

Our Needs - Flood Losses

EQUIPMENT/ANIMAL TRANSPORT

- \$32,000 New Holland Workmaster 70 Tractor or its equivalent with front end loader*
- \$15,000 Hay Baler
- \$6,700 Hay Rake
- \$13,000 Hay Cutter Bar
- \$5,000 Hay Trailer
- \$4,000 Low Boy
- \$7,000 Front End Loader
- \$6,000 Gooseneck Cattle Trailer

*Rowdy Girl Sanctuary needs its own tractor to rebuild roads, fence lines, move sand, rock, fencing materials and hay. Think of all of our needs as the spokes on the wheel. This tractor is the hub of that wheel. We will be crippled in our ability to provide hay to feed our animals in winter without this equipment. The tractor will allow us to: load and unload hay, stack the hay we need for the wintertime, fix roads, move sand and rock for roads and bridges and clean up the back fence lines that are full of logs, trees, hay and flood debris.

TOOLS

- \$5,000 Lost Tools In Maintenance Shop – 4-5 feet of water covered it. Contents of the tool shed/maintenance shop: Lawnmower, Chainsaw, Welder, Compressor, Generator, Well Pump, Misc. Hand Tools

BUILDING/ROADS/INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$4,000 RV for volunteers and guests
- \$20,000 RGS Event Building - The RGS Event Hub & Storefront– needs to be completely gutted and restored. The floors, electrical, walls and contents were all submerged.
- \$11,500 Sand and limestone rock to rebuild roads

The Request – Become A Sponsor

\$100,000 Signage on Hwy 35 and you get to name a Pasture (i.e. “Smith Acres” or “Smith Ranch”) with signage. Your logo on our website, email newsletters and in all literature and banners. Mentioned at all events through 2017. Also, open to anything else you might like to be included for this generous contribution.

\$50,000 Name a Barn with signage and name the next two animals that come into the sanctuary. Your logo on our website, email newsletters, in all literature and mentioned at all events through 2017. Also open to anything else you might like to be included for this generous contribution.

\$25,000 Name on Pig Enclosures, or Tractor, Baler, Trailers. Your logo on our website, email newsletters and in all literature and banners through 2017.

\$5,000 Your logo on a Fence line dedicated to \$5,000 sponsors, Name an animal and receive pictures and updates on that animal 4x a year.

\$2,500 Listed on website, email newsletters and on all printed materials through 2017

\$1,000 Listed on website & email newsletters

The flood event in Brazoria County was of epic proportions and we at Rowdy Girl Sanctuary are determined to use this event as a way to get stronger, to create more awareness and to solidify our base of volunteers.

With your help, we will rise.

For more information please contact Reneé at 281.684.9101
renee@rowdygirlsanctuary.org www.RowdyGirlSanctuary.org



A person who is among the first to spearhead or create an idea that has never before been in existence is considered a “pioneer” and a “trailblazer”. The path to converting a beef cattle ranch into a vegan farm sanctuary in the state of Texas, let alone any other state has proven to be wrought with immense challenges because there is no blueprint for success. Every epic journey has immense obstacles, but the journey doesn't end because of them. Pioneers from the old west encountered extreme opposition, grave diseases, and extreme weather conditions that they had to be overcome in order to get to the other side of history. They never turned back. They pressed onward through unbearable circumstances and increased in strength until they reached their destination and established their colonies.

*Just like moons and like suns
With the certainty of tides
Just like the hopes springing high,
Still, I'll rise.*

-Maya Angelou



www.RowdyGirlSanctuary.org

“Once in 100 years” is what they said. Three generations could be born and never see a flood like the one that wiped out Rowdy Girl Sanctuary.

But our dream is bigger than our pain. Our calling is louder than our cries.

We gathered our rescued children and took them to higher ground while the relentless water ravaged the place we all live. We created an oasis in Texas that has never been before. We created a thriving, growing vegan farm sanctuary that gained national media coverage and is the focus of a full-length documentary film.

Our founder and director Reneé King-Sonnen has been honored as a movement leader and tireless, effective voice for animals. Rowdy Girl Sanctuary has the effect of not just saving animals, who would have no chance without us, but of unifying groups of people who would have had no connection or communication without us. We have expanded the tribe that is willing to consider that compassionate care for animals begins with not eating them. Most new small organizations would throw in the towel after a blow like this. That’s not the Rowdy Girl way. We have 96 acres of land, a dedicated founder and her husband Tommy and a passionate band of volunteers. The national groundswell on this has been tremendous. We will succeed. We have a well-researched, measured plan for recovery and growth. The changes that we are making will bring us out of this stronger and even more effective.

We need to raise \$110,720 by the end of the summer. (September 21, 2016)

About Rowdy Girl Sanctuary

Rowdy Girl Sanctuary is the first beef cattle ranch vegan conversion in Texas—most likely the United States—and from all research, the world. Rowdy Girl was created out of pure desperation. Reneé found herself a rancher’s wife gone vegan. She couldn’t bear to see the calves going to market one more time. She put her foot down, drawing the line in the sand; threatening her husband that she would follow the red trailer if it left the premises, and that she would do whatever it took to save the babies, including going to jail. Operations ceased. The marriage became increasingly tenuous. Babies were growing up and the mommas were getting pregnant. Tommy had a dilemma on his hands—should he sell the whole herd and divorce his wife or give in to her insane idea to let her “buy” his herd and start a vegan farm sanctuary in Texas? He decided on the latter, only to save his marriage, never believing that she would succeed. What happened next is what is defining Rowdy Girl as an idea whose time has come. Supporters flooded her plea from all over the world and she raised \$36,000 in just under four months, bought his herd and donated “her cows” to the nonprofit, Rowdy Girl Sanctuary, Inc. Tommy has become Rowdy Girl’s most ardent and indispensable supporter.

We were uncertain how people would receive our sanctuary. Every time you do something completely new, you never know how people will take it. But the hearts in not just Texas but all over the U.S. and the world have opened to us. Our founder has been recognized as a true leader in the animal welfare field and among other honors, received the VegNews, Vegan Activist of the Year Award and has been invited to be a speaker/presenter at the National Animal Rights Conference. She has been labeled a trailblazer and a pioneer in a movement that is only beginning to scratch the surface on how to reach and convert the other 247,799 ranches in the state of Texas.

What We’ve Accomplished So Far

- Featured in a full-length documentary Vegan Everyday Stories
- Featured in a syndicated CBS national news program (Steve Hartman on the Road) which has been viewed over four million times and shared 81,000 times since April of this year. This piece alone blew up the website on the weekend that it aired around the country.
- In less than two years, RGS and its founder have been the focus of over 44 different news forums, such as “Free from Harm”, ABC Houston News, NBC Houston News, the Houston Chronicle, Sirius Xm Senator Bill Bradley, Animals Today Radio, Elephant Journal, Global Animal, Veg World Magazine, Barefoot Vegan, PETA, PETA 2, My Dream for Animals, Our Hen House, Bite Size Vegan, True Cowboy Magazine, Italia che Cambia, Wisconsin Gazette, The Brazosport Facts, VegNews, KTEP-88.5 FM – El Paso, Main Street Vegan, Mercy For Animals, NPR ABC News, Go Vegan Radio, CARE 2, Road Trippin (Dallas), WCUW-91.3 FM, Vegan Nation, The DoDo & One Green Planet.

Reneé’s Speaking Engagements So Far This Year

June 11-12 Asheville Vegan Fest in North Carolina
July 7-10 Animal Rights National Conference in Los Angeles

Nov 10 NYU Kimmel Central for University Life in New York



What Happened? - Brazos River Flood June 2016 (100 year flood event)

Told by Reneé King-Sonnen:

From what we’ve been told, a flood event like this rolls around about every 100 years. Something told me this flood was going to be catastrophic. All the indicators were there, given the flood events that were happening upstream from us, and it was due to come down to the Brazos. The last week of May, I was preparing to go to Sedona, AZ for the world premiere of Vegan Everyday Stories screening at the Illuminate Film Festival. Rowdy Girl Sanctuary was filmed last year as one of the four stories chosen out of 700 entries, and I had been looking forward to this for months. But my place was at home. It was going to take everything Tommy and I could do together and with our team of supporters to survive the flood.



What Did We Do? We Rallied, a Texan Team Effort to Save the Animals

Between June 1st-June 6th, 2016 - We evacuated ~80 animals normally raised for food to higher ground, in addition to our 13 domestic animals.

As soon as I heard that the potential for flooding existed at Rowdy Girl, I sprang into immediate action and contacted the Agriculture Extension Service in Brazoria County so that I could initiate the process of finding a home for our animal family (all 80+ of them). A 50-acre pasture was donated for us to put our cows and horses in, and the Brazoria County Fairgrounds was donated for the pigs, chickens, ducks and dogs.

The rancher that donated the 50 acres let us borrow a trailer and his truck, a local cowboy came to help, vegan volunteers were here along with five or six members of the Mormon Church. We were a group of people that normally would not mix, but we all came together with a common goal to save the animals from the flood.

On the tail end of the large animals being officially evacuated, the flood waters forced us to cease evacuations. I had to leave Tommy with the chickens, ducks, dogs and cats. Once I left the sanctuary they were shutting down Highway 35 so I could not come back until it was over. From that point it was up to me to orchestrate the off-premises care of the animals and to Tommy to keep safe all the animals still on the property. Volunteers moved in to cover nearly round the clock shifts at the fairgrounds and the pasture.

There was a whirlwind of activity. Our volunteer culture accelerated and Rowdy Girl Sanctuary had a compassionate presence amidst FFA and 4H folks. Texas A&M came in with the mobile medical units and they too got to know us. Rowdy Girl was the talk of the fairgrounds.

Water Kept Rising At Home—The Next Evacuations Required a Canoe and the Texas National Guard

On June 6th water was in the house and overtaking the chicken and duck enclosures, we both agreed it was time to make the call to the rescue hotline. Texas Task Force One along with the U.S. National Guard rescued them all and brought them safely to shore (21 chickens, a rooster, 3 ducks, 4 cats and 9 dogs)! It was an unbelievable moment and I will never forget seeing the armed forces taking down kennels that housed the rest of the animals we love. We immediately transported the animals to the fairgrounds, with the exception of the cats who went to my mother-in-law’s home.

Our Home & Garage Took on 4-5” of Water (RGS Headquarters)

On Saturday, June 18th, Tommy brought an RV to our homestead. All the buildings held 3-5 feet of water. We are in the midst of packing all of our belongings to put in a huge container so that we can rip out sheet rock, clean out the mold and paint. The garage and home are all Rowdy Girl Sanctuary headquarters. We are in a mess.

Returning the Animals in Stages

Our chickens, ducks, pigs, dogs and cats are back home and now we have to stage getting the cows and horses back. The pastures are still very wet and bogged down and swampy in places, and the bridge is weakened. The fences are full of debris and stuff that floated all over our 96 acres to finally end up crested on a fence line. We are spending money every day just to feed and care for the animals and to stabilize our structures in preparation for returning the cows and horses.