

Private Funder
Attn: Grant Committee

Dear Grant Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Graze in Peace to request consideration for a \$7,500 grant to support “Rosie’s Fund,” a program that covers medical, care, and feed expenses for rescued companion farm animals from desperate situations.

ABOUT GRAZE IN PEACE:

The mission of Graze in Peace is *to inspire a compassionate, healthy and earth-friendly way for all beings to live together.*

Graze in Peace was founded in 2016. We have 20 acres on which we currently provide permanent homes to 60 rescued farm animals. We also offer a Humane Education program for school-aged children and a therapeutic Care Farm program where vulnerable people participate in mutually-beneficial activities alongside our more well-adjusted and socially-engaging animals.

Graze in Peace acts as a critical safety net for companion farm animals in need who routinely fall through the cracks in our animal welfare system. As other Maine farm animal sanctuaries focus only on animal welfare seizures and traditional dog and cat shelters are not equipped to handle most farm animals, we provide second chances and forever homes to beloved farm animals and peace of mind to their owners.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Since opening our doors, we have rescued and given permanent sanctuary to 126 animals. The number of animals we have been requested to help with, however, is in the several hundreds. Many of those requests came from caring owners, desperate after having been shuffled from place to place as no other sanctuary or shelter would help them. Rosie’s owner was one of them.

Rosie is the name of a 10 year old potbelly pig we rescued two years ago from unwillful but serious neglect. She was taken in previously by an elderly woman who saved her from an auction, but didn't have the physical or financial means to meet even her basic needs. When we went to pick up Rosie and her companion, Peanut, we found them living with their owner in a feces-filled rundown shack. They’d been fed bread scraps left over from the woman’s “Meals on Wheels” assistance program, their hoof nails were curled up inches above their feet, and their skin was infested with parasites to the point that they had scratched much of it off. They were also chewing on anything they could in the house, due to malnutrition and boredom. (They’d not been allowed outdoors for over three years.)

Rosie & Peanut lived just 20 minutes away from Maine's largest farm animal sanctuary. That sanctuary only takes in state animal welfare rescues and repeatedly refused to help this woman and many others like her who have since come our way, including:

- 5 neglected llamas (including 2 pregnant females) from an elderly couple retired from farming who didn't want to send them to auction
- 2 elderly goats whose disabled owner could no longer care for them
- an elderly goat and turkey who lost their farm due to foreclosure
- a beloved pet farm pig named "Strawberry" who was won by a 7yr old girl at a fair and whose guardian grandparents kept locked in a garage for 2 years
- 2 separate flocks of layer hens whose owners were willfully neglecting them
- a flock of 19 sheep including moms with lambs, whose owner, heading into a long-term treatment facility, had a change of heart and sought to send them to a sanctuary rather than slaughter

SOLUTION – ROSIE'S FUND:

Rosie's Fund will be a separate designated fund set aside to cover the medical, care and feed expenses of our rescues.

Goal & Objectives: With this fund we are committing to being there for more animals like Rosie — companion farm animals that routinely fall through the cracks of our animal welfare system. We are also preventing cruelty to animals by inspiring others to think of farm animals with more compassion and to join us in our efforts to help more of them live out a full, peaceful life free from harm.

Activities: Initially, we will raise \$25,000 in funds to use specifically for medical, care and feed expenses for one year for our current residents. This fund will remove our dependence on fundraising and outreach events which are on hold right now due to the current pandemic situation. Along with helping more animals in need, any additional funding earmarked for Rosie's Fund will be used to help owners with temporary companion farm animal care & feed expenses — allowing the animals to stay in place when it is deemed in their best interest.

Collaborations and Partnerships: We network with other animal shelters and sanctuaries throughout New England to help find homes suitable for all animals that are brought to our attention and to share information on caring for elderly or special needs farm animals. We work with the MSPCA in Massachusetts, Farm Sanctuary in New York, and various other animal shelters and sanctuaries throughout New England.

Timeline: We are announcing the fund the first week of May with our GivingTuesdayNow campaign. Funding for this program will then be ongoing.

Key Staff: Graze in Peace co-founders along with the Board of Directors will spearhead the campaign and manage the fund. One full time resident caretaker and one part time animal caregiver will work with the farm manager to assure the best care possible for the animals.

Volunteers fill in to help our animal caregivers with shelter cleanup, animal enrichment and farm maintenance. They also help with our outreach, events and educational programs. Last year, 35 individual volunteers put in over 2000 hours.

MEASURING IMPACT:

One way we measure the impact of our rescue program is by comparing the number of animal intake requests we receive to the actual number of animals we help either by taking them in as residents of Graze or by referring them to other places in our network. We currently give shelter to 60 farm animals and have space for up to 75. We estimate that the impact of Rosie's Fund would allow us to increase our capacity by 25%.

BUDGET:

Our 2019 animal feed and medical expenses totaled \$22,401.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:

- A GivingTuesdayNow campaign (\$5000 — \$2500 match secured, \$2500 pending)
- Private Foundation Grant (\$7,500 pending / submitted)
- Private Donation (\$2,500 secured)
- Facebook Fundraiser (\$2,000 secured)
- Private Foundation (\$500 pending)

The goal of our program is to reach \$25,000, and we are respectfully requesting \$7,500 which will significantly help us toward our goal of continuing to give second chances to companion farm animals in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please call or email me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Deborah Trumble
Co-Founder / President
www.grazeinpeace.org

Peanut & Rosie, relaxing in their forever home at Graze in Peace

