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## KIDDLI-WINKS, JUNIOR EDITION

# FURRY FRIENDS PROVIDE FARMGIRL FUN

BY LIESCHEN BERETTA

Hi! I'm Lieschen Beretta and I live in King City, Ontario. I am 10 years old and my birthday is March 10<sup>th</sup>. I have two brothers named Thomas and Marcus. Marcus is my twin brother and we are fraternal twins. Thomas is the oldest. He is 2 years older.

Anyway, I live on a farm with many animals I will explain about later on. I live on my farm called Beretta Organic Farms. My farm raises animals. Raising animals to me is not work, it's the funnest thing in the world! You know how your parents raised you, and said it was a lot of work but amazing to see you grow? Well, it's like that but it happens almost every day.

Now back to my favourite thing about living on a farm. The animals! My favourite animals on the farm are the horses. We had 3 horses until one of the horses died. Her name was Mable and she was about 30 or 31 years old. She was my dad's horse and he had her for 11 years. Still, you have to move on. My dad also has another horse named Ben. My dad bought Mable and Ben together. So that means Ben has lived his life mostly with Mable. To Ben, Mable was everything. Best friend, mother, working partner and his only friend. But he has moved on too.

I also have a horse named Marlin Brando. Marlin isn't really my

*Lieschen, taking her friend's horse, Marlin Brando, for a ride.*



horse. I'm just training him to get back in shape for a friend. And to tell you the truth, I've been having a blast!

Secondly, we have a lot of barn cats. We have big cats and little kittens too. The big cats' names are Angel, Patches, Zena, Fluffy, Mogilny, Prezel, and Zoom-Zoom. The little cats' names are Bella, Steve-O (also known as Warrior), Flicka, Dreamer, Littleman, but we also have tiny little kittens we still have not named.

Thirdly, the animal that is the most funny to describe is "The Cow." I would describe a cow as: has no manners, is sometimes noisy, and is kind, loving, fat, stubborn and happy. I have no idea, not even at an estimate, how many cows we have. But we do have a milking cow named Isabelle. Isabelle lives in a field and also in the barn. She has a calf named Ashlee. My dad milks Isabelle, which means he pulls on Isabelle's udder (which is where Ashlee drinks) and the milk comes out and into a pail.

The cows don't seem to mind our family dog. Her name is Shadow. She is a big black Newfoundland dog. Shadow is about 10 or 11 years old. In dog life, she is about 54 years old! That is old for a dog! Shadow is a girl and she had puppies once. We all love Shadow with all our hearts!

The 2 groups of birds that we have that are afraid of dogs are the chickens and turkeys. We have 3 chickens and 1 rooster. The rooster wakes me up but it doesn't wake the rest of my family for some reason. The chickens all lay eggs. One strange fact about chickens (and ducks too!) is that they like eating the kittens' and cats' food!

Speaking of cats I forgot to tell you about our house cat Dusty. Dusty is huge and black and is probably the fattest cat in the world. All he ever



does is eat and sleep!

Anyway, let's stop talking about Dusty, let's talk about our bunnies! We have 3 bunnies named Lola, George and Nibbles. Lola is my bunny and is all black. George is Marcus's bunny and is very fluffy and all white. And the last bunny is Nibbles, Thomas's bunny, and is brown like the ones you see in the forest. The bunnies live in a big cage all together.

The last 3 animal groups we have are the pigs, ducks and lambs. The pigs live in a big area, almost like a field but with not a lot of grass. They dig the ground for food, eat grass, and we also give them 2 buckets of grain and give them water ever day. We have about 22 pigs. They love playing and sleeping in the shade.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> to last animal group is the ducks. Just like the chickens they lay eggs and for some strange reason, eat cat food too! They don't swim a lot, they just walk around and sit mostly. One thing I like a lot about them is that you can chase them.

The last but not least animal group we have is the lambs and they live in a field right on the side of my house. I think of the 10 kinds of animals we have that the lambs are the most peaceful. They sit in the shade, under a tree or else you would find them eating the grass.

That's all that happens here on the Beretta Farms farm. I loved writing this article and I hope you enjoyed reading it! □

*Lieschen lives with her brothers and her parents, Cynthia and Mike, on a beautiful farm – surrounded by animals, nature and glorious countryside. This is Lieschen's first published article.*