

Humane Education and Community Outreach grew by leaps and bounds in 2010. Thank you Katarina! The effects of just this year will ripple through the world for the rest of the lives of the teens and kids who were involved. Everyone who learns to give something back goes on to be a better person, and makes everyone they touch a better person. Humane Education is a domino effect. And it's very important.



Many schools and groups were visited by our spokes animals. I wonder if the animals taught school, would the kids pay more attention? They are always riveted on Vincent as he teaches kindness and compassion to the differently-abled and the challenged. Their attention never wavers when Iggy is speaking to them. It's very touching to see children who bring their parents on tours and proudly point out the spokes animals who were their friends! I love to hear kids telling their parents, "but VINCENT said it's very important to go to the speuter clinic." The animals seem to have an honesty and trustworthiness to them that makes the children instantly believe in their messages.

Thank you Vincent for always being so good natured, always loving everybody, and never tiring of giving hugs and kisses.

Every Thursday, without fail, all summer long, all through that blistering hot summer, the teens in Rikki's C.A.R.E. program gave a full day of service to the animals. They fed, they cleaned, they painted, they mowed grass, they trained dogs, they did all kinds of projects.



Giving thousands of hours of volunteer service, they made a tremendous impact on the Refuge. And I believe a tremendous impact on their lives, learning the gift of giving to others.

Opening Rikki's Refuge to those in need is a very special gift we can give the community. The REACH program at Chancellor High School for intellectually challenged students ages 18 to 22, visits and volunteers at Rikki's once a week during the school year. The program teaches life skills and transitions team members from school life to adult activities. They are doing us a tremendous favor with all the volunteer help they provide. They help with a great deal of care for the animals. In return they are learning skills which will help them to have jobs. Being a part of their community also gives them a reason to be proud of themselves. Thank you Dennis!

2010 saw Rikki's everywhere! When we first opened our gates, we were viewed as oddities and our new community wondered just why we were running that Cat Farm, as we became known. Now we're proud to be an integral part of the community. la Rue de Beaute held a Fundraising Cut-a-Thon for Rikki's. Waugh Harley Davidson held a fundraiser and adoption day. The post office invited Vincent to endorse the new shelter stamps on opening day. N's Cafe asked Vincent to join them for their Grand Opening and they let the place go to the dogs! Vicar Anthony Smith of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church performed a blessing of the animals.



My Escort to the National Capital Cat Show

I always had a dream about my ideal escort - Vincent fulfilled that for me on Sept 11, at the National Capital Cat Show.

A handsome gentleman, who welcomes everyone as a friend, extends his paw to all, no matter how many legs. Vincent is a rare breed, he and I went all around the show, meeting and greeting everyone. Many kisses and hugs were exchanged, we were invited into booths to see the goodies and he told many kitties that he hoped they would find forever homes with all the wonderful people that attended.

If any ladies ever need a escort, I would recommend Vincent -- he excels!! ---- Melanie Hansford



How much is that doggy



Community outreach was a big focus in 2010, especially for kids. Bunny Bonanza was our first youngster oriented Open House and it was a great success. Lots of games and fun, mixed in with the education. The Fall Furr Fest and Haunted Forest followed suit.



Kiss the Pig



Haunted Forest

