



Created by Leslie Brockett
Sizzle reel: <http://www.muthefilm.com/thefarm.html>

Docu-series for television
Registration 3/12/09 # CV2578
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The F.A.R.M. Farm Animal Rescue Mission

Logline:

The question is not can they reason, nor can they talk, but can they suffer? See the truth about farmed animals, the harrowing rescues, and the people who save them.

Synopsis:

Every creature has the right to be treated humanly but for some reason farmed animals are so often excluded from state anti cruelty laws. We are still practicing farming methods that have been banned in other countries long ago. This show focuses on one particular place that is trying to change that. It has made a huge impact on the animal rights movement. Animal Acres is a Los Angeles farmed animal sanctuary and compassionate living center directed by

Farm Sanctuary co-founder **Lorri Houston**. It is a paradise for farm animals like cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, sheep, goats and other country critters.



Through her farm animal sanctuary efforts, Lorri has brought national attention to the plight of certain animals people tend to turn a blind eye to; the ones used for food production. By starting the nation's first Animal Cruelty Investigation team, her staff has directly saved thousands of animals from the brutality of factory farms, stockyards and slaughterhouses, and are committed to save these animals even if extreme measures need to be taken.



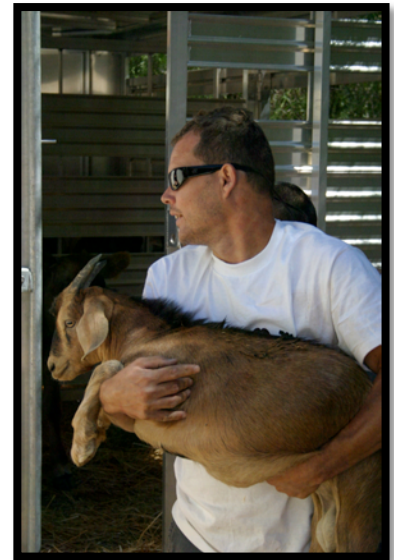
James Cromwell, Ellen Degeneres, Darryl Hannah, Ed Begley Jr., Joaquin Phoenix, Mathew McConaughey, Alisha Silverstone, Jorja Fox, Rory Freeman (Author of *Skinny Bitch*), and Dennis Kucinich are





just a few people who actively support Animal Acres. All of them have spoken for and volunteered their time at this very special place. Our celebrity host will introduce the show, lead the story along, and dip in with facts and highlights through out. It would also be a great opportunity to have a celebrity guest come to the farm, as the '*Activist of the week*' and participate with the rescue and care for the animals.

The story starts out at the farm in Palmdale California. Here we meet the workers and the animals that make this place so special. **Frank** our main rescuer and farm manager, is a cowboy through and through. On the farm he rehabilitates and cares for the animals with triumphant bravery. On the field he cases areas known for neglecting animals and does all he can to see that laws are being followed and that their facility is up to code. He is not one to back down when confronted and he will jump fences, follow trucks, and knock on people's doors if he has to just to save an animal in need. His passion is a force to be reckoned with and he has committed his life to this effort. He is also the ex boyfriend of the founder Lorri, and this can cause a bit of tension, especially when he doesn't listen to his boss.



Lorri herself is quite the farm girl and it is funny to watch her transform out of her overalls into her ball gowns for the various galas' they throw throughout the year. When a curling iron gets caught in her hair and she can't stand in her heels she usually ends up in tears. Being a girly girl doesn't come easy for her but running Animal Acres does. She is a fearless leader and will go to any length to protect her babies even if it means pulling out large sticks lodged in cows

private parts or getting in a hydrotherapy tub with a goat to stretch their legs. There is nothing she won't do for them.



Then there's **Erica**, the African-American woman who may talk too much but is really quite funny. She is a spitfire and will say what is on her mind without much thought of repercussion. This often gets her in hot water with her boss and the other employees. She is fiercely loyal to her animals at the farm though, and knows their needs and personalities like she does her own children.



Richard is one of the hardest working volunteers at the farm. Having a background in construction, he is always building new enclosures and habitats for the incoming animals. As some of the volunteers can become very emotional about a particular rescue he is a very take-charge guy. Richard rolls up his sleeves and gets what needs to be done, done. At 6'4 and 200lbs he can be somewhat intimidating at first glance but when he is around the animals he becomes a gentle giant.



Patty is one of Animal Acres most revered volunteers. Not only is she generous of her time but she is the farm's most generous contributor. Patty is very vocal about the injustices she sees and often goes on rants and is also the first one to cry when an injured or abused animal comes in. She sometimes has to walk away when things get heated.



In contrast, **Cathy** is a no nonsense, level headed gal who uses her Army background to round up the troops and keep people

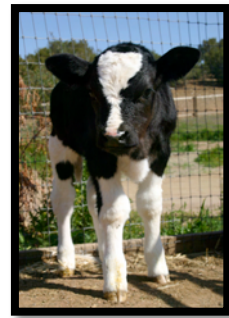
in line. This doesn't mean she isn't also very colorful. Not your typical grandma of two, this tattooed party girl was once the poster child for the Army Recruitment center.



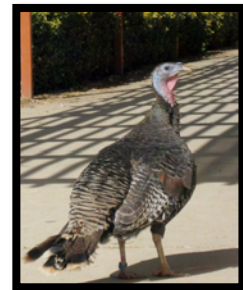
Then there are always the volunteer whose husband is an avid carnivore and doesn't understand why their wives want to work at this "crazy place". And of course, the live-in interns that come from all over the world that are forced to eat a vegan diet while staying on the farm. It is not always easy for them and they often sneak off base to steal a hamburger.

Everyone at the farm has their own distinct personality that can clash from time to time but they all have one thing in common; Their love for the animals.

Some examples of the animal characters we'll get to know are ***Casanova***, the now playful rescued veal calf that was originally found stuck in the mud with his mother and later discarded as trash.



Turkey Lurky thinks he's a person and follows you around everywhere. He likes to hang out wherever humans do.



And ***Jimmy*** the pig who was found in a dumpster and looks like a little gangster due to the rhinitis that deforms his snout.



All of these discarded animals are full of personality and respond to love like any dog or cat would. In this series we will get to know their personalities and the stories behind them. Each week the farm also gears up for different activities, be it a wedding, community outreach, a hoe down, visiting schools, or the big celebrity gala that they have bi-annually.

Inevitably, the day-to-day farm activities of feeding, cleaning and nursing are interrupted by an emergency. From the time they get the call about an abused or downed animal that has been discarded and left for dead, to the ever tense and exhausting rescue, there is never a dull moment. We follow Frank and the team at Animal Acres while they rescue animals from their egregious surroundings. The compassionate workers take the utmost care to bring the animal to their sanctuary and nurse them back to health. This is not always an easy task. Especially when



there are say, 52 sheep who need solace from a slaughterhouse that had them so cramped in one room that half of them couldn't even touch the ground; all of them covered with their own (and other's) feces and most so sick they need to stay in quarantine until better so as not to infect the other animals at the farm. Often times pens need to be made in a hurry or a triage large enough to fit the incoming needs to be erected in time for their arrival.

Animal Acres has just started the first ever Humane Enforcement Agency. They are enforcing the California Downed Protection Law, which prohibits selling, abandon, or dragging downed animals. This license allows them to have their own investigator out on the field two or three times a week and at weekly auctions, rodeos, and the investigating cruelty cases. It will also give them the search warrants necessary to get an inside look at what is going on.

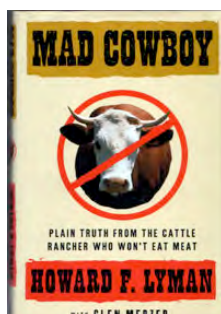
We'll also check in with *Andrew* from time to time, our undercover enforcement officer and follow him as he prepares his sting operations. The day he moves in and goes for the arrest is often dramatic and very



tense. His most recent rescue was a bull at an Artesia, CA bullfight. The Bull was being used for a so-called “bloodless bullfight”, however being the humane officer on the scene, Andrew noticed blood and puncture wounds on the bull when the animal was being led out of the ring. Perpetrators of this act hit the bull repetitively with a stick that has Velcro or some sort of decoration on it. These animals are shot up with hormones from the time they are young and repetitively prodded and tortured so they can become as aggressive as possible for the one fight they are reared to fight in their life. The following day they are killed.

After confirming that the decorative stick actually had three-inch nails attached to it that penetrate deep into the animal’s skin, the humane officer went into the center ring, held up his badge, and ended the bullfight. More than 30 sticks with nails on the tips were confiscated, and the company operating the bullfight was informed that stabbing a bull is a violation of California state anti-cruelty laws. According to the California Penal Code (Section 567m), bullfights are illegal – including so-called “bloodless bullfights” – unless it is held in connection with religious festivals or celebrations. This loophole allows cruel bullfights to exist throughout California but Andrew informed them that this kind of cruelty would not be overlooked.

As we get a glimpse of animals’ conditions we will splice in interviews from experts in the field of ranching, rodeos and factory farming who speak out about the true nature of these places and what the animals have to endure. We will find out how and why they’ve changed professions and how hard the decision is to expose something that makes you an outcaste in your own community. **Jim Mason**, ex pig farmer from Missouri who wrote ‘*Animal Factories*’ about “how the desire for increased profit, exacts a price on human values, the environment, the health of consumers and the welfare of small farmers that we can no longer afford to pay”,



Paul Watson Co-founder of Greenpeace, Captain of the notorious Sea Sheppard, star of *Whale Wars* and named by Time Magazine as one of its "Environmental Heroes of the 20th Century" and **Howard Lyman**, fourth generation cattle rancher the man who wrote ‘*Mad Cowboy*’ the plain truth about giving up his \$1,000,000 a year cow slaughter business, are just a few of the willing participants we will interview.

We will also be witnessing miracles that happen on a daily basis at this gentle farm. Like the one in this story written by Lorri Houston herself:

“This week, Animal Acres received another urgent call to assist suffering farmed animals in our area - and when we rushed to the scene, we found four abandoned goats. One severely emaciated goat was on her side, thrashing on the ground, amid broken bottles and other trash.

After receiving permission to take the animals, we loaded the three non-critical goats into one truck, and carried the downed goat to another truck, where we administered medicine for shock and pain, and gave her fluids. When she was stable enough for transport, we took her to Animal Acres for continued treatments, including trimming her severely overgrown hooves - some of the worst we have ever seen, and most likely the reason she could no longer walk, or get to food and water. Remarkably, after her hooves were trimmed, she was able to stand with our assistance, and then take her first timid steps. We watched her stand next to the hay trough, and eat, and eat, and eat. Our live-in intern Emilee named her HOPE.

The next day, we learned that Hope's plight wasn't over, WHEN SHE WENT INTO LABOR. Our veterinarian could not get to Animal Acres immediately, so he coached our Shelter Manager Frank Allen on the phone through the delivery process. Hope was too weak and emaciated to give birth, and she could not push her baby out. Without Frank's heroic efforts to deliver the baby, both mom and baby would have died. When our veterinarian arrived on the scene and saw Hope's condition, he could not believe that Hope was alive, or that her baby was born alive. It is truly, a miracle.”



Hope's baby Faith

Nursing the animals back to health can be strenuous. Many of these animals have never taken a step on free ground before and their injuries can be such that they need to have hydrotherapy, be put in slings, and have their muscles stretched for them to rehabilitate.

Of course there are always the unfortunate ones who don't make it. Like Colin the baby goat, who came to the sanctuary just days old after being abandoned in a canyon with both his ears cut off. Despite the cruelty he endured Colin was the most loving and affectionate animal the workers had ever seen. He always wanted to be near people, sit on their lap, or cuddle in his fluffy blanket on the couch. Because he was taken away from his mother so young and had been so mistreated, Colin didn't have the immunity to sustain the abuse. His passing was the saddest moment that the farm had seen in a long time. Letters flooded in by children and no one can talk about him still without tears welling up in their eyes. Seeing sentient beings like this love humans even after being tortured will break the even hardest of hearts.



To see the lucky ones prevail and come out of their shell is a joyful experience. Most of the animals are often so timid and afraid of humans that to watch them learn trust and start to integrate with the other animals at this oasis is a phenomenon. I've literally seen a grown cow, who would flinch at your every move and a little lamb that couldn't lift his head, run up and down the fields together playing with each other like old friends in just a matter of weeks. The psychological healing of each creature is a treasure to watch. Each week we will check in on the progress of these animals we have come to care about. Viewers can watch a daily feed, learn more about their profiles and even adopt one from our website.

Our celebrity host will end the program with blurb from other famous people in our history that spoke out against animal cruelty. Leo Tolstoy, George Bernard Shaw, Henry David Thoreau, Pythagoras, Albert Einstein, and Leonardo Da Vinci among many others, understood that compassion toward all creatures is a key ingredient to having a peaceful planet.

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Mahatma Gandhi

Lorri Houston

Lorri Houston is considered the “pioneer” of the farmed animal sanctuary movement.

In 1986, she opened the country’s first shelter for farmed animals as co-founder of Farm Sanctuary, at a time when rescuing and protecting farmed animals was unheard of. For three years, she sold soydogs at Grateful Dead concerts to pay for the organization’s rescue and shelter work, and even lived in a school bus to make ends meet.

As President and Executive Director of Farm Sanctuary for 18 years, she helped Farm Sanctuary grow from an organization of three – one sheep and two humans – to an organization of over 50 employees, thousands of members, and of course, hundreds of rescued farmed animals. Her work has been featured in hundreds of national and state news reports, and she has been featured in several documentaries.



In 2005, Lorri Houston founded the nonprofit organization, *Animal Acres*, the Los Angeles Farmed Animal Sanctuary and Compassionate Living Center. In less than five years, Animal Acres has grown into one of southern California’s premier animal protection organizations, rescuing hundreds of farmed animals and educating millions of people about the plight of animals used for “food production” with features on the sanctuary’s work in the *Los Angeles Times*, and the national television series, “30 Days”.

Frank Allen



Frank Allen first got interested in animal rights because having been a diabetic all of his life he could never understand how vivisection on animals related to his human condition. His life as an activist for animal rights didn't hit full tilt until one day he was driving to work in his new truck and his expensive suit and locked eyes with a cow in a rendering truck. At that moment something struck him and he realized that he had to commit his life to end animal suffering. He promptly quit his job and has been investigating and documenting farmed animal abuse in California since 1995. He is a fearless advocate for animals suffering in factory farms, stockyards, and slaughterhouses. His undercover

investigations in Los Angeles County and neighboring counties, provided the crucial documentation needed to form California's first SPCA for farm animals in California, with the authority to appoint humane officers.

A founding volunteer with Animal Acres, Allen helped build and develop L.A.'s new farm animal sanctuary, and was offered a full-time position with Animal Acres in 2006. Allen is currently serving as Animal Acres Rescue and Shelter Operations Manager, and is responsible for the organization's rescue and placement efforts, daily animal care operations at the Animal Acres shelter, and humane investigations and actions. Allen has rescued and provided safe refuge for over 1,000 suffering farm animals through his work with Animal Acres, and his work has been featured in national news media, including the "30 Days" television show and other media.

Patty Shenker

There wouldn't even be an Animal Acres without famed philanthropist ***Patty Shenker***. Daughter of Morris Shenker, the lawyer who defended Jimmy Hoffa in the '60's, Patty was responsible for purchasing the farm at Animal Acres and volunteers there weekly. After pursuing a career in modern dance in New York, she moved to California and received her Master's Degree in Marriage, Family and Child Therapy from Azusa Pacific University.



A passionate animal advocate, Ms. Shenker has been honored over the years for her dedication and commitment to animal causes, garnering awards from California Wildlife Center, Stray Cat Alliance, Farm Sanctuary, Animal Acres and others. She was also instrumental in getting the Animal Rights Legal Clinic of Rutgers University started as well as owning property in Northern California for the benefit of a horse rescue sanctuary. Among other recognition and achievements, Ms. Shenker was one of three individuals highlighted in the Los Angeles Times on 12/19/07 for her significant contribution to animal protection and again just recently for being one of the cities most important philanthropists.

Richard LaDez



Richard LaDez had been in the executive/personnel protection business for the last 17 years. This job has provided him with access to just about every celebrity you could name. He is most impressed with the having met some of this world's greatest animal people. From presidents of the largest non-profits (Wayne Pacelle-HSUS etc...) to the leaders of the animal movement (Jane Goodall etc..) and the celebrities that lend their names to the causes. He has traveled all over providing protection for these people and as of the last couple of years providing security and rescue for some of God's creatures.

About ten years ago he took a break from work for about a year and poured himself into the animal rescue world. He rescued thousands of animals in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, volunteered at wildlife facilities Dog and Cat rescues and now farm animal rescue.

He says about volunteering for Animal Acres:

“It is here at Animal Acres that I have felt most at home and connected with the animals. There are other rescue groups and lots that claim to be. But AA seems to really GET the plight unlike anyone else. So here is where I will stay as long as they need me and as long as I can help.”

Jorja Fox
Celebrity Volunteer

Jorja Fox has been an animal activist for over twenty years. Besides the countless functions she attends and awards she has been given her efforts include the 'Investigate Vegetarianism' PETA campaign and is executive producer on the documentary series *Black Market: inside the endangered species trade*.

Her acting credits include *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *ER*, *The West Wing* and *Memento*.



ABOUT BUNNYHOP PRODUCTIONS



Bunnyhop Productions has its name because it takes the whole party working together to do the dance.

The company's founder, **Leslie Brockett**, has consistently written and produced work in New York and Los Angeles that explores social/political issues, often through humor, provoking thought and inspiring change in the theatre, on film and now television. Her most recent venture is a film about big Pharma, and a theatre piece about Dusty

Springfield that is heading to Off-Broadway in the fall. Bunnyhop Productions also produces special events and raises funds for non-profits bringing awareness to causes such as ovarian cancer, kidney disease, and high-risk youths.

LESLIE BROCKETT

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Film Production

2001-2009	<i>Bunnyhop Productions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Founder, CEO
2009	<i>The F.A.R.M.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Creator, Executive Producer, Lead Producer, Editor
2006-2007	<i>MU</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Executive Producer, Lead Producer
2001-2002	<i>Little Girls, Big Trouble</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ E.P, Producer, Line Producer, Director, Writer, Editor
2001-2002	<i>Village Hopecore International</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ E.P, Producer, Director, Editor

Theatre Production

2009	<i>Kirsten Holly Smith sings Dusty Springfield [NY]</i> Multiple shows <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Lead Producer
2008	<i>Letter to My President [LA and NY]</i> Multiple shows <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Lead Producer
2007-2008	<i>Stay Forever: The Life and Music of Dusty Springfield [LA]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Lead Producer
1998-1999	<i>Olivarian Theatre Company [LA]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Producer
1992-1997	<i>VOX Theatre Company [NY]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Founder, Producer, Director of Development
1991 -1994	<i>The Collective Voice [NY]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Founder, Artistic Director, Producer, Director

Fundraising / Public Relations/ Special Events

2002-2009	<i>Independent Fundraiser</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Raise money and host events for various non profit companies and foundations✦ Bringing awareness to Ovarian Cancer, Kidney Disease, High Risk Youths✦ Responsible for Sponsors, Auctions, Donations, Caterers, Donors, Talent✦ Marketing: Wrote all the copy and promotional material✦ Responsible for all public relations and promotion
2000 – 2001	<i>Independent Woman Artist</i> –Director of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Head of fundraising, Treasurer✦ Taught acting and writing to inner city children
1998 – 1999	<i>Oliverian Productions</i> – Head of Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Raised 90 % of production capital ✦ Rum Runners Ball ✦ Medieval festival
1998 – 1999	<i>Candyland Lounge</i> – Creator, Promoter <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ High end nightclub in Los Angeles
1997 – 1998	<i>Backlight Productions</i> – Gala Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Raised 90% of production capital✦ Responsible for getting Sponsors, Public Relation, Promotions, Caterers
1996	<i>VOX Theatre Company</i> – Director of Development/Gala Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Raised 100 % of production capital✦ Responsible for bringing aboard Honoree: Peter Max✦ Public Relations ✦ Promotion ✦ Sponsors
1996	<i>Rabbit Ahead Productions</i> – Gala Coordinator
1995 – 1997	<i>Hippie Chix</i> – Creator, Promoter <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Nightclub in New York City