



**May 4, 2023 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Indraloka Animal Sanctuary Rescues 12 Birds from Cockfighting Ring and Backyard Breeders**

Dalton, Penn. — When Dr. Leslie Interlandi, **Indraloka Animal Sanctuary's** full-time veterinarian and head of the **NEPA Rescue Animal Clinic**, arrived for work before dawn on May 1<sup>st</sup>, she noticed the plastic container in front of the clinic's door. Her first thought was that a generous donor dropped off cat food (Indraloka is home to nearly 40 cats). But as she approached, she heard peeps coming through holes punched in the container and realized what had happened. Someone had abandoned tiny chicks.

It was not yet 6 a.m. and already it had been a busy day. Ryan Wenck, Indraloka's Animal Caregiver Manager, was on his way back from picking up six hens and three roosters rescued from a cockfighting ring and a lone turkey abandoned after his backyard breeder moved. In one day, **Indraloka** took in 12 birds, all of whom require serious medical attention. The cost of caring for these precious birds will amount to \$10,000 each over the next five years.

"So many of our rescues are the result of well-intentioned people getting in over their heads," Indra Lahiri, PhD, Indraloka founder, says. "They think caring for farm animals is not much different than caring for their dogs or cats. But farm animals have been selectively bred with the intention of sending them to slaughter when they are still young. Because of this they need specialized veterinary care and diets, in addition to lots of room to roam, protection from the elements, and of course lots of love and attention."

All newly rescued animals must be quarantined before they can join their new flock or herd. Quarantine space is extremely costly. The sanctuary is currently fundraising on social media for



help in providing for the nine new birds. Donations can be made through [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and on the sanctuary's [website](#).

“We take care of farm animals, but our NEPA community and generous donors are the real heroes. They make everything we do possible through donating, attending sanctuary events, and following, liking, sharing, and commenting on our social media posts,” Dr. Lahiri says. “We are asking for help for these sweet birds and inviting everyone to come out and meet them soon. Attend an event. Come for a tour. Come and see what our NEPA community has helped us create. What *you* have helped us create.”

Dr. Lahiri is available for interviews. She can speak to the issues surrounding backyard breeding, including the fact that in Pennsylvania it is illegal to dump animals. She can offer solutions for people who are overwhelmed. There is always a way out that protects the animals.

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**About Indraloka Animal Sanctuary**

Indraloka, a 501(c) nonprofit, provides “heaven on earth” for farm animals that have nowhere else to turn. We inform, inspire and empower the community, especially children, on ways in which we can better care for ourselves and the environment while helping animals in need. We advocate for a kind and compassionate lifestyle that protects animals, the earth and our own health and. As educators, we offer a wide range of STEAM-based learning programs, summer camps and field trips for children, K-12. The community is invited to tour the sanctuary; reservations are required. We host live, public and virtual events throughout the year for adults and children. Visit us at [Indraloka.org](http://Indraloka.org).