

者の目を楽しませるばかりか、動物にとっての快適さをコンセプトに設計されています。猫の部屋には、彼らの好む窪みや隠れ場所がふんだんにあり、(際限なく登って遊べる)ジャングルジムのな道具とか樹木、(高みから見下ろせる)止まり木などが配置され、家庭にあるような快適な家具と様々なオモチャが備わった、まさに「楽園」です。猫は、冷暖房完備の室内でも、屋外の広いスペースでも、好きな方を選んで遊ぶことができます。犬の部屋は、峡谷の厳しい冬にも耐えられる床下式暖房を備えた八角形の建物にあり、温度調節された室内から広い運動場に直接出られるようになっています。

不妊去勢処置は「殺さない運動」の支柱をなすため、ベストフレンズでは施設内の病院に連れて来られた動物に25ドルの料金(野生化した動物には無料)で手術を提供しています。(数百マイル遠方からも希望者が訪れるとか…)手術が行なわれるのは午前中で、ひとりの獣医と看護助手が毎日10件くらいを担当しています。また、移動クリニックも実施され、飼っているペットの避妊を誰でも低料金で受けられるように地域を巡回しています。教育、他の救援グループとのネットワーク作り、ボランティア・プログラムとか会議開催など、ベストフレンズの業務内容は多岐にわたっており、ニュースレターと雑誌(発行部数20万部)を通じて活

動を広く知らせています。

当初、友人仲間が「身よりのないペットを無為に殺すまい」と誓った小さな運動から始まったベストフレンズは、理想とする夢の多くを実現してきました。目標は、2005年までにユタを米国初の「殺さない」州にすること。25万に及び会員の支援が証明するように、彼らの理念は、同じ志を持つ大勢の人から共感を得ているのです。

Best Friends Animal Sanctuaryのアドレス:
Angel Canyon, Kanab, Utah
84741-5000
website: www.bestfriends.org



cat tree 猫の登り木

of extra special care remain at Best Friends till the end of their days.

People come from far and wide to adopt animals. Indeed it is not rare for a family to use its holiday time and drive hundreds of miles, to stay near Best Friends at one of the many motels in the nearby town, all of which accept pets, and to share time with a dog of their choice, to make sure they are suited. There are also guest bungalows at Best Friends where for the purpose of socialization people are encouraged to have one or two dogs stay with them overnight in a home atmosphere.

Over the years the original hand-made facilities have been replaced, mainly through the generosity of friends and supporters, so that now there are many state of the art facilities including; a hospital, Dogtown Heights (for less adoptable dogs), Old Dogtown, Kittyville (with a Kitty Motel including a TV room for cats) Wild Cats Village (for feral cats), Benton House (named in memory of a former rescued cat) and the Tender-Loving- Care (TLC Club for cats with special needs, including separate facilities for those with FIV and FeLV), the Bunny House (for rabbits), the Feathered Friends (birds) and Wildcare Centre, pastures and barns for the horses and Angel Village which contains a restaurant offering organically-grown salads and vegetables grown in greenhouses nearby.

All the animal houses have been designed with the comforts of the animals in mind as well as being aesthetically pleasing to visitors. Cat rooms are a cat's paradise, full of nooks and crannies where cats love to hide, with endless climbing structures and trees, high observation perches, comfortable home-style furniture and a mass of toys. Cats can choose between the air-conditioned interior and the spacious open air

playground. Dogs too have air-conditioned rooms in octagonal buildings which have under-floor heating for the winter when the temperature drops in the high canyon, and which span out to wide outdoor exercise enclosures.

Spaying and neutering is the mainstay of the no-kill movement so Best Friends provides this service for \$25 (ferals are done for free) to any animal brought to the hospital, some from hundreds of miles away. The morning is set aside for this and one veterinarian with a vet nurse assisting, perform on average 10 or more neuter/spays in this time, everyday. Best Friends also has a mobile clinic which travels around the region to make sure everyone has chance to neuter their pets at low cost.

Education, networking with other rescue groups, volunteer programmes and organizing conferences are all part of Best Friends work and they spread the word through their newsletter and magazine. (Circulation 200,000).

From its modest beginnings, when a group of friends vowed to end the needless killing of homeless pets, Best Friends has seen a large part of its dream come true. It aims to make Utah, the first no-kill State in the U.S.A by 2005. As the support of its quarter of a million members testify, Best Friends ideology is shared by many like-minded people.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary can be visited at Angel Canyon, Kanab, Utah 84741-5000 or at its website: www.bestfriends.org