

The Maya Foundation's

BARNYARD BHUTAN ANIMAL RESCUE & SANCTUARY

JAMIE VAUGHAN WAS BORN AND RAISED AT THE NORTH END. HER FAMILY'S NORTH END ROOTS GO BACK MULTIPLE GENERATIONS. BUT ONCE SHE VISITED BHUTAN, IN S.E. ASIA, THE WORLD CHANGED FOR JAMIE AND FOR HUNDREDS OF ANIMALS...



volunteer
spotlight

Jamie giving laser treatment to a Yak.

Your Name: Jamie Vaughan

Who is in your VB family? Mom Esther Vaughan, sister Lee-Anne Vaughan Morton, Terry (brother-in-law), and their children Gabe and Lyla and Ben their dog. The Mortons live on 87th Street. And Dad, Buddy Vaughanon, on the Eastern Shore.

Where did you grow up? Bay Colony

High School and College you attended? Cox High School, then I moved to Colorado.

Can you tell us what inspired you to establish the Maya Foundation? The Foundation is named in memory of our first rescued horse, Maya – saved from severe injury in 2012 with the help of expertise and resources abroad. She later passed away but the Foundation was born in hopes of making sure that all animals have what is needed for a second chance at life.

When I first got to Bhutan there was little to no veterinary presence in Paro, where I live, yet so many dogs suffering (that's what I first noticed). So then one "stray" dog became 10, then 50 and once the community realized I would help any animal, cows, horses, goats, pigs, birds and even mice would be brought to me.

What brought you to Bhutan originally and what made you fall in love with Bhutan and want to live there?

I came as a tourist in 2005 and fell in love with the country — the beauty, simplicity of life and kindness of the people. Animal rescue was never part of the plan, it just kind of happened.

Where is Bhutan? Can you share with readers a bit about it? It is a gorgeous little country sandwiched between Tibet and India, where the King and Royal family are most rightfully loved and revered. The economic indicator is about Gross National Happiness. Money is not the primary concern. Buddhism is also a guiding principle here. And we like to think Gross Animal Happiness is an important part of both.

How many and what breeds on animals reside at the foundation's compound?

More than 500
325+ dogs, puppies, 25 or so cats and kittens, 38 equines, horses and mules (most who have had broken legs from car or trekking accidents, several with prosthetics) 40 cattle, mostly broken legs or spinal injuries from car accidents or falls or attacked by dogs when they were young, 40 goats rescued by Tsethar (life-saving) groups, 20 pigs and a wild boar who came as a baby. And our beautiful big girl, a Himalayan Griffon vulture (she has poor vision in her right eye which made survival in the wild impossible and why she now resides with us).

What kind of injuries and health risks do your "guests" suffer from?

1. Car accidents, the most common trauma. Mange. Internal parasites (worms)
2. Abandonment or no owners.
3. We are the only rescue in this Dzongkhag (district, "state.") so if someone wasn't willing or able to take the animal to the capital city where a few other rescues are, then they may possibly be out of luck. What most people don't realize, however, is that horses and most animals really can still live a very happy and fulfilled life even if they aren't fit for the races. And our success is not because we are better equipped – that would be a joke – it's just because Bhutan, possibly because of its Buddhist roots, recognizes the intrinsic value of life, rather than focusing on any supposed "utility" value.

How did you learn how to care for the animals and to what extremes have you gone to provide comfort and save these animals' lives? We understand you have been very creative when it comes to creating and providing prosthetics for many "guests!"

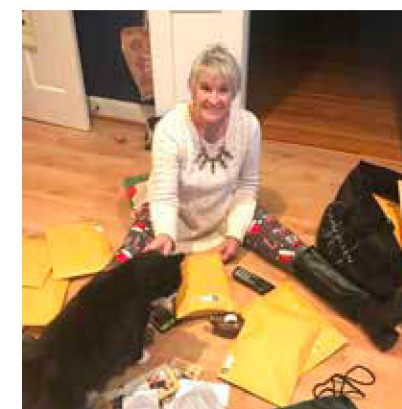
I initially learned a lot about small animals from an animal rescue in Thimphu — Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care (also foreigners living and working for the animals here). Then I studied as a vet tech, all the while learning firsthand with the help of some amaz-

ing vets in the US and India. It's very simple — what you don't know, you learn. What you don't have, you make. It's all about how you interpret and react to the 'impossible' situations.

The Foundation is primarily self-funded, but helped by donations as well as support from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation. Monthly costs though are now at more than \$8000, so it's a constant struggle but turning our back on any animal is simply out of the question.

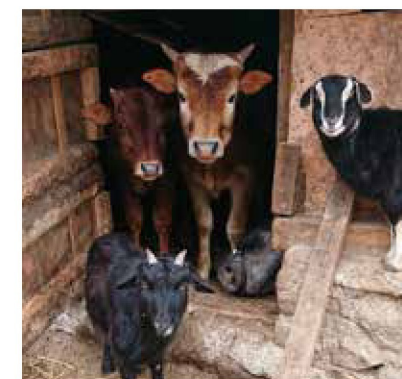
How can our readers help you and the animals whose lives you save every day and continue to save, provide shelter for and healing?

Well, it's not just here that animals are suffering and exploited. Granted we need a lot of help, but so do animals and no-kill shelters everywhere. I would ask that everyone adopt rather than shop, and also be cognizant of their lifestyle choices which impact billions of innocent animals worldwide.



Jamie's mom Esther Vaughan manages the Foundation from her house in Bay Colony. Sending out gifts to donors this past Christmas.

To help us, donations are most needed and greatly appreciated with 100% of all gifts going directly to help feed and take care of the animals at our sanctuary, and others that come on a daily basis. People can also visit us on Facebook (themayafoundation) to help spread the word, and designate us as their Amazon Smile charity (Maya Foundation



– Barnyard Bhutan Animal Rescue & Sanctuary). We are also always on the lookout for used veterinary and medical equipment, essential medicines such as dewormers and flea treatments, bandaging supplies, and all horse stuff such as blankets and halters. The list goes on really — we are not proud and absolutely everything used and even dysfunctional is loved and put to good use!

For more information, go to <http://themayafoundation.org> or reach out to Esther, Jamie's mom, at esther@themayafoundation.org on how best you can help. The Foundation is a registered US 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so donations are tax-deductible.

Note: Love of animals runs in the family. Jamie's grandmother, Lee Beasley, was one of the founders of the Virginia Beach SPCA.

A Note From Monica: I have known and admired Esther for many years from her charitable work in the community, her athletic abilities and moxie. But when she told me about her daughter Jamie and her selfless determination to save animals...I began researching The Maya Foundation. Words and an article in the *Northender* can not capture the fortitude of Jamie Vaughan. Readers, show this article to your children, encourage your kids and your neighbors to learn more about this amazing story and learn how one person can make such a difference on the planet.

You can watch Jamie in action on the web! Go to: BYUtv/wizardofpaws.EpisodeYusi

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