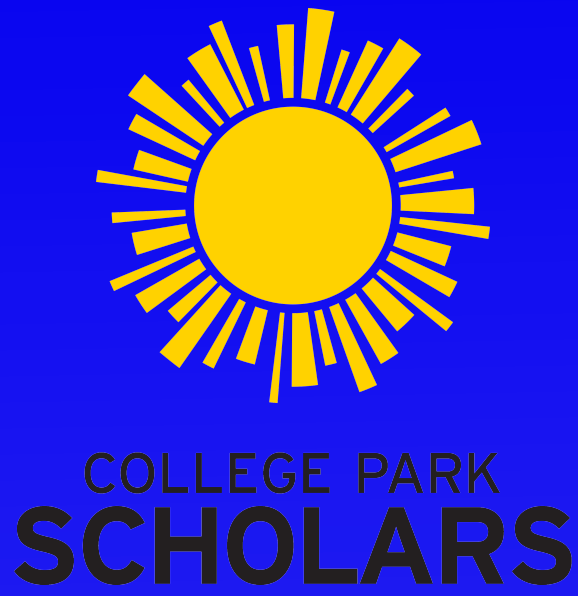




# Animal Husbandry at Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue

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## Introduction

For my practicum project, I volunteered at Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue, where they rescue and adopt out all sorts of animals such as dogs, cows, goats, pigs, horses, and even alpacas. For me, animals and nature have always been one of my favorite things that I truly love, so I was able to balance science with my personal passion here at the rescue.



Pictured left to right: Ed (Volunteer), Mitch (Me), Luby (Full-time employee), Joey (Co-founder and vice president of the organization) Taking a break after a long day of work! We had just finished expanding the fenced in area for the secondary “puppy playpen” where prospective adopters will be able to meet their future furry soulmate!

## Site Information:

Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue

7303 Poindexter Rd, Louisa, VA 23093, USA

Joey Travers, Vice President and Co-Founder

Mission Statement: “Hooves & Paws Animal Rescue is a nonprofit animal rescue organization which provides a safe haven for unwanted, abused and homeless animals. Once healthy and rehabilitated at Hooves & Paws, rescued animals are available for adoption. Animals who are not adopted are guaranteed lifelong care at our sanctuary.”



The troop presenting the rescue with donations they accumulated, as well as homemade informative posters for us to keep at the rescue!



What better way to spend your time than surrounded by dogs!

## Activities and Impact:

On this project, I engaged in many tasks around the animal rescue. One main activity I assisted in was spaying and neutering a large group of puppies that came from a pregnant shepherd dog that was given to us while extremely pregnant and sick. In addition to this, with the help of other volunteers I built new pens for new animals that were acquired while I was on site. As one might guess, there was also a lot of cleaning, feeding, and petting of different farm animals!

## Most Impactful:

The most impactful part of my project in my opinion was on March 15, when a local troop of scouts came to the rescue, where we taught them about animals, what we do at the rescue, and even ways they can help. The kids were extremely cute and curious! This especially gave me hope for future generations.

## Issues Confronting Site:

The biggest issue confronting the site was definitely weather and personnel. With weather in the DMV being unpredictable, you never know what you might have to do on a certain day, especially since each group of animals requires different care in regards to shelter, food, conditions, etc. Also, since this is a nonprofit, sometimes volunteers at the shelter or even people that say they will adopt don’t show up, which causes problems throughout the whole operation.

## Future work:

Possible future issues that my project enables Hooves and Paws to address are to handle large donations of animals and supplies. By providing animal care services, it allows the rescue to handle mass acquisitions of animals and supplies which happens quite often due to hoarding and malpractice.

## Acknowledgments:

I’d like to thank all of my supporters and people that helped me along the way, including Drs. Holtz & Merck for their endless help in the Scholars program, and Michele Padilla & Joey Travers for founding the rescue and overseeing my operations!

