

✓ ANIMAL WELFARE

Celebrity turkeys will dine as guests of animal-rights group

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Like many animal-rights advocates, Marilee Geyer wishes people would stop eating turkey at Thanksgiving.

To make her point, the Santa Cruz County vegetarian plans to have two turkeys over for Thanksgiving dinner — not as the main dish, but as live guests of honor at her table.

"We'll be feeding them stuffed squash, pumpkin pie and cranberries," said Geyer

on Thursday.

The celebrity gobblers will dine at a special Thanksgiving Monday afternoon at Geyer's house in Scotts Valley after being driven from New York aboard the Turkey Express, a souped-up transportation vehicle operated by the animal-rights group Farm Sanctuary, based in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

It won't be an exclusive affair; Geyer has invited 10 human friends, too.

After dinner, the stuffed turkeys will be

allowed to live out their natural lives, even as millions of their peers face the annual football-mashed-potatoes massacre.

Each year Farm Sanctuary "rescues" several hundred injured or sick birds from farmers who don't want them.

The birds are the centerpiece in the group's campaign to protest factory farming methods. Geyer, who works at the Santa Cruz County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, wanted to help.