

GLO FARM Sanctuary

COMPASSION IN ACTION

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS

All the animals are mixed together and are free to move in and out of the barn and fields as they like. The herd instinct seems to be strong, however, as once the cows decided to go inside, the goats and sheep followed. The barn remains open 24 hours a day, so humans do night checks on the animals for their safety and comfort.



GLO Farm Sanctuary gives a permanent home to rescued farm animals to live out the rest of their lives

in comfort and safety. Located on Manitoulin Island, the farm covers 223 acres, 50 of which are fenced for the animals. There are several acres dedicated for the pot-bellied pigs.



◀ Hanging out with a friend: Allison holds Meg, the hen, in a doorway of the barn. Meg was attacked by their rooster one night and needed emergency vet care. Meg needed months of recovery but survived. Recently, she had major surgery to remove a large mass in her abdomen, and is still thriving today, Allison reports.



▲ There's every reason for the animals to enjoy being inside the barn. It's shady, clean and carpeted with a thick layer of comfortable straw. The barn gets cleaned twice a day.



▲ The animals are free to go where they want. Here, pigs are in a shady, flower-filled part of a field.

The people managing the farm are property owner, founder and executive director Allison Valentine, veterinarian Dr. Sarah Dodd and her husband Richard Dodd, property manager. The farm is a registered charity with a governing board. The name GLO Farm Sanctuary comes from its beginnings in 2015, when Allison started a Community Supported Agriculture enterprise called Green Living Organic Farm & Microsanctuary. "It become clear very

quickly that we needed the space for the animals, and also the time, so we rebranded to GLO," she explains. In 2023 the sanctuary was moved from East Garafraxa near Guelph to Manitoulin Island in order to have the acreage wanted. "The sanctuary is a long-term care home, not a rescue place," says Allison. "Our animals have been in quarantine on other farms before coming to GLO. 50 per cent of the animals will need palliative care in the next five years and will need a lot of expensive medical care."



▲ Allison inside the barn with a cow who approached her to be petted. "I've worked very hard to build a life I don't need a vacation from," she says.



► The pigs have access to more than 40 acres of rocky terrain, lush grassy pastures and mixed forests. Here, a pot-bellied pig wanders happily in the field outside the barn, a forest in the background.



◀ Sheep and goats socializing and resting in the barn.



◀ Allison wearing some merchandise that's available for sale, a T-shirt in honour of Boris the Pig, who "lives his best life every day at the sanctuary," as they say. One of the volunteers at the farm is an artist, who drew the design of Boris. It is now also featured on stickers and tote bags, all available for purchase online.



Having a vet living on site is a blessing, but medicine, hospitalization, procedures and specialized tests are very expensive. Early this year,

Rosie, a 28-year-old mare, their duck named Goose, and a goat called Ted, each suffered an injury or illness that required them to be

euthanized. Emergencies like these use up the vet bill reserve. Donations go a long way to help the farm continue its care.

▼ A hen and a pig minding their own business.



▲ Pigs at the barn doorway leading to a large pasture.

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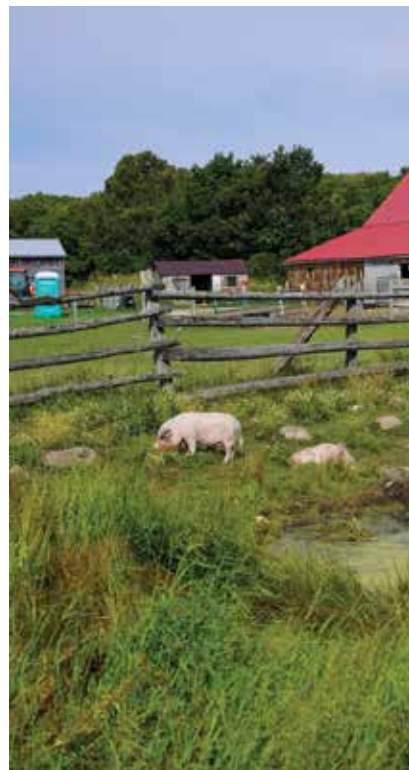
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▲ Pigs in the field outside of the open barn.

▼ Blissed-out piggy sunbathing in the shelter of a metal hay feeder.



How to Help

Donate

The farm exists 100 per cent from donations. There is no government funding. Donations are welcome in a lump sum and also by monthly payments, which are greatly relied upon as regular income. No amount is too small. "Three dollars a month makes a big impact," declares Allison.

Donations can be made by PayPal, Canada Helps.org, e-transfer or cheque. Include your name and mailing address for a tax receipt.

Volunteer

"We always need human volunteers," says Allison. "More people helping with chores can lead to more animals being taken in." The sanctuary has to turn away from 10 to 35 animals a week.

How to Reach GLO Sanctuary

glofarmsanctuary@gmail.com
A-2098 Bidwell Rd., Manitowaning,
ON POP 1N0, 647.898.4577



▲ It's summer afternoon siesta time in the barn for this goat and cow.



▲ Two pigs are near the pond beyond the barn.

Every year in August, they host an open house. For the date, time and other details, check their website glofarm.org, their Facebook or Instagram pages, email glofarmsanctuary@gmail.com or call 647.898.4577. **NEV**

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