



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE POWER OF HEALING HUMAN TRAUMA THROUGH ANIMAL CONNECTION?

Noah's Ark, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational animal sanctuary for wild, exotic, farm, and domestic animals has, since it opened in 1978 rescued and rehabilitated traumatized animals who were abandoned or left to be euthanized.

Over the years, Noah's Ark also welcomed hundreds of children as inhabitants through a former foster car program. The children, many of whom were suffering from their own levels of trauma from their previous living situations were often given daily responsibilities that involved spending time with farm and domestic animals. Organically, a number of those children who arrived introverted and guarded, over time evolved to more confident and communicative people due to their connections with the animals. Jama Hedgecoth and team watched as once muted, expressionless children emerged with smiles and a heightened ability to connect with others. The animals at Noah's Ark had helped the children grow merely by showing them unconditional, "no-expectations" love. Though medical studies and observations have later shown that animal assisted intervention has been beneficial to humans suffering from PTSD and those who endure trauma in the present, Jama did not consider what was happening at Noah's Ark as a program, but she knew she was onto something.

Jama was immediately moved by what she saw, and right away began to encourage all who came to visit to interact with certain animals and until this day receives compliments and comments about how soothing it feels to interact with the animals, and how much they leave Noah's Ark feeling a sense of tranquility because of it.

This encouragement has become of way of life at Noah's Ark, and there are those who have adopted domestic animals from Noah's Ark because of their experiences, or even make reoccurring visits to Noah's Ark simply to volunteer and spend time with the animals.

Jama and team are working to formalize this organic healing by reaching out to organizations geared to healing human trauma, offering opportunities to spend quality time with the countless animals who can provide that protected feeling.

And while the humans can verbalize their positive take away from their encounters with the Animals at Noah's Ark, certainly the animals benefit as well.

Human/Animal connection is one of the most feel-good, healing connections to be had.

Log onto noahs-ark.org if you are interested in volunteering, visiting, or supporting this awesome experience!