

# Hoofprints & Letters

WINTER 2015/2016

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

Please visit our website: [www.rockymountainhorserescue.org](http://www.rockymountainhorserescue.org)



9190 Alkire St.  
Arvada, CO 80005  
(303) 424-0037

## Alaska, Here We Come

Our well-traveled Anderson Sling made a trip to the wild lands of Alaska in September of 2015. We had received a call from Colby Hunt representing a company which was producing a new series for the Animal Planet cable channel on a veterinarian in Alaska titled "Dr. Dee, Alaska Vet". He said that an outfitter had been trying to ford a river with his four horses when two, Lucky and Bonehead, were swept downstream. Lucky sustained serious wounds to his leg and chest, but was able to get out of the water and ended up stranded on a mountain in the wilderness near Fairbanks. His veterinarian, Dr. Dee Thornell, reported that Lucky was eating and drinking, but that he needed to be helicoptered out of the rugged terrain for special care.



injured, but eating

We gathered all of our rescue equipment together so that it could be rushed to Alaska by FedEx. Dr. Dee kept in touch with Dr. John Madigan of the University of Southern California at Davis who is the authority

on the use of the sling and rescue by helicopter. She even practiced with all of our equipment, fitting it to Lucky before the actual rescue flight. The helicopter company decided to use their own 100' cable as ours was only 65' long and they needed a longer one to clear the tall trees and rocky outcroppings.

Lucky was hooked up into our sling and outfitted with our special halter which was secured by a strong web strap anchored onto a metal bar above his head and neck. The bar which is attached to the metal frame prevents the horse from lowering his head and curling like a banana which could cause him to slip out of the sling.

Dr. Dee tranquilized Lucky, but she did not use our blindfold fearing that he might slam onto the ground while being lowered to terra firma at the end of his flight. Once outfitted, Lucky began his harrowing rescue

journey. He was flown almost THIRTY miles to a facility near Fairbanks where he could be treated for his severe injuries.



Dr. DEE'S SUPPORT TEAM WATCH AS LUCKY takes flight

Here's hoping his name, Lucky, will be prophetic and that better days are ahead for him! Post Script:

The story of Lucky's rescue and helicopter flight will be one of the eight weekly episodes aired on Animal Planet every Saturday night at 6PM MDT, premiering November 7th. We believe that the sling rescue episode will



Lucky on his 30 mile Journey to medical treatment

be in late December. Post Post Script: A special thanks to our special friends who made large cash donations in 2004 and 2005 for the purchase of our rescue equipment which we lend out at absolutely no charge! Thank you Nancy Gooding, Shirley Hoffman, Sally Larsh, Laretta Boyd Charitable Trust, Nancy Reed, Susie Stroh, Sue Tinder and Harriet Weisenthal.

RMHR is a  
Non-profit  
501(c)(3)  
organization  
and is 100%  
volunteer

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## From Emaciated to Maternal

She arrived at Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue on September 28, 2014--incredibly thin and under threat of seizure by Animal Control. A few records came with her which revealed that her registered name with the Jockey Club was "Jest A Diva" and that she was born May 27, 2002. Board member Laura Gill trailered Diva to RMHR from Greeley where her present caretaker was afraid the mare would die without special treatment.



Kris Nixon working on halter breaking Harry



Diva on arrival at RMHR



Dr. Lois Tol I and her assistant Natalie check ON HARRY'S PROGRESS



Excuse me, I BELIEVE IT'S breakfast time

Unfortunately, Diva soon demonstrated her nervous habit or addiction called "windsucking". She would clamp her upper teeth on a railing or fence post, arch her neck and suck in a gulp of air (almost like the opposite of a burp).

In checking the records that came with her, we found out that Diva had been bought off of Craig's List in 2013 for \$300 by a young girl who wanted to barrel race with her very first horse. When the new owner tried to put on the cribbing collar to prevent the mare from windsucking, Diva reared, fell over backwards and broke her withers. There were also records of vet calls on the withers injury and concerns on the lack of weight gain.

We checked on her race record and found out that Diva had won three races at age 6 and 7 and had raced 30 times (there were no other records in the time period between 2002 and 2012).

In November, I was nailing metal strips on ledges in her stall in order to discourage Diva from windsucking when she wanted to enter her stall from her run. I tried to shoo her away and suddenly she charged me with her ears back. My immediate reaction was to run at her while yelling. A few months later Diva attacked me again by turning tail and trying to kick me with both hind legs.

We think that her aggressive behavior is due to her treating humans as one horse would interact with another horse if he didn't like the other one's behavior (she also tried to bite and kick my daughter, Kris Nixon). We checked with previous owners and handlers and were informed of five other episodes of aggression since 2013.

Meanwhile, we were doing a fantastic job of putting weight on our formerly skinny mare. So much, in fact, that we noticed even her udder was filling. Uh-oh!! Her vet confirmed that she was pregnant and due to foal in about 35 days. Since we didn't know how Diva would react while foaling, we sent her to Littleton Equine Medical Center to have her baby. We were also concerned that the baby might be malformed since evidently she was pregnant while in emaciated condition.



Hmm, what to do: run, buck or bite?

Diva foaled a baby boy on June 4, 2015 and has been a fantastic mother ever since. We have seen no aggressive behavior since March of 2015. Her colt was born very handsome and healthy. He has been given four different names: 1) the clinic called him "Belmont" because he was born just before the race, 2) Kris Nixon named him "Harry" because just like Harry Houdini he arrived by magic, 3) our volunteers called him "Houdi", the first two syllables of Houdini and 4) I call him "Howdy". Oh well, he even answers to Hey You!

We have been trying to find out who his father is, but so far we've come up empty. His sire is probably a thoroughbred or Quarterhorse as he shows the characteristics of those two breeds. He also will be fairly tall at maturity.

Diva has not been evaluated as to her rideability since she arrived in such a deplorable condition and then was found to be pregnant.



A healthy and fat Diva with her new colt Harry



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## Billie Holiday Finds her Forever Home

Last March, my dear Arab Diamond lost his battle with Cushing's Disease. I knew it was time to let him go—he'd been sick for over a year- but it was so very hard. We have another older horse at the barn and we were worried that he wouldn't do well alone. So, a wonderful friend brought her horse to our barn to keep Chance company.

In the meantime, I started to put the word out to friends and acquaintances that I was looking for another horse. I looked at many web sites and want ads trying to find a horse. Three weeks later, my husband and I spent my birthday weekend in Denver. We visited another horse rescue (no 'magic' there) though the folks were very nice.

The next day we met up with Bini, whom I'd talked with on the phone. After hearing my story, and discussing the type of horse I hoped to find, she said she thought she had the horse for me. I really was trying to not get my hopes up, but I was really excited to meet Bini as I felt a kinship with her just from speaking with her!

Sunday morning dawned clear and bright, and we headed over to the Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue. I met and rode Billie Holliday, who had been at the Rescue for 5 years. She was a great ride, with lots of energy and I felt we could make a good team. So, we agreed that I might adopt Billie after a second visit.

I went to ride her one more time in March, then brought her home to the mountains at the end of April. We had a very snowy May, but Billie didn't seem to mind.

We spent the spring, summer and fall getting to know one another, and learning about mountain riding. Crossing streams was a challenge at first—Billie wanted to jump over every one, but she eventually got used to it. She is really sure footed, and we have tested her on all sorts of trails. When Diamond was sick, I wasn't able to ride often. Billie has renewed my love for riding, and she seems to enjoy it as much as I do! My friend Katie has an amazing (and huge) Thoroughbred/Percheron cross named Gus. We ride together a lot, and Billie sets the pace!

Her manners on the ground and trailering are wonderful, and her personality is fun with just the right touch of mischief! I am so very grateful to have

found Billie, and I thank Bini every day for the introduction.

I hope that everyone is as fortunate as I am to have the chance to meet a new and wonderful horse!

Happy riding, Linda Hrycaj



Billie and Linda Over Looking Lake Dillon, Ptarmigan Trail, Silverthorne

### Editor's Note:

Readers may wonder why it took so long to find the perfect adopter for Billie. At only 14 hands tall, this little mare needed a small, but accomplished rider who didn't mind an occasional buck when starting to canter. Her age and aversion to jumping in the show ring were also considerations to prospective adopters.

But at last, Linda has come into Billie's life—so that she is now assured of her FOREVER HOME!

**AN ANIMAL'S EYES**  
have the power to  
speak a great  
language.

- Martin Bubber

Miscellaneous



Horse cookie on a cupcake, made by Marie Hackett



Jasmine during a snowstorm; better than a heating pad



A very pregnant Sophie wears panty hose on her legs to protect from flies



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## Peacocks and Goats and Raccoons, Oh My!



One of the masked bandits caught in the act



The carnage following a garage raccoon party



The goats playing follow the leader

“Oh sure, we will take them.” was my first reaction to Board member Ranya Kelly’s plea for help for a friend. “Them” was a pair of young Pygmy goats whose owner could no longer keep the nine month old brother and sister. Billy Bob and Buttercup arrived at RMHR by car—sitting on the laps of the passengers. Their new home was a chain link dog pen complete with a wooden dog house for shelter and mountain climbing. We thought that they were safely locked in, but soon found out that miniature goats go over, under, around and through every obstacle until they are free. They also dislike getting rained on; so they also commandeered a big stall in the indoor arena during inclement weather. We thought that the volunteers would enjoy playing with the two mischief makers and that all our weeds from the wet spring would be gobbled up. WRONG! They really preferred opening up our grain cans and chewing on our young aspen trees (we later found out that Billy Bob and Buttercup chewed on and killed the previous owner’s six fruit trees).



Billy Bob and Twiz get acquainted



Billy Bob and Buttercup on the run!

At first, some of our horses were terrified of the two miniatures, some were just curious and some would chase them out of their pens. The two goats followed the volunteers all round our property and would come running when volunteers would bleat at them.

But all good things must come to an end, so we started our search for a great new home by putting an ad in the local newspaper without listing our name or where the goats could be seen. I was describing the goats’ location to the lady who answered our ad as being at our horse rescue on the west shore of Standley Lake. “Bini?” she asked. The caller turned out to be an old friend who had adopted a thoroughbred mare from us many years ago while living near Grand Junction. She had moved back to Arvada recently and was living just over the hill to the south of us.

Woohoo! Billy Bob and Buttercup have found their

perfect home. Now if only we could find more super people to adopt our gazillion horses.

“The midnight marauders are at it again.” was my comment upon finding our garbage cans (which we use for grain storage) dumped over with the lids scattered on the floor. We suspected that a raccoon or raccoons were the culprits. The only way to identify the thieves was to set up game cameras to catch them in the act. Voila! The masked intruders were exposed. We watched the videos as two raccoons took turns prying off lids, climbing in and eating their fill, and occasionally taking a nap on a nearby container.

We found that the little devils ignored the senior feed but would break into those with sweet feed or omolene. We now spend more time trying to secure the containers with bungees and blankets than we spend measuring out food to feed.

At least we’re helping the local economy by buying bungee cords and metal trash cans by the gross as well as supplying the local Raccoon Food Bank. Hopefully we have them on the run, if not, it’s bear proof canisters next.

“There are two wild geese on our front porch.” my husband, Meade, said to me in midsummer. When I went to look at the “geese” and there they were: TWO PEACOCKS!, the male with his iridescent bright blue neck and the female with more muted coloring. They were quite skittish, but stayed around for a few weeks until we could locate a new home and then catch them.

We have no idea how they found their way to our front porch. We checked with all the neighbors, and no one was missing a young cock and hen. Did someone drop them off?

Shirley Walker of Walker’s Quality Cage & Feed Supply knew a gentleman who had purchased peacock feed from the store. Phil Holmes of Bergen Park not only raises peacocks, but also has various



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## Peacocks and Goats and Raccoons, Oh My! (contd)

other exotic chickens and other fowl. He agreed to trap and take them. We then spent days figuring out how to catch the two without hurting or scaring them half to death. At dusk, they would fly up onto our brick wall which formed the side of the covered porch and roost there until daylight.

For a few nights before “the great capture”, we turned up the TV volume in the living room nearby so they would get used to the noise and hopefully not hear us when we rushed out to try to net them from the top of the wall.

It took six of us to catch the wily ones. Three snuck out our front door onto the porch (with the TV blaring) while three waited on the north side to prevent an escape into the pasture. Success! There were a few flying feathers, but the two were finally

caught and on their way to a lifetime home in the mountains.

You never know what creatures might arrive at Rocky Mountain Bird, Goat or Horse Rescue!



The peacocks pecking on the windows. Photo courtesy of Mel Hood.



The beautiful coloration of the male peacock

## Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue 2015/2016

| Board Members                 |                  |                |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| President                     | Bini Abbott      | (303) 424-0037 |
| Vice President                | Ranya Kelly      | (303) 431-0904 |
| Treasurer                     | Kate Corcoran    | (303) 425-0646 |
| Secretary                     | Mary Norden      | (303) 978-1850 |
| Western Colorado/Fund Raising | Ruth Ann Burnett | (970) 245-7774 |
| Special Events                | Carole Kenney    | (303) 840-4384 |
| Northern Colorado             | Laura Gill       | (970) 371-1446 |
| Eastern Colorado              | Kris Nixon       | (303) 424-5972 |
| Veterinarian Advice           | Lois Toll, DVM   | (303) 794-6359 |
| Other Supporting Staff        |                  |                |
| Website & Newsletter          | Rob Nixon        | (303) 424-5972 |
| Facilities                    | Terry Michel     | (303) 464-0718 |

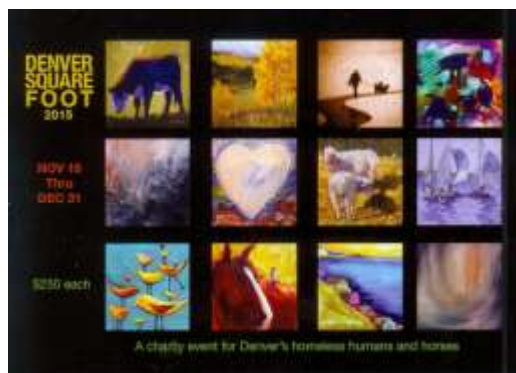
To err is human, but to blame it on someone else shows Presidential potential - Anonymous

## Denver Square Foot Art Show

Susan Bell of the Bell Studio Gallery has kindly chosen Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue to be a charitable recipient of funds raised at the 4th Annual Denver Square Foot Art Show. All of the pieces of original art measure 12” x 12” and sell for \$250 a piece. The Art Show opened on November 18th and will run through December 19th at two Denver venues—Bell Studio Gallery at 1573 S Pearl Street and Stella’s Coffee House at 1476 S. Pearl Street One half of the sale proceeds will be split between Socks for Clifford and Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue. The other half goes to the selling artist.

In Addition to being a fantastic artist, Susan also

teaches riding on her own horses. Kudos to Susan for designating our rescue to receive the benefits of her Square Foot Art Show.



**2014/2015 RMHR Advisors**  
 Jerry Burk, Attorney and CPA  
 Scot Dutcher, Chief Colorado Bureau of Animal Protection  
 Lois Toll, DVM  
 Steve Long, DVM  
 Debbie Mayo, DVM  
 Charlie McKay  
 Gary Pallaoro, DVM  
 Jeff Wells, DVM  
 Shane Baird, DVM



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Words to live by

Entrenched  
ignorance  
masquerades as  
tradition  
- anonymous

### Jojo's Corner

Now that I am almost seven years old, I've decided it's time for me to get a job. As you may recall, last year I was training for the Olympics. That was going pretty well, until I was informed that Olympic athletes are expected to work out every day For hours EVERY DAY, FOR HOURS! Can you imagine? I would be expected to get sweaty. A lot. Obviously, that is completely out of the question and totally ridiculous. What about my hair? It would be a total mess all the time. Also, when would I have time for snacks? Oh, and I found out that I have practically no chance of appearing on a Wheaties box, even after I win a whole bunch of gold medals. Some nonsense about not being human or something.

So anyway, the Olympics are out. However, I have a new goal in mind. As I said, I'm going to get a job. Now, I have a fairly busy social schedule, plus my normal nap time and plenty of regularly scheduled meals, so I wasn't sure how to work employment into all that. Then it hit me. I AM GOING TO BE ONE OF SANTA'S REINDEER! It's pure genius, I tell ya. I can work one night a year, i get to wear antlers, and I'll learn how to fly!! I've heard reindeer are none too bright, so I assume I will be hired for a position in management right away. Apparently part of the job involves landing on rooftops, though I'm not so sure about that. I think the lawn sounds a lot nicer. I could snack on

some grass while we're waiting for Santa to bring us our present, I think that's pretty neat. I'd go from house to house getting presents! What a job! How do the people know what size I wear, and what I like to eat? I have a few questions before I'll be ready to start. Hang on, my friend Kris (not Kringle) is saying something to me. I'll be right back. . . . .Umm . . . . . according to my friend Kris, I would not be receiving presents. I'd be DELIVERING presents. Now, why on earth would I stay up all night flying around to give total strangers gifts? I'm going to need to re-think this whole thing now. Maybe this reindeer business isn't for me. I'll just be over here updating my resume and salary requirements, if you need me.



KRIS TRANSCRIBES JOJO'S CAREER ASPIRATIONS

### Western Welcome Week



RMHR had a booth at Western Welcome Week on August 15th in Littleton, CO where we presented our success stories, educated some aspiring equestrians and got the word out about Horse Rescue. Surrounding are pictures from the event. RMHR also had a booth at the Littleton Equine Medical Center open house later that month.





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## Thank You Contributors!

Our heartfelt thanks to our generous contributors. You have given us your time, talent, supplies, cash and even moral support since 2004. **We wouldn't** be successful without you!

Cash Contributors—Dec. 2014 - Nov. 2015  
Up to \$50

Toni Rautus, Nancy Lloyd, Carole O'Meara, Jerry Marz, Ray Wilson, Anthony Ojeda, Mile Hi United Way, Daisy Shepherd, Marta Schreiner, Roxy Swoboda, Patricia Rothdiener, Terri Ulstrup, Maria Grether, Jessica Dill, Cheri Rooney, Linda Larson, Just Give, Karen McComas, Bill & Linda Eichman, W. L. & Lucy Kraft, Nancy Hardesty, Les & Lana Kraft, Eddie V., Western Welcome Week, Janet Hurtt, The Moscoso Family

\$50+

Helen Gridley, John & Margaret Baker, Anonymous from Dover Giving Tree, Chris Whitney, Lynn Wyman, Fritzie Riahi, Erin Christie, Sue Moore, Betty Manolakis, Becky Osborne, Nancy Reed, Bob & Candy Frie, Priscilla Wright, Kate Corcoran, Robert & Joletha Spykstra, Jheri Ann & Bill Newell

\$100+

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\$150+

Carole Kenney, Sallee Peterson, Keva Sala Rooney from the Preisner Kids' piggy bank

\$200+

Crystal Baugh, Kris Nixon, Angie Zucarelli, Bini Abbott, Marie Frederickson, Barb Daniel, Melanie Hood, Bridget Strang, Suzy Sweitzer

\$250+

Colette Carey, Ben & Laurie Duke, Dick Hall, Jan Wilkins, Robert Siegrist, Better World Investments

\$350+

Kelly Rosen, Cat Anderson

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Heine Foss Donation Account, Johanna Collister, Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply, Pauline Ayers-Mink, The Gooding Family Foundation, United

States Marshall's Posse, Betty Taylor, Meg Goblet \$2000+

St. Vrain Block Company \$2500+

The Precourt Foundation  
Contributors – Items

Billy Santiago & Dave Lopatofsky - fence posts and poles, fencing hardware; Marie Hackett - garden hoses, metal sieves, huge inflatable balls for the baby horse; Betsie Alves - cleaning brushes; Chad Hartman - 8 bales of hay; Felisa & Oscar Marcia - 107 bales of grass hay; A Home for Every Horse - coupons for 22 bags of Purina Senior horse feed; Larry Hart - 60 bales of hay; Toni Rautus - 5 manure rakes, fly collars, metal sieves; David Morrissey - tack, jewelry, clothing; Ed Manguso - 300 bales of hay; Pat Spetz - treats, tarps; Lenore O'Connor - helmets, hunt print, tack and clothing; Kelsey Madigan - Smart Pac supplements; Chris Griffith - assorted tack and supplies; Connie Caruso - multiple bags of treats; Dennis Brovarone - saddle, locker, tack; Mark Husmann - giant bag of treats; Kit Mann - 3 bags of sweet feed; Maggie Erickson - treats; Frank Turner - loads of tack and supplies; Teresa Johnson - bareback pad, saddle pads, dewormers, bag of feed; Kris Nixon - multiple bags of feed, medicine, rakes; Ray Salinas - 12 long sleeved tees with logo and imprinting; Rob Nixon - office supplies; Cathy Richardson - all new: side pull bridle, foal halters, Western headstall, breast collar, misc tack; Gisella Lefor—giant bag of carrots

Contributors – Manpower

Kelsey Madigan, Dan Dorcas, Kelly Bigler, Melanie Hood, Mandy Reese, Mariah Hood, John Santi, Pat Spetz, Hank Baldwin, Joan McMenemy, Kris Pipkin, Betsie Alves, Maia Garby, Jeff Marshall, Terry Michel, Kari Arvasais, Marie Hackett, Tina Hames, Billy Santiago, Bella & Paul Balcer, Elisa Bilby, Nancy Harts, Rob & Kris Nixon, Connie Caruso, Jean Gallagher, Maggie Erickson, Ray Salinas, Deanna Burt, Randy Kerr, Kirsten & Cindy Fuqua, Kate O'Shaunessy, Toni Rautus, Mark Husman, Kate Corcoran, Laura Gill, Sophia Ernst, Meade & Bini Abbott, Dave Lopatofsky, Mark Ladwig, Shannon Farrar, Sue Sturbaum, Amani Cook, Candace Born, Kit Mann

Safehomers/Foster Care Givers

Kris Nixon, Colleen Ryan, Melanie Hood, Colleen Ryan

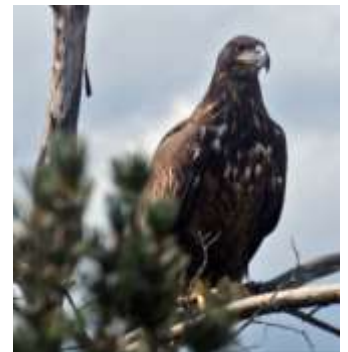
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Laura Gill, Kris Nixon, Jenny Alsberg, Carolyn Kavinsky

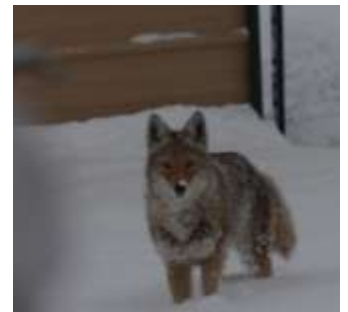
### Wildlife



A juvenile eagle takes flight



A baby bald eagle strikes a majestic pose



A coyote hunts through the snowdrifts



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## Up for Adoption



Smore Chocol ates is an extremel y attractive registered nine year ol d Quar terhorse mare. She has been shown both Western n and Engl ish and even in trail cl asses. She is very wel l trained, but is now ready to become a trail and pl easure horse and just enjoy l ife. Cocoa (her barn name) trail ers wel l and wil l go on the trail by hersel f or in company. **WE'RE SEARCHING FOR A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTER FOR A very special mare.**



Jax is a 18 **YEAR OLD PAINT GELDING WHO HASN'T BEEN RIDDEN FOR 3 years**. He is now being eval uated by our vol unteers to find out how much he knows and what he shoul d do in the future. Jax stands 15 hands high and as you can see—he is one handsome fel low.



Twiz is a gaited 9 year ol d registered Rocky Mountain Horse with a personal ity al l his own. He woul d l ove to sit in your pocket, but that is impossibl e because he is a big Kid—16.1 ½ HH. His nickname is **"BEACH BOY" BECAUSE OF HIS bl eached-l ooking forel ock. HE DOESN'T BUCK OR REAR**, but definitel y needs a knowl edgeabl e rider .



Maggie is a gorgeous 15 HH sol id col or Paint mare who has j ust had 30 days of professional saddl e training. No racing sports for her. Stl l green at 16, she needs an experienced adopter who wil l enjoy her for pl easure riding and expl oring future trail s.





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### Up for Adoption



Nine year old Reprive is an ex racing thoroughbred who was r escued out of the kil l pen. She has regained her heal th and strength and now is full of vim and vigor . She is l ooking for an experienced rider who wil l partner with her on the trail s.



Eddie is a registered Paint who is usual l y very quiet and forgiving under saddl e. Everyone comments on his bl ue eyes and distinct markings. Eddie can be ridden Engl ish or Western on trail s or in the ring.



Tommy is a handsome 12 year old gel ding, 14.3 HH. He was found starv ing n a pen with a horse who had been dead for six weeks. He has had over 60 days of professional train- ing, but stil l requires a very experienced rider to reach his ful l potential .



Harry, aka Houdi, aka Howdy; was born on June 4, 2015. His dam is a registered thoroughbred mare, but his sire is unknown. He is devel oping into a fine col t, but he has a l ot to l earn before he is saddl e trained.

Visit our website:  
[www.rockymountainhorserescue.org](http://www.rockymountainhorserescue.org)  
and cal l  
(303) 424-0037  
for changes in  
adoptabl e horses  
New horses  
coming in!



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## Free Use of Rescue Equipment

Provided by Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue/ Bini Abbott, 9190 Alkire St., Arvada, CO 80005, (303) 424-0037, [www.rockymountainhorserescue.org](http://www.rockymountainhorserescue.org)



### Large Animal Lift

Used to lift a down (recumbent) horse to get it on its feet—e.g. out of a ditch or off a road. The LAL can be applied by one or two people in as little as five minutes to a horse with little or no sedation.

The LAL can be put on from the back negating the chance of getting kicked by flailing legs. The LAL is designed to maintain an animal on its feet for short periods.



### Slide with Slipsheets

For sliding a recumbent horse out of a field or into a stall or trailer.



### The Dura-Pik Tripod

Shown supporting “Lucky” – the practice horse model for training personnel in the use and application of the rescue equipment—made available by Horses Forever, contact Shirley Hoffman (303) 651-3070 or [www.horsesforever.org](http://www.horsesforever.org), email at [admin@horsesforever.org](mailto:admin@horsesforever.org).



Barbaro being supported in an Anderson Sl ing



We rescued a horse out of a swimming pool with our sl ing



Equipment avail abl e to rescue by hel icopter

### The Anderson Sl ing

Available in large, medium, and foal sizes. The sling uses straps, pads and pulleys to lift and sup-

port a horse while shifting his weight to his skeletal structure rather than pressure points. May be used long term, but only for several hours a day.

We offer training sessions on the use of the rescue equipment to veterinarians, firemen, policemen, animal control officers and any other interested individuals.

Come visit our website: [www.rockymountainhorserescue.org](http://www.rockymountainhorserescue.org)



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Arvada, CO 80005  
(303) 424-0037

## Healing a Heart

As many of you know, our daughter Claire Davis was shot on December 13, 2013, in her school. Claire died 8 days later. I will always be grateful to the horse community in Colorado and the country for the outpouring of support that you have given our family during this very difficult time. Bini Abbott and Kris Nixon will always hold a special place in my heart for allowing me to experience such a wonderful horse. Amber is a gentle soul...perfect for me in every way.

Desiree Davis

Dear Mommy,

I want to first thank you for taking care of my horse Graphite. I know he was worried about me and lonely, but he now knows that I'm at peace. I am so happy that he is with the In Stride family. It's great that my friends can be close to Graphite and feel my presence when they are with him. Graffiti is happy.

You made the right decision to keep riding to heal the hole left by my absence. I know from my experience how the right horse can heal a broken heart. So when you started looking for a trail horse, I felt you were going to be ok.

When you went to Rocky Mountain Horse Rescue, I knew you would be in good hands. Bini Abbott is a woman who has dedicated her life to the love and caring for animals. It is no coincidence that

Kris Nixon is her daughter. When you got on Amber, the Haflinger they had available, it was obvious this was the right horse for you. Amber is a gentle horse that has the strength to understand your grief. Amber is also a reliable trail horse for you. I want you to know that you aren't alone on the trails, I am often right by your side. Sometimes I play hide and seek and come out behind the trees on Graphite. Amber stops and takes notice of my presence and waits for your command. It makes me happy that you are continuing to ride. Keep your heart open to the love and happiness that Amber will give you. Always remember, CHOOSE TO LOVE.

Love,  
Claire



Desiree and Amber on the Trail



In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy.

- John Sawhill

## Memorials & Honoraria

### Memorials

- ◆ In memory of Rueleen Ward: W. L. & Lucy Kraft, Nancy Hardesty, Les & Lanna Kraft, Janet Hurtt, The Moscoso Family, Kate Corcoran, Russell A. Ward/Joette Kellogg Ward, Robert & Joletha Spykstra
- ◆ In memory of Sandy Dennehy: Catherine Anderson, Bini Abbott, Kris Nixon, Liz Olde
- ◆ The Heinie Foss Donation Account in memory of Heinie Foss
- ◆ Ben & Laurie Duke in memory of Maude Duke
- ◆ Angie Zucarelli in memory of Zach aka The Little Prince and Arlo aka RL Revelation

### Honoraria

- ◆ Ed & Jayne Manger in honor of Erin Christie

## Know your Horse

Below are a few guidelines for healthy ranges of equine vital signs.

### Equine Vital Signs

**Adult Horse:**

**Heart Rate: 24 - 36 bpm**  
Listen behind elbow on left side for 15 seconds and multiply by 4

**Respiratory Rate: 12 - 20 bpm**  
Watch chest expand/deflate for 15 seconds and multiply by 4

**Temperature: 99.5 - 100.5°F**  
Human digital thermometer uses rectally.

**Gums: Pink & Moist      CRT less than 2 seconds**  
Without purple margin around the teeth at gum line

**Gut Sounds: every 30 - 60 seconds in all 4 quadrants**  
Know the "normals" for your horse. Post this chart and practice HR, RR and Temp. Have a digital thermometer and stethoscope available.  
Extreme heat, exercise, stress, infection & pain can cause temperature to rise.



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Your contributions are tax deductible



## A Foster Home for Suzi

I first met Suzie during a visit to Bini's place. I hadn't seen Bini in a while and she had solicited my help with photographing a starving horse that was on my side of town. Bini said that she would like to rescue the starving horse, but didn't have a stall available for her. I suggested that I had an open stall that she could fill for a couple months.

When I dropped off the starving mare, Bini had Suzie all ready to go. I thought to myself, "I'm not a big fan of Arabs or mares. Good thing I said only a couple of months."

Suzie marched right into the trailer and hauled quietly. When I got her home and put her in a stall, she looked around some but was quite relaxed. She quickly became good friends with my lame gelding. She is the easiest little mare to take care of. It wasn't long before I was calling Bini to tell her that Suzie has a home with me for as long as she wants it.

When I was a kid, I hated having to find homes for the horses we wore out in the show ring. I told

myself that I would make sure I had the ability to retire the horses that gave me good service and wonderful experiences. Suzie was the perfect addition. Safeguarding/fostering her has been great for Suzie, my lame red horse and me.

By Colleen Ryan



Colleen visiting with Suzie

## A Gentle Nuzzle

Sometimes you have days where you get to be a part of something so great, you feel undeserving. The lovely ladies in these pictures are residents of the Sunrise at Flatirons assisted living facility. Their wonderful caregivers contacted us because they like to take their ladies on outings, and some of them have past fond memories of horses. The first lady they brought out was Darlene, and we had decided to use Little Bit, one our minis for Darlene to visit with. When they got Darlene out of the car she was much more debilitated than we were expecting.

Little bit has no experience as a therapy horse, and we were really concerned at first. We needn't have worried. I don't know how that little horse knew what to do, but she did. She stood there, quiet as a mouse, with her knees touching the wheelchair, and her head right up to Darlene. Never budged, never nipped, just nuzzled that sweet lady with her little nose. Darlene didn't speak at all while she was with Little Bit, but she petted her nose and held her rope for about half an hour.

When her helpers got her back in the car, I said, "Bye Darlene! Thanks for coming! Please come back soon." and she said, "I'm so glad I came." There were many tears all around. It was pretty special. Since then, Little Bit has had more visitors



DARLENE CARESSES LITTLE BIT'S SOFT MUZZLE

from Sunrise, and her performance has been just as splendid as the first time. Horses truly are a gift.



IT was a bit chilly, but Hear ts war med when Little Bit moved in



Little Bit makes a new friend



Sidney visits all the horses at RMHR by golf cart



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### Our Wonderful Volunteers



Paul & Bella Balcer—groomers extraordinaire



Mark Husmann (Center) corralled a crew to pick up hay donated by Felicia & Oscar Marcia in Boulder. Other hay donors this year included Larry Hart, Chad Hartman & Ed Manguss



Terry Michel models our RMHR printed shirt with our logo both front and back



**BET SIE ALVES PARTAKES OF THE "GLAMOROUS" work at the rescue**



**"SPARKY" AKA JEFF MARSHALL**, working on the electrical at the rescue



Joan McMenamin (top) and Kari Arvasais (bottom) take a break from work to get a lesson from Kris Nixon on Eddie



Marie Hackett, Toni Rautus, and Elisa Bilby repair a roof destroyed by 102 MPH winds



Connie Caruso arrives with treats—a favorite food group of Cowboy



Mark Ladwig volunteering time and equipment to bale hay



KIT Mann grazes a new arrival at the rescue



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### Our Wonderful Volunteers



**KATE O'SHAUGHNESSY** TAKES time off from work to help out at RMHR



Mandy Reese, Elisa Bilby & Pat Spetz tackle **BEAU'S BURDOCKS** FOR THE ZILLIONTH TIME



Our treasurer Kate Corcoran works on our financial reports



John Santi shines up Chocolate



Shannon Farrar asks Jax how he could get so dirty



Mother/daughter team Sue Sturbaum & Candace Born work at the never-ending job of cleaning pens



Sophia Ernst exercises Jax



Kelli Bigler & Dan Dorcas **WORK ON LITTLE BIT'S** emerging winter coat



Amoni Cook works with her favorite, Tommy



Maia Garvey tries out **AMBER'S BAREBACK** SKILLS



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### Our Wonderful Volunteers



Marie Hackett, El isa Bil by & Kris Pipkin surprise RMHR by designing and buil ding a new barn for Hope!



Mel anie Hood and her niece Mariah Hood exercise Cowboy and JoJo



Ray Sal inaS grooms his current favorite, Maggie



Randy Kerr runs our swather and repairs all kinds of machinery at RMHR



Farrier Jean Gall agher works on many horses incl uding the first trim for Harry



Hank Bal dwin repairs the fences between the pens



Mel anie Hood, Marie Hackett, Pat SPetz, Mariah Hood AND ELISA BILBY WORK THE "DE-BURRING" ASSEMBLY LINE



Bill y Santiago and Dave Lopatofsky work on our hay wagon (gol f cart & trail er)



Kel sey Madigan works with TWIZ ON HIS "GAITING"



Nancy Har ts takes time out fr om mucking pens to exercise Amber



100 Days later



on Arrival



Chance—  
Quarterhorse  
Stallion

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Adoptable



Cute as a bug, Hope has issues with trusting people and needs a very understanding and patient adopter. She arrived at RMHR starved and frightened, but she is now in great shape and looking for a special home.

Adoptable



**SMORE CHOCOLATES IS A "CLASSY"**  
Quarterhorse mare who is great on the trail and in the ring.

Adoptable



American Paint Horses, Maggie and Jax are hoping to find their forever families.