# Building a Donation-Driven Website







Sanctuary Websites

#### **Dave Graham**

Dave's corporate career success took an unexpected turn when he and his wife Sian accidentally ventured into creating websites for animal-related organizations back in 2012.

Over the last 12 years Dave has worked with clients around the world building websites for Dentists, Lawyers, Accomodation, eCommerce and of course Non-Profits.

Fast forward to 2021, Dave found his calling in crafting Donation Driven Websites for Animal Sanctuaries, and that's where he can best use his technical skills to save more animals.





#### Who We've Worked With





























### Agenda

- WHY a Rescue Needs a "Donation Driven" Website
- WHAT Should be Included in a "Donation Driven" Website
- HOW to Create a "Donation Driven" Website
- What Makes a Website "Donation Driven"?
- Website Reviews / Q&A

### **WHY** a Sanctuary or Rescue Needs a Donation Driven Website

01   Information and Education	04   Adoption and Volunteer Opportunities
02   Trust, Visibility and Awareness	05   Fundraising and Donations
03   Event Promotion	<b>06</b>   Email List Building and Communication

# WHAT Should Go On a Donation Driven Website?

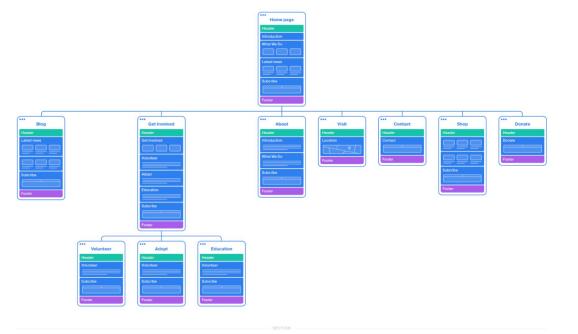
01   Donate Button	06   Volunteer Opportunities
02   Sponsor an Animal	07   Events and Fundraisers
03   Animal Profiles	08   Latest Updates
04   History and Background	09   Newsletter Sign-up
05   Adoption Information	10   Engaging Imagery and Video

# **HOW** to Create a "Donation Driven" Website



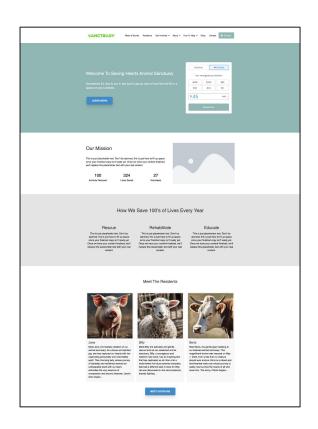
## **Sitemap**

A sitemap is a crucial tool in the early stages of a Sanctuary web design project as it serves as a blueprint or visual representation of the structure and organization of a website.



#### Content

Obtaining content before the design phase empowers designers to create a design that effectively complements and showcases the content, resulting in a more coherent, user-centric, and visually appealing website.



**Content First** 

"Content First" avoids trying to get the proverbial round peg into a square hole - which can be a challenge when working with commercial website templates.



### Design & Build

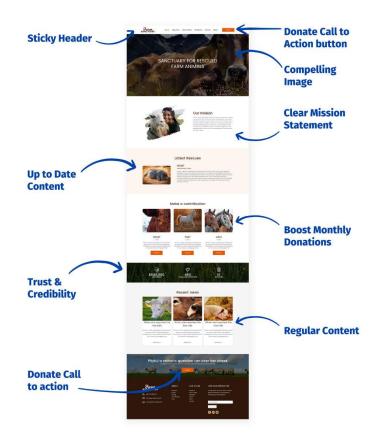
Once the website structure has been defined, and the prototype has all the pages filled with content, it's ready for design.

If you're not doing a custom design, you can use a ready made template - just ensure they have the right elements for maximizing donations.

Tip: Use lightweight Charity related WordPress Themes



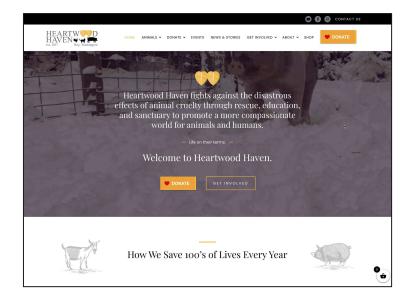
# What Makes a Website "DONATION DRIVEN"?



### **Sticky Header**

A Sticky Header makes sure your Donate button is visible at all times.

Don't force your donors to go looking for the donate button!





Make your Donate button stand out from the rest of the website menu structure.

Change the background color to something that attracts the visitors attention.



### **Compelling Images**

Your website visitors just love seeing those beautiful creatures you've rescued and have provided a forever home to.

Try to keep them around 100kb in file size to keep the website loading fast.

Use Shortpixel.com to optimize.







### **Clear Mission Statement**

Provide a concise and compelling overview of the sanctuary's mission and purpose, to ensure people know exactly what it is your organization does.



### **Up to Date Content**

Regularly post content on your website and share that content on social media and newsletter to drive traffic back to the website. Google will love you for it too!

Don't make the mistake of posting <u>only</u> to social media networks that <u>you don't own or control</u>.









### **Animal Database**

By having an animal database on your website you can create profile pages to keep your visitors engaged. These profile pages are perfect for asking for sponsorships.

Ask for sponsorships at the animal level or species level.

These pages also generate evergreen content for sharing to social media.











Species
Pig

Gender
Female

Breed
Yorkshire

Born (location)
Born

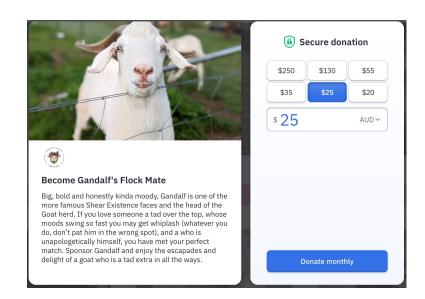
Birthdate
05/01/2023

Rescue Date
05/01/2023

Sponsor a Pig

### **Sponsorship Programs**

A sponsorship program is critical for securing funding, creating financial sustainability, fostering engagement, educating the public, building a sense of community, promoting the sanctuary, encouraging philanthropy, offering personalized experiences, diversifying fundraising, and allowing for potential growth in support over time.



# "One regular donor contributes 4x the amount of a single donor"

(Raisely 2023)

### **Trust & Credibility**

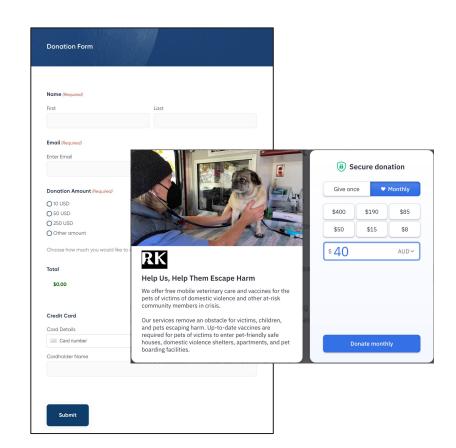
Presenting your impact online increases trust, visibility and awareness of the animal sanctuary, and the wonderful achievements you have made for the animals you've helped save.



# No More Long, Boring Donation Forms

Use a donation platform that utilities micro commitments instead of long boring forms. The psychology is that once you start a transaction the donor is more compelled to complete it.

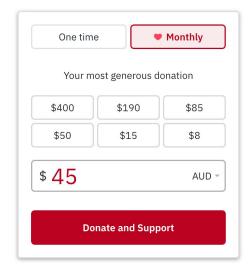
Long, boring forms put a hurdle in the way of that impulsive donation.



# Conversion Optimized Donation Form

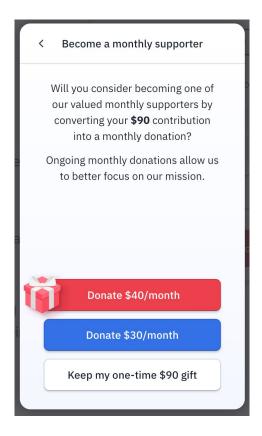
By using a donation platform that provides suggested amounts, rather than a blank field to type in a number reduces friction for the donor.

There are also some donation platforms that automatically boost the suggested amounts increasing your donations.



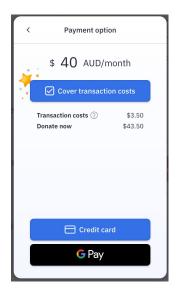
# Convert Once Off Donations to Monthly

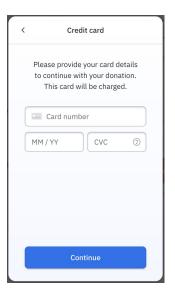
Use a donation platform that automatically suggests to the donor a lower monthly donation amount which in the long term results in more donations for your organization.



# Ask For Data In The Right Sequence

Asking for the payment details upfront, and then asking for Name, Address, Phone afterwards will reduce the friction of giving, boosting donations.

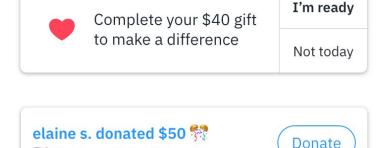




## Boost Donations with AI, Machine Learning and UX

Use popup elements to provide social proof that others have donated encourages your website visitors to become donors themselves.

Use reminder pop ups to encourage abandoned donations to be completed.



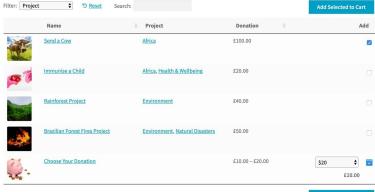
San Bruno, United States

# Don't Force Your Donors Through a Checkout

Forcing your donors through a Cart & Checkout process of an ecommerce site increases friction and reduces the impulse of donating.

#### Choose Your Charity Donation

Please select as many charity donations as you like, and the funds will be allocated to the correct project.



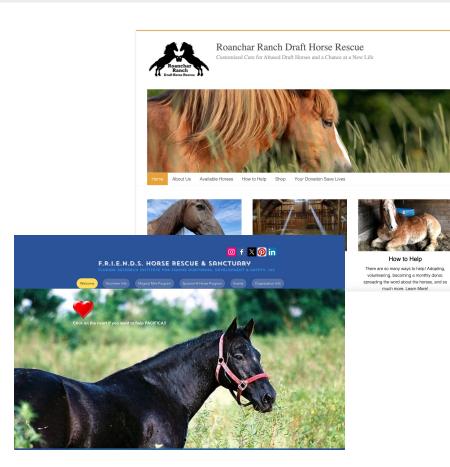
Add Selected to Cart

**Boosting Donations** 

Optimize the donation process to be simple, intuitive, and compelling reducing the friction for the donor.

### **Website Reviews**

- F.R.I.E.N.D.S Horse Rescue & Sanctuary
- Roanchar Ranch Draft Horse Rescue



How to Help

much more. Learn More!

# Thank you.

# **Questions?**

