



Herps Alive Foundation Newsletter September 15, 2014

It's been a slow go, but about 50 animals now make our facility their home. 150 more are waiting. We have received our County permit and after our additional city-mandated electrical work is approved, we will begin normal operating hours (weekends and one or two evenings) and scheduling groups, hopefully within the next two weeks.

Keith Gisser, Executive Director

Facility Update



After negotiating our lease, we found that all of the plumbing pipes had burst and had to be replaced. While this was not our responsibility we took it on in return for a rent credit, since we had other plumbing we wanted done. This cut our cash reserves considerably, but we found a reasonably priced electrician who came in a few hundred dollars under our budget, only to find the city wanted us to do several thousand dollars of additional work. The good news is that Stewart Unsderfer, a long-time acquaintance and owner of Central Heating and Air Conditioning agreed to become our first corporate sponsor, provided all of the HVAC work we needed as part of that sponsorship. Our alarms and smoke detectors have been installed and are being monitored. There are a few drywall projects that may not be finished by the time we open, including our quarantine room, which is a priority, and the window to the tortoise room (which sits in a weight-bearing wall). We also have to finish painting a few spots, and we need to strip and refinish the floor in the main animal area. The building owner has begun the exterior repairs required by the city and they should be finished shortly. Looking forward, we need to weatherproof the shed as well, in order to save on heating costs and consider replacing the floor. As Willie Wonka said, ""So much time, and so little to do! Strike that, reverse it."

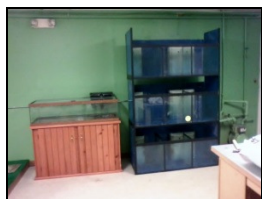
SPONSORSHIPS

We offer several different sponsorship packages at various levels. Individuals and companies can sponsor an animal or an enclosure for as little as \$25 per year, with discounts for three year commitments. These include signage on the cage, acknowledgement of your support, a photograph of your animal and a twice yearly update on the animal's progress, plus a private visit with your sponsored critter (by appointment or during regular hours)! Please consider supporting us this way.

Foundation sponsorships are \$500 a year. These include your company logo or personal message in all printed promotional material, web presence (eventually) and signage at the building, too. Foundation sponsorships can be cash; a mix of cash and services or supplies; or completely in-kind trade.

We also offer naming rights on several of our rooms (party room, classroom, quarantine room, tortoise room, main display room and small cage room). Room sponsors get specific signage at the entrance of their room, inclusion in all press releases relating to the room, additional signage on the property, web presence and inclusion in all printed promotional materials.

Here are just a few sponsorship examples: Turtles of Ohio Exhibit \$50 per year; \$125 for three years; Adult iguana enclosure sponsorship (four available) \$50-75 per year, \$125-200 for three years; \$100 for three years; Japanese Rat Snake "Morimoto" (shown below) \$50, \$125 for three years; Party room naming rights \$1,500 per year; \$3,750 for three years. So far about eight of the 30 available animals have been sponsored and all of the rooms are still available.



For complete information on Herps Alive Foundation Sponsorships, please contact our Executive Director Keith Gisser at 216-374-1392 or by e-mail at herpsalive@earthlink.net.

OUR SPONSORS

CENTRAL
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
243 Richmond Rd.
Richmond Hts. Ohio 44143
(216) 731-9400



Marv Gisser
Communications
216-382-0825

**THANK
YOU!**

RESCUE PROFILE- Herbie, the Florida Softshell Turtle



Purchased as a baby 15 years ago, Herbie (a female, but was believed to be male), was exceptionally well cared for by her Youngstown area owner. Eventually she realized that Herbie needed a larger aquarium and she turned the Florida softshell over to the Herps Alive Foundation. The owner also made a sizable contribution to sponsor Herbie for the next several years. Herbie is already a star at the building – in fact Director Keith often has to remind volunteers to get back to work and to stop playing with and feeding Herbie, who eats pelleted food, lettuce, worms, shrimp and fish.



We are now part of the Ready Set Rescue Network. Subscribe to its magazine Rescue Me and we get 50% of the subscription fee! Use this link -- <https://subscribe.rescuemecentral.com/>. Our ID is R864.

Herpetology Camp

Due to the delayed opening, we did not hold herpetology camp this summer. There will be a three-day winter break session; a spring break session or two; and then we will offer full sessions in the summer of 2015. Each day is three hours, with three day camps costing \$100 and five day camps at \$150. Groups are divided by age. Details as we get closer, or check out our website at www.herpsalive.org which goes live later this month.

Birthday Parties and Group Events

We are accepting group reservations now for schools, day cares, clubs and other groups. We plan to begin group tours and other special events October 1. We need to finalize some plumbing upgrades, per the County Board of Health's request, before food can be served and we can host birthday parties.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

GIVE - Your Time



We have a great group of volunteers, but we are always looking for more. If you can give just one day a month, we can put you on a regular schedule, but even if you can only help once in a while, we can pencil you in for special events. It's fun and may help you meet school or organizational volunteer time requirements. We especially need volunteers with reptile husbandry and retail sales experience. We also seek someone with non-profit development experience. But regardless of your expertise, we will train you and find something for you to do! We also need a plumber and a drywall/carpentry person who can help with some final repairs and be on standby as needed.

Pictured above is Gabby, one of our volunteers, along with Red, an Iguana we took in from the Lake Humane Society. Below is the hand of super-volunteer Raven, holding Amber, a corn snake who came to us from the Humane Society of Greater Akron. Raven has already performed more than 100 hours of volunteer time with the Foundation!



GIVE - Your Stuff

You can always donate caging and supplies. We use many of these items to care for our animals, while others are sold to help fund our mission. We can take cages, aquariums terrariums, filters, heat pads, lights and screens. We can also use animal food including live or frozen feeder mice, rats, rabbits; crickets and dubia roaches; chicken and sea food for the turtles; and timothy hay. We are currently working with a local food bank which is giving us all its produce that is about to be thrown out. This will save us hundreds of dollars each year, but we still need more!

Our landlord is allowing us to use a dozen tables and several dozen chairs she has in storage and we will be moving them into the classroom and party room shortly.

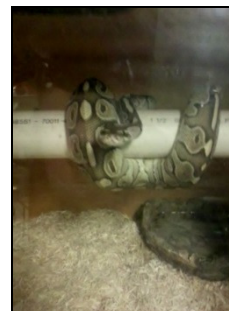
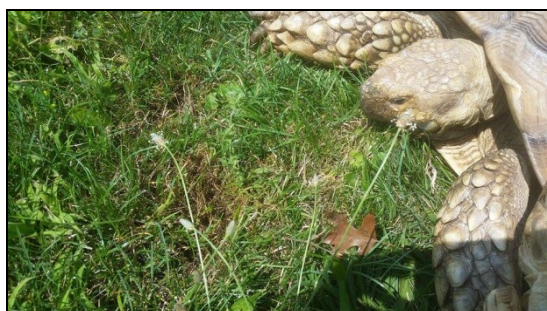
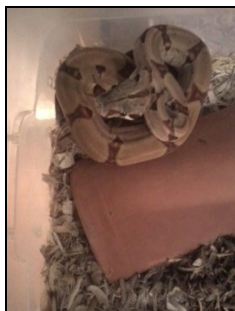
Here is the wish list of specific items we need to operate a first class rescue facility. There are many more items we can use, so please check with us! Many items can be combined into a sponsorship, too!

Folding Chairs (25)	4', 6' or 8' Folding Tables (8)	Kitchen Counter
Microwave	Full-sized Refrigerator	Generator
Snake Racks of all sizes	UVB Light bulbs	Reptile Thermostats
24 carpet pieces – apx. 18"	Retail Gondola shelving	Retail end cap shelving
Reptile books (for our library)	Landscape Services	Snowplow services
Digital scale	Large Glass Door (36")	Gift Cards of any kind

GIVE - Cash

We have so many plans and to be honest, cash is king! The IRS has acknowledged our 501c3 application, so donations are tax-deductible! It's easy. You can use **PayPal** (herpsalive@earthlink.net) or send a check or money order to Herps Alive Foundation, 1687 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-1722.

You can also sign up at www.iGive.com. iGive lets you designate us as your charity. Any time you shop on-line, a portion of your total purchase is donated to the Foundation. It's easy and it doesn't cost you a penny more than you would pay otherwise.



ADOPT



Our primary mission remains rescuing and rehabbing animals, and we continue to hope to find good homes for as many animals as we can. We have dozens of animals looking for homes right now so if you are thinking of a new pet, please adopt and if you are thinking of a new reptile pet please adopt from us.

Request an adoption application at herpsalive@earthlink.net

The Petco Foundation

It took several months, but we were finally approved as a charitable partner of the Petco Foundation, which makes us eligible to receive donations of equipment and supplies. Petco's individual stores have been great supporters of the Herps Alive Foundation. We have been able to hold adoption events at the Beachwood, Youngstown (Boardman) and Sandusky and we will take part in our second reptile rally at several stores in October. We have also been approved as a partner organization with the Petco Foundation, which makes us eligible for donations of merchandise from the stores. Unfortunately, the Petco Foundation has changed its grant-writing process and only dog and cat rescues are now eligible, which is unfortunate. But we still appreciate all the help we DO get from Petco.

Mission Statement: The Herps Alive Foundation is a public charity dedicated to saving, rehabilitating and caring for unwanted, neglected and abused reptiles and amphibians, and to finding new homes for them when possible; with an emphasis on educating the public about these remarkable animals.

The Herps Alive Foundation

Location: 1487-89 Garden Drive
South Euclid, OH 44121

Mailing Address: 1687 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

216-374-1392 (Cell for Exec. Director Keith Gisser) e-mail: herpsalive@earthlink.net

Dedicated phone number coming soon

