



Nickers n' Tails

Serving the equine companions who have so loyally served us...

Fall 2007

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The passing of an inspiration...

On September 17th, 2007, Rainbow Meadows lost its namesake and a beloved friend. The following was written by Karen Everhart on September 16th:

It is time to say goodbye to my 32 year old horse. Rainbow has been with me for 26 years and 2 months. She has been my teacher, my student, my confidant, my friend and my nemesis. She rekindled my passion for horses and has always been the one horse I could count on to take care of me. She has been vibrant and strong throughout her life. Always eager to go, even as recently as May when I jumped on her bareback in the pasture, to search for a missing pasturemate. She has never let me down.

She experienced an unknown pasture accident on July 10th. We had endured a bad storm the night before with lots of lightening and rain. When she did not come up for breakfast, we were very worried. A search found her in a remote pasture, unable to move. There were no signs of trauma anywhere but pain in her right leg or right hip was obvious. After pain medications were administered and she did not improve, our wonderful vet came to our aid. We x-rayed her upper leg, did the appropriate exams for a pelvic fracture, and even gave her a powerful painkiller. Nothing was found

and the pain was not controlled. Because of her location and the fact that she was in so much pain and could not bear weight on one of her hind legs, we could not load her to transport her so we confined her in an electric pen, to protect her from the rest of the free-roaming herd. She remained there for 2 days until I could slowly lead her the 400 feet to her pasture paddock.

She has remained confined in that paddock with her best friend Sweet Pea. We have monitored her daily and watched

as she seemed to be moving towards recovery and healing, only to quickly slide backwards. This has happened three times over the 10 weeks. She has been on high doses of daily pain medications to keep her comfortable. As recently as Wednesday, she was happily grazing with her buddy. But, on Thursday,

she began to rapidly deteriorate.

Since Thursday, she has virtually remained nearly motionless. She will not seek water, she will not graze. She will nicker to us when she sees us and she is still interested in her meals, served three times a day. But, her enthusiasm for feeding time is not as vigorous as it has been and she pivots away (she cannot/will not walk away) before it is gone. There is a notable enlargement of her hip area, which is a new development. Her ability to be "a

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An IRS-designated 501(c)3 public charity- contributions are tax deductible.

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

Rainbow, even in her passing, offered additional gifts to us. For a long while, we here at Rainbow Meadows have been working continuously with the IRS to achieve our needed 501(c)3 public charity status. It has included mountains of paperwork, many bureaucratic hurdles, some minor changes to operations and lots and lots of patience. It felt as if we were in an uphill battle.

On the day we had Rainbow euthanized, when we could, we began our morning chores which includes gathering the mail before heading down the hillside to care for some of the rescued horses. In the mail was an ominous letter

from the IRS. My husband and I both felt the weight of the letter as we have been striving to obtain our public charity status for the rescue for nearly two years. We shared the anguish that this was, yet again, another hurdle we would need to cross, and we did not have the energy on this day. But, we opened the letter to read that the IRS has designated us a 501(c)(3) - Rainbow's final gift. It was her way of telling us to continue our work in the care of horses which are not given the opportunity to experience the comfort and security of a loving home.

So, work we will, to end the suffering of horses. Thank you

Karen with Indi, daughter to Lexi, rescued in 2004.



Rainbow, for your love, for your unfailing faithfulness, for your friendship and for your inspiration to make Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. a reality. You will never be forgotten!!

The 501(c)3 status makes all contributions made since October 2005 tax deductible.

Finally home

This fall, two rescues at Rainbow Meadows found their forever homes. Jade Beaudaceous (a.k.a. Beau) and SDR Alimah Curia (a.k.a. Curi) have gone to families where they will always be loved and cared for!



Beau with new owner Rebecca

Curi with new owner Ann and friends Bev and Wayne



Thank you!!

We want to thank our incredible supporters for their never-ending generosity!

Participants in our Mane Affair Twilight Dinner and Trail Ride - Because of the 14 riders and 9 volunteers at our event, Rainbow Meadows raised more than \$1,100 for the horses and had a great time! Keep your eyes peeled for our next Mane Affair!

Truffles Catering in Wichita, Kansas - Business owners and operators Denise Nelson and Julie Fowler have yet again shown their generosity by donating all the food for both this year's Open House as well as the Mane Affair Twilight Dinner.

Jim and Marty Tadtman - Thanks to their willingness to host the Rainbow Meadows Benefit Golf Tournament in July 2007, Rainbow Meadows raised almost \$9,000 for the horses!

EasyCare, Inc. - This company generously donated two EasyBoots for Rainbow Meadows' use.

The passing of an inspiration... (cont.)

horse" is no longer possible.

I have loved this mare from the first moment I laid eyes on her near Hays, Kansas in July of 1981. Tomorrow I will say goodbye and my heart is so heavy. A part of me will die with her because she has been a "constant" in my life for so long. My dream of starting a horse rescue was because I wanted to somehow "pay back" for all she has given to me, and she is the name sake of our rescue and retirement facility. Memories of our times together will remain forever but the loss will never heal.

Tomorrow at about 8:30 a.m. a powerful chemical will be injected into her veins, stopping her heart forever, and she will cross Rainbow Bridge. I just want to be strong enough for her, to hold her head and let her know how much I appreciate all she has done for me. I want her to know that I am giving her the gift of peace because I love her.

At 8:30 a.m. the following morning, Rainbow was euthanized. Karen concluded:

Rainbow, all the way to the end, remained confident and spirited, even through her pain, nudging me as I led her gently from her run-in, telling me, in no uncertain terms, that I was interrupting her morning



Rainbow and
Karen, with
daughter Kira,
in 1985

siesta in the glorious sunshine. She stood stock still as my dear friend and veterinarian inserted the fatal needle, continuing to display her calm demeanor and obedience. She went gently into the light with just a moment of fear and questioning in her eyes and fell quickly to the ground. Her spirit left immediately, there was no hesitation nor struggle to remain here in this place. Her body remained motionless as my husband and I released our tears into her golden coat and silver mane. As I lay beside her, I looked to the sky and saw two contrails which had created the shape of a cross directly above us as if she was saying "I'm here already, waiting for you".

Our newest addition



Daisy

Rescued mare, Year of birth: approx. 2002

Daisy is a beautiful tri-colored 5- or 6-year-old pony cross (possibly a pony/Mustang). She was purchased in 2006 from a neglectful situation; thin and lacking energy. After loving care and attention, she regained her "fire" and proved to be a very dominant mare. Her novice owners loved her dearly but decided that she was too much for them to handle safely. She is at Rainbow Meadows for retraining while awaiting her forever home.

Board sees transitions, new faces

The Rainbow Meadows Board of Directors is seeing transition as volunteers take on new roles. Hope White, director of fundraising, has accepted the role of board president, while Christine Abbott, director of education, will take on secretary responsibilities. Dawn Kerley, director of volunteers, will fill the role of board treasurer. New to the board is Gracie Royle, who will serve as the Rainbow Meadows board vice-president. Karen Everhart, David Everhart and Kira Valentin have all resigned from their roles as board members and will instead be concentrating their attentions on their new roles of executive director, business manager and marketing coordinator, respectively. The changes came about as a part of a set of requirements established by the IRS in order for Rainbow Meadows to be recognized as a designated 501(c)3 public charity.

With this transition has also come a change in board and volunteer e-mail addresses. The new contact information of these volunteers is:

Karen Everhart, M.Ed. – Executive director, Co-founder
karen.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

David Everhart – Business director, Co-founder
david.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Kira Valentin – Marketing coordinator
kira.valentin@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Hope White – President, Director of fundraising
hope.white@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Gracie Royle – Vice president
gracie.royle@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Christine Abbott – Secretary, Director of education
christine.abbott@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Dawn Kerley – Treasurer, Director of volunteers
dawn.kerley@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Jan Johnston, DVM – Medical director
jan.johnstonDVM@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Nita Jones – Director of special events
nita.jones@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Welcome to our new board member!

Gracie Royle - Vice president

As a child growing up in Massachusetts, Gracie Royle's first love of horses came from her family, who raised them. But it wasn't until many years later that she bought her first horse in the early 1990s while living in Georgia. He was a Tennessee Walker named Ford, who has proven to be a long-time friend and is currently in his 20s. She moved to Kansas in 1999 and has since added Clancey as a horse friend. Clancey had been saved from a killer auction, however was doomed to be sent back if a home could not be found for him. Luckily, Gracie was that home.

Gracie has also been involved with the Sound Horse Organization for several years. The organization's



mission is to stop the soring of gaited horses, a practice used to achieve the big lick show gait. She has been a supporter of Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. since it began and is proud to serve on the Board of Directors for that organization. In addition, Gracie also does volunteer work for the Colonel Potter Cairn

Terrier Rescue organization assisting with finding foster homes and transportation for rescued puppy mill dogs.

In her professional career, Gracie is currently a Regional Manager for Via Christi's outreach program. She has been in the health care industry her entire career, where she began as an ER nurse in the mid-1970s and later moved into health care administration and consulting. Over the past several years, Gracie has focused on selling health care services in rural Kansas communities as well as in the Wichita area.

Gracie lives in Wichita with her husband, Chris, and rescued dogs - Toby, Andy and Helga - as well as rescued felines Sheldon and Charlie.

The generosity of a memory



Jeff Rosine

In October 2007, Rainbow Meadows was the recipient of nearly \$1,600 in honor of Jeff Rosine from a memorial fund established by his father and stepmother Don and Cheryl Rosine and fiancée Liz Cashner. Jeff passed away suddenly on August 31, 2007 from a brain aneurysm, leaving behind many friends and family.

In a note, Jeff's fiancée writes, "Jeff was a passionate man, with life, with love, with storytelling. Now we want to tell you one more story. Jeff lived for his cowboy way of life and his daughters. Every penny he had went to the horses and mules, and the girls. He passed away a financially poor man, yet the riches he left behind to all of those he touched, money can't buy."

Rainbow Meadows is blessed to have friends like Don and Cheryl Rosine – and those who supported them - who believe in our work enough to see that Jeff's passion endures by making a difference in the lives of our horses.

Caring for your own...

What are your plans for your horses (and other animals) in the event of your death? Horses are considered "tangible property" and unless you make specific arrangements for their future, including funding, they can be, and often are, sold. Many times horses are sold to "agents" who are actually kill buyers and then transported to slaughter. Please put your wishes in writing: in your will, trust, or in some other written form and ensure that appropriate individuals have copies of your documents. Don't leave the future of your horses to "wishful thinking".



Yes, I want to give...

Name: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip code: _____
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Donation information:

Amount: \$ _____ Cash Check (Payable to: Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.)

If you would like to donate online, go to www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_HowToDonate.htm

Oops - our mistake!

An error was printed in the summer 2007 issue of *Nickers N' Tails*. On page 4 in the article, *Thank you to our generous supporters!*, Don Rosine was pictured with his wife, Cheryl. However, her name was misprinted as "Carol." Our apologies, Cheryl!

'Tis the season

Be watching for information on our very first holiday giving campaign! Help the horses this Christmas season by donating specialty items, dollars for feed and equipment, or even becoming a guardian angel! More information will follow.

All services provided by Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. are funded entirely by gifts and donations.

For more information about how you can help support these extraordinary equines, please contact:

Karen Everhart, Executive director

Rainbow Meadows

Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.

1949 Dalton Road

Sedan, KS 67361

Phone: (620) 725-3402

Email: karen.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Thank you for your support!



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and Retirement, Inc.**
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