



# THE IMPROBABLE JOURNEY OF LUCKY LADY

Lucky Lady was terrified. She had been separated from her mother, loaded onto a truck, and put in a pen with other sheep and goats she didn't know. Somehow, she managed to escape almost certain slaughter and ran through the streets of the South Bronx in New York. According to the police, the poor animal was first reported on the loose at 11:08 a.m. on June 14, 2007. *The New York Daily News* reported that Julio Rivera was cutting boxes at a storage facility when someone told him a sheep was outside the building on East 133rd St. His supervisor, Pedro Sanchez, called 911, and Emergency Service Unit officers showed up an hour later. After taking some photos, they loaded her into their cruiser.

They took her to one of the city's Animal Care and Control shelters, where a veterinarian determined her to be a 7-month-old female, weighing about 65 pounds. Her fleece was soiled, possibly from roaming the streets. They fed her hay and carrots and named her Lucky Lady. A veterinarian officer I spoke to at the U.S. Department of Agriculture speculated that she may have been sold and driven to New York and escaped. There were and still are "wet markets" which slaughter live animals for food. While they remain controversial, both for health reasons and inhumane treatment, patrons continue to count on them for religious practices. Some markets are halal, meaning they are sanctioned by Islamic law. Others perform kosher slaughter in accordance with Jewish law.

Lucky Lady quickly became a New York celebrity. After a few days, she was transferred to Farm Sanctuary, a non-profit farm animal rescue

Farm Sanctuary, Watkins Glen, New York

refuge in Watkins Glen, upstate New York, where she would live out the rest of her days. Sierra Bessey, Director of Animal Care at Farm Sanctuary, told me that Lucky Lady had a very woolly, sweet face, and she was very particular in which humans she liked. After her ordeal, it is not surprising that it took some time to build her trust. She did fit in well with her sheep friends though, and enjoyed pasture time and relaxing in the barn.



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Lucky Lady passed away on July 13, 2019. She was indeed "lucky" to have escaped a terrible place and find a wonderful, humane home where she was able to live out her days under the care of people who loved her. And by all reports, they were lucky to have known her.

Photos courtesy of Farm Sanctuary



Lucky Lady