



Herps Alive Foundation Newsletter March 15, 2014

I know we promised you a newsletter months ago but we have been so busy – the Struthers seizure— the search for a building – working on our 501c3 – and a non-stop whirlwind of surrenders, vet visits and re-homing. But, we have much to tell you so please take a minute to read this newsletter, as basic as it might be. Thanks! Keith Gisser, Executive Director

The Herps Alive Foundation's New Facility



Earlier this week, we signed a lease on a building in South Euclid, Ohio. Located at 147 Garden Drive, near the intersection of Mayfield (US 322) and Green Roads, the space features over 4,000 square feet of space. Above are pictures of the exterior, main display area and the future classroom, located on the 2nd floor. There is also a party room on the 2nd floor, and an (in the future) office. The ground floor features several smaller rooms one of which will be dedicated to African Spurred Tortoises exclusively, and one that will be a quarantine/treatment room. There will be a large (floor to ceiling) iguana enclosure and multiple open turtle habitats. Snakes will be maintained in both displays and in rack systems, while we plan on a huge python enclosure (both the enclosure and the pythons are huge). We also have an attached non-heated structure which we may use to display and care for our native species. There is also an outdoor yard area where tortoises can graze (supervised of course). We have a lot of renovations to do (and there are exterior repairs that need to be completed, too) but our long search is finally over. We could not have dreamed of finding a more appropriate facility. Now the real work begins and we hope you will be a part of it.

We NEED You!

There are many, many ways you can help the Herps Alive Foundation.

VOLUNTEER!



If you are in Northeast Ohio, we need volunteers, both for construction and clean-up, and to help staff the facility when we open! We have scheduled two volunteer opportunities so you can see the space first-hand and get your hands dirty a bit! Saturday March 22 from 12-6 and Sunday March 23 from 2:30-6, we will be cleaning up the building, doing some electrical testing and minor repairs and (hopefully) starting to paint. You don't have to be here the whole time – but we hope you can give us a couple hours. You must be at least 16 or accompanied by a parent to volunteer, and we will need you to sign a waiver form when you arrive. If you are under 18, your parent must sign the waiver.

Bring cleaning supplies (mops, buckets, cleaners, rags, brooms you name it) and wear old clothes! If you have painting supplies, e-mail us (herpsalive@earthlink.net) or message us on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Herps-Alive-The-Interactive-Reptile-and-Amphibian-Experience/62345873433?ref=hl) to see if we will be ready for them next weekend.

We will need more volunteers for animal care, animal socialization and as ambassadors to the public (as seen above) once we get ready to open. We will train you. We also need help with building maintenance, clerical/scheduling and more. We hope to find a volunteer with experience in non-profit development to help us in our fundraising efforts as we try to save the world, one reptile at a time.

DONATE CASH!

Our 501c3 application will be filed Monday, March 17. Any donations dated after March 17 are tax-deductible! Cash gifts are always appreciated! Use **PayPal** (herpsalive@earthlink.net) or send a check to Herps Alive Foundation, 1687 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 4411-1722.



You can also sign up at 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.

We are working on our animal sponsorship program. When our website (www.herpsalive.org) launches next month, you can get complete details on how it will work. If you donate, now you can designate your donation for a sponsorship and we will apply it once we finalize details. Sponsorships include a placard on the cage, designating you or your company as the sponsor, and will entitle you to merchandise discounts and other perks. They will start at \$50.

DONATE STUFF!



You can donate your used caging and supplies. We use many of these items to care for our animals, but 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; timothy hay; and produce of almost any kind (we used 150 lbs. of pumpkin last fall!)

Here is our wish list of specific items we need to operate a first class rescue facility. These donations are also tax deductible after March 17. There are many more items we can use, so please check with us!

Folding Chairs (50)	4', 6' or 8' Folding Tables (8)	Kitchen Counter/cabinet
Large dry-erase or chalkboard	Refrigerator	Generator
Drywall (whole sheets only)	Cash Register	Computer and monitor
Retail peg hooks (100)	Retail Gondola shelving	Retail Endcap shelving
Reptile books (for our library)	TV and DVD Player	Stainless steel table
Digital scale	Storage shelving (12" or 18")	Large glass windows
Home Depot/Lowes Gift Cards	Grocery Store Gift Cards	Restaurant Gift Cards

So what happens once the facility opens? (And when will it happen?)

We hope to get all construction and remodeling done by mid-April (although weather may delay the exterior repairs). At that point we will begin moving in fixtures, merchandise and empty cages. We hope to move over 100 animals into the facility during the first week of May. We hope to hold a gala opening event for our donors on Friday evening May 16 with an open house Saturday and Sunday May 17 and 18. After that we will be open Sundays and Mondays along with one weekday evening, and by appointment. We plan to extend our hours as we go forward and set feeding and maintenance schedules for the animals in our care.

We will begin scheduling birthday parties, youth groups, schools and organizations near the end of May. Fees vary by type of program and number of participants. There are guided tours, guided discovery and formal hands-on programs. We will offer reptile-themed tablecloths, plates and cups so birthday groups can just show up with their food, while we do the rest.

We plan to hold four sessions of Herpetology Camp this summer. These five-day camps provide an intense interactive learning experience. Camps will be scheduled from 9-12 and 1-4, split for ages 8-12 and 13-17, and the camps, limited to 12 participants per session, will cost just \$150!

Our major 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!

The Herps Alive Foundation is a public charity dedicated to saving, rehabilitating and caring for unwanted, neglected and abused reptiles and amphibians; 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 Garden Drive
South Euclid, OH 44121
216-374-1392 (Number will change apx. May 1)**

**Mailing Address: 1687 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
e-mail: herpsalive@earthlink.net**

