

Rikki's  Refuge



TEN YEARS AND STILL GROWING!

TAKE A PEEK INSIDE AND
REFLECT BACK ON WHAT LIFE
HAS BEEN LIKE AT RIKKI'S OVER
THE PAST 10 YEARS.

FROM THE FIRST ANIMAL TO
OVER 1,200, WE'VE SAVED
THE LIVES OF MANY AND WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO.

TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN A
PART OF RIKKI'S REFUGE, THANK
YOU FOR ALL YOUR LOVE AND
SUPPORT!

IN MEMORY OF LOUISE and RIKKI



We shall carry on the tradition of
love and compassion to all living beings.

RIKKI'S REFLECTIONS

***Holy Cow! Ten Years!!!!
What have you been doing???
Look what we've been up to!***



I meet people all the time who say, "Oh!!! You're doing just what I want to do, I've always wanted to start an animal sanctuary." Well, guess what? It was never a dream of mine. I began helping other organizations and fostering animals over 30 years ago. And that was quite enough, thank you. Animal sanctuary was not in my retirement plans.

But sometimes life has surprises for us, and I saw this great piece of land in May of 1998, formed a nonprofit corporation, started doing research and fundraising, and settled on the property August 14, 1998. Ten years ago.

After the dedication where we, forever, bequeathed the land to the animals, those who were, those who have been, and those who shall come - we began to clean up trash. And the next day, we cleaned up trash, and the next weekend, and some said we would never finish.



Even at this early point in the game, I began to learn. To learn many things I wish I never needed to know! Like how to tell the difference between Virginia creeper, honeysuckle, poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. The latter three seem to compose the majority of plant life at Rikki's Refuge. And it had taken over everything. They said we would never salvage the barn. Today it's known as the Purple Barn.



The word went out, "we're ready to change the world", and the volunteers lined up and began to build Doggy Downs.



Meanwhile, to the west, at Feline Fields, construction had begun. I remember one day, when a volunteer was standing there staring at me, and I said, "Don't just stand there, help build this thing!" They said, "But I don't know how, you need to teach me, you know what you're doing." I don't know if they were relieved or shocked when I burst into laughter and told them, "I don't have a clue what I'm doing either, let's just build a Cat House!"