



Grace, left, and Fortune trot to a pasture for some grazing. The horses are part of a trio that were adopted by by three Cheney-area residents from a southeast Kansas rescue. Staff photo/Travis Mounts

Horses find loving home in Cheney

By Travis Mounts

Some people believe in love in first sight.

And to change up another old saying, the bigger they come, the harder you fall.

That's the story of three Cheney residents and the horses they adopted last month from a rescue operation near Sedan, Kan.

Linda Remillard and her husband, Joseph Parker, love adopting rescued animals. Five cats and a dog prove that.

And when they moved to Cheney, they bought land with the intention of having horses. So when they felt they were ready for a horse, Remillard began an online search for horse rescues. That led her to Rainbow Meadows Equine

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Rescue and Retirement, Inc., located near Sedan.



Kayla Sanders tends to her horse, Holly.

They made a trip to Rainbow Meadows, and were joined by Kayla Sanders, Parker's 17-year-old second cousin who just moved to Cheney in January. Things went well, and they started the process of adopting two horses. The adoption process took nearly a month. Remillard, Parker and Sanders made a second trip to southeast Kansas to get to know the horses they planned to bring home. And a representative from Rainbow Meadows came to Cheney to check out Remillard's and Parker's home. It's a routine part of any adoption. Remillard said she has to send monthly reports to Rainbow Meadows for the first six months, and the adoption agreement includes a stipulation that the horses can be taken back if certain steps are not followed.

That thoroughness impressed Remillard.

"I think it's an excellent organization," she said. "They still care about the horses (even after adoption)."

Remillard adopted a horse named Grace. Grace was neglected by her owners and came to the rescue only after her foal died of starvation. Remillard didn't even notice Grace on the first visit.

"Actually, I was petting her but didn't really notice. I was busy looking at all the horses," she said. But she noticed Grace in a photo after their first visit to the rescue. Remillard said she was looking for a tall horse, and described Grace as "gorgeous."

For Sanders, it was definitely love at first sight with her horse, Holly. The horse had already been rescued once from an abusive environment. Her new owners treated her well, but couldn't continue caring for her and turned

back over to the rescue operation.

"I started walking up to her and she started following me. We clicked right away," said Sanders. Holly is her first horse, although she has had other animals. "I'm a big animal person."

Sanders will be a junior at Cheney next fall. She hopes to be a veterinarian. It's a career she's wanted since she was five.

So far, the adoption has gone well.



Grace, one of the adopted horses, gets some love and attention from owner Linda Remillard.

"It was everything I hoped it would be," she said. "Every day is a learning experience."

They brought the two horses back on April 10, but it something seemed incomplete.

"When we went to look at horses, I could tell Joe really wanted on. But he never really said it," said Remillard. But the day after bringing back Grace and Holly, they went back to Sedan and picked up Fortune.

"Fortune and Grace are kind of like boyfriend and girlfriend," said Remillard. Fortune was on his way to a veterinary school to be euthanized and dissected when he was saved at the doors of the facility.



Linda Remillard, left, and Kayla Sanders tend to the horses they adopted from a Kansas rescue. The horses are, from left, Fortune, Grace and Holly.

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