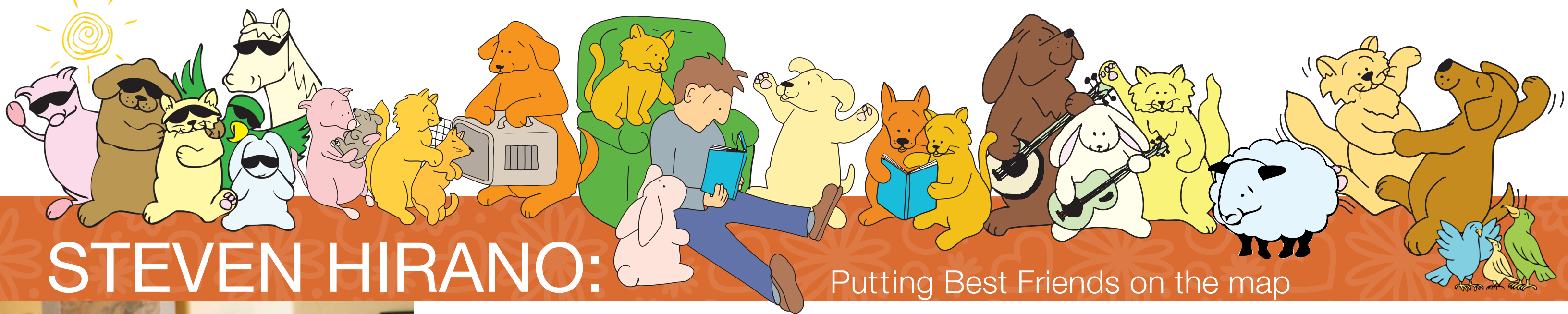
But ...

"I'd heard much later," says Chandra, "that Frankie had developed some issues and was put on kitty Prozac to help him to mellow out."

Antony Gleeson, also a co-founder of Best Friends, fondly remembers Frankie as "adorable" — when he wasn't assaulting his co-workers' legs. "He would jump on my desk and nuzzle my face most mornings," Antony says. "I dared not dissuade him!" Yet another co-founder, Carragh Maloney, sums it up more bluntly: "All I remember is he liked to attack people."

In the end, it turned out that the devil in Frankie was not the real Frankie at all. After passing over the Rainbow Bridge, Frankie was found to have suffered a brain injury that likely explained his Jekyll-and-Hyde demeanor.

Today, in the conference room of Frankie's Place, there hangs a portrait of Frankie — his angelic bearing in ironic contrast with the legendary beast of terror. Whichever way Frankie is remembered, the one sure bet is he'll never be forgotten.



STEVEN HIRANO:

Putting Best Friends on the map



How does one begin to convey with a simple map that special place we call Best Friends Animal Sanctuary? How does one faithfully depict those 5,800 acres overlooking Angel Canyon in the majestic red-rock country of southern Utah — a healing home-between-homes for some 1,600 dogs, cats, bunnies, horses, pigs, and other animals and a place many visitors can only describe as magical?

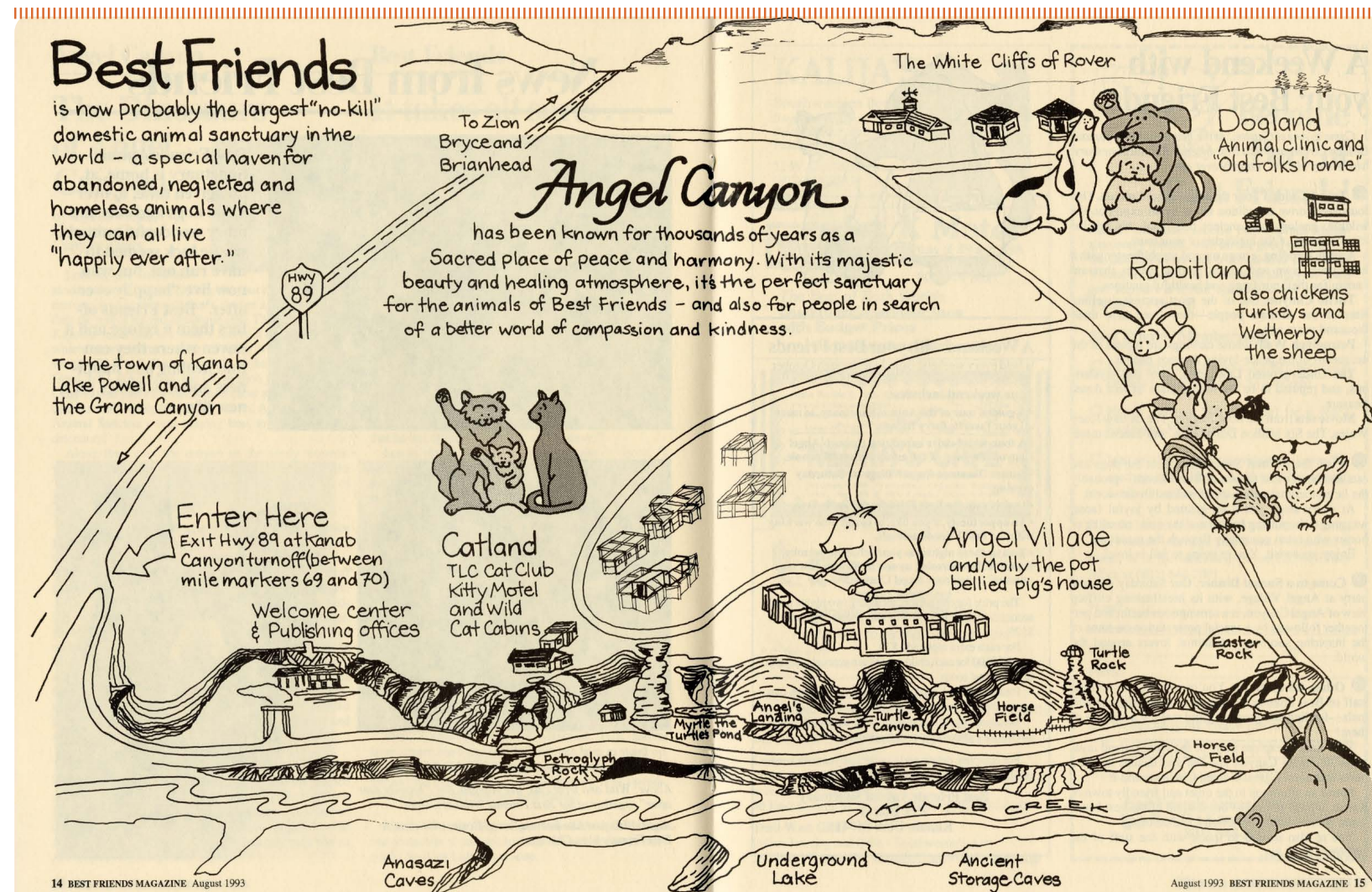
Well, maybe you just don't, though Steven Hirano has certainly tried. "It's been pretty much an impossible task to describe," says Steven, one of the co-founders of Best Friends, who over the years has assumed the daunting task of drawing by hand the official map of the ever-evolving Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

The first map — appearing in a 1993 issue of Best Friends magazine — introduced Steven's whimsical portrayals of the Sanctuary's animal residents in the truest Best Friends spirit. It featured cartoon dogs and cats and assorted barnyard pets, smiling and dancing and waving hello. In that black-and-white edition, we're reminded of the Sanctuary in its younger days, with fewer buildings and animal houses bearing old forgotten names such as Dogland and Catland (eventually to become Dogtown and Cat World).

Steven's most recent rendition of the Sanctuary stands in colorful contrast to the yellowing 30-year-old original, with cleaner lines and new additions to the modern Sanctuary. There's Marshall's Piggy Paradise, Horse Haven, Parrot Garden, Wild Friends, and the recently opened Shipley Dog Lodges for dogs with special needs. All are testaments to the expanding

scope of Best Friends' foundational call to action: to Save Them All.

But of course, still front and center are those waving cats, prancing pigs, and dancing dogs reminding us what it's truly all about — just as it always has been.





THE SHIPLEY DOG LODGES

Homeward bound for dogs with special needs

For too many homeless dogs, the difference between a happy new life in a loving home and being at risk in a shelter is a simple — and complicated — matter of behavior. Fears, anxieties, and troubled histories often erect the behavioral barriers that keep otherwise lovable, adoptable dogs from families who would welcome them home.

It's a tragic reality intimately understood by Ali Waszmer, director of Best Friends' Dogtown. Years ago, as a green and nervous volunteer at her local shelter, Ali was all but thrown into a room with a dog named Kobe, who'd been returned from his adoptive home for issues with aggression.

Ali came out of that session with Kobe knowing what her career would be. Shortly after, she enrolled in the Academy for Dog Trainers. "The thing I really learned is that when it comes to dogs in shelters, they're really doing the best they can," says Ali. "Things like aggression, as hard as it is on us, it's harder on dogs."

Ali eventually came to work at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in the midst of an exciting new project under construction. The Shipley Dog Lodges are a new state-of-the-art facility nestled in a quiet part of the Sanctuary to help more dogs like Kobe — dogs having a difficult time adjusting to life in the confusing world of people and other dogs. Made possible through a generous donation from the Shipley Foundation, the Shipley Dog Lodges are now giving caregivers and trainers like Ali new models and new hope for saving those dogs most at risk of being killed in the nation's shelters.

The Shipley Lodges expand upon the octagonal designs that have been the hallmark construction of the Sanctuary's Dogtown for decades. The new nonagonal, or nine-sided, buildings are designed to soothe anxious and frightened minds with comfort, privacy, and efficiency — for both the dogs and their caregivers. Among their many features, each nonagon comes with a "real-life room," furnished to simulate a typical

living room, dining room, or bedroom to help unaccustomed dogs desensitize and develop skills to live in a home.

And each dog run comes with visual barriers for dogs who are stressed by the sight of other dogs — dogs like Dana. Dana was recently transferred to the Shipley Lodges from a California shelter where she'd been for three years. Though a darling among her caregivers, Dana's reactivity to other dogs had been a roadblock to her landing a home. But once at the Shipley Dog Lodges, under the controlled and calming environment to limit her exposures and desensitize her triggers, Dana began to blossom. Through little steps, she not only learned to accept other dogs but also to play with them. Ali now reports that

the "new" Dana has been meeting quite a few people with adoption interest. "It feels like her time is right on the horizon," Ali says.

Ali's first and still most beloved subject, Kobe, never made it out of the shelter, a needless fate she believes the Shipley Lodges will help replace with the joys of home and family. "I can think of so many dogs in my career who didn't make it out alive," she says. "Those are the ones who drive us to do better."

And none more so than Kobe, whose collar to this day hangs from Ali's rearview mirror — her enduring reminder of a happier life that could have been and of those lives that still could be.



GIVING DOCS:

Where there's a will,
there's an easier way

Does the prospect of creating your will or other estate documents spark a sudden urge to fold laundry instead? Well, sidestep no longer. Giving Docs is a digital estate planning service that can have you finished and celebrating in just minutes — no folding required. And it's yours free, courtesy of Best Friends. Just go to givingdocs.com/bestfriends, or contact us by phone at **435-359-9227** or by email at legacy@bestfriends.org.

To name Best Friends on your beneficiary designation form, please use the following address:

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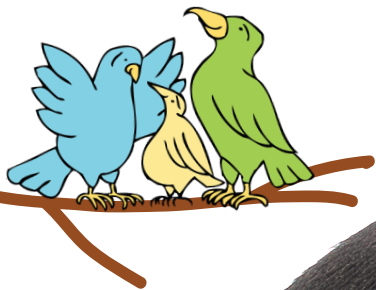
5001 Angel Canyon Road
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