



Nickers n' Tails

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

Fall 2008

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October to bring National Rescue Ride

On October 19, 2008, thousands of horse lovers across the nation will pull on their boots or lace up their sneakers to benefit the horse-related charity of their choice. In Kansas, riders and walkers can join in the fun at the National Rescue Ride at Kanopolis Canyon State Park in central Kansas.

Similar to a walk-a-thon, the National Rescue Ride will bring together participants in support of the humane treatment of horses and in opposition to their abuse, neglect and slaughter. It will be hosted locally by Rainbow Meadows, and aims to be the nation's largest-ever charitable effort to help horses.

The ride will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 19 at Kanopolis, located approximately 20 miles west of Lindsborg, Kan. There will be separate trails for hikers and horseback riders, and all proceeds will go to benefit Rainbow Meadows. Participants will



receive a light breakfast at check-in, a National Rescue Ride T-shirt and prizes for the participants who raise the most donations for the rescue.

Riders and walkers wishing to participate to support Rainbow Meadows at the National Rescue Ride should register at www.nationalrescuerride.org where they will be asked to pay a \$20 registration fee, print a sponsorship form and begin raising money for the horses. Participants must register by October 1st in order to receive their T-shirt prior to the event day.

More information about the ride can be found at www.nationalrescuerride.org or by contacting Karen Everhart at 620-725-3402 or rainbowmeadowsranch@gmail.com.

So, come join us on foot or on horseback and help America's horses!



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

Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

All around us we are hearing horror stories about the current economy. How this all will work out is unknown, but what we DO KNOW is that there are people out there losing jobs every day. That means they are facing difficult decisions regarding the payment of bills and even keeping food on the table. As a result, their horses and other animals will undoubtedly suffer. While many of these owners become proactive in trying to find alternatives for their horses, many do not, and for their unfortunate animals, neglect and starvation are the result.

There are many more cases where neglect is not the by-product of difficult decision making, but is status quo. These owners are guilty of committing a crime, generally of misdemeanor status, though some states do have felony animal abuse statutes.

If you see animals which are being neglected, you have a responsibility to speak up. Horses have no voice, and if it were not for us, there would be no hope. If you have room, carefully and cautiously try to buy the horse(s). That is the quickest and most certain way to get them to safety. If that is not possible, here are the steps I recommend that you follow to try and make a difference:

- 1- NEVER GO ON PRIVATE PROPERTY and DO NOT CONFRONT THE OWNERS OF THE ANIMALS;
- 2- Review your state AND county animal cruelty statutes so you

know what is “illegal” in your area;

- 3- Begin by keeping a written log of your observations over a period of time;

- 4- From the start, create a detailed description of the horses and identify them by a number or other clear designation; create a historical document that is reliable and objective;

- 5- Take photos throughout the observation period that you can send to the appropriate officials;
- 6- Pass by the location at different times of the day to see if food is available;

- 7- After a reasonable period, depending upon the status of the horse(s) (it may be a few days to a few weeks), contact your local authorities. Provide your log of events detailing what you have observed and the photos. Keep the original of everything you provide AND continue your log documenting your interaction with the authorities and their promised response. Ask that the officers follow up with you and be prepared to pursue them frequently (but do not harass them);

- 8- For the most part the legal process will be agonizingly long and frustrating. If you can provide resources for the authorities (i.e. places for the horses to be placed if seized, individuals willing to financially support the horses, compassionate veterinarians who will provide their medical expertise to assist authorities), then things can often move more quickly.

Horses require lots of room, expert care during the refeeding process



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

if emaciated, and are costly. There are seldom budgets prepared to undertake the expense, nor manpower to execute the care;

- 9- Only after pursuing local authorities and running into brick walls, consider calling in local media to place attention on the plight of the horses AND the lack of enforcement of the animal cruelty statutes.

Though there have been great strides in protecting horses in horrible conditions, there remain thousands of horses that will live and die in abusive environments. We cannot save them all, but those which are placed in our path are there for a reason and we cannot divert our eyes when passing by. They need our voice.



Rainbow Meadows rescue, Sweet Pea, upon her arrival. She was starved and neglected, one of the worst cases our staff had seen.

Help America's Horses

Ride OR Walk



Sunday, October 19, 2008

Join us for the
National Rescue Ride!



Where: Kanopolis Canyon State Park - Lindsborg, KS

When: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join charities across America in the SADDLE or in your SNEAKERS to help abused, neglected and unwanted horses! Enjoy a breakfast buffet, your own National Rescue Ride T-shirt and a ride/walk time and distance to suit you!

Register by October 1st to receive your T-shirt prior to the event

Go to www.nationalrescueride.org to register!

Contact Karen Everhart at 620-725-3402 or rainbowmeadowsranch@gmail.com for more information



To benefit Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Rainbow Meadows Adoption Day and Open House helps in finding forever homes for rescues

Rainbow Meadows' annual Open House and Adoption Day was a true success this year! Hundreds of visitors from near and far joined us at the ranch on July 20th to show their love for the horses. The day's activities included ranch tours, horseback rides, raffles and refreshments. Truffles Catering donated their services and food, and more than a dozen volunteers worked to make sure everyone had a great time.

The giving was generous, and thanks to the event, Rainbow Meadows raised \$4,645 for the horses. In addition, 19 horses were adopted out to forever homes this summer, many of those a result of the Open House and Adoption Day.

Thanks to all who worked so hard and gave so much to help the horses!

Our rescues who are finally home...

Miniature horses
Bella, Liberty and
Sparky with their
new family



Miniature mules
Houdini and
Houdunit found
their forever
home



(Above) Sassy and Mini Me with their adopter, Babette



Miniature horses Buttercup and Twinkle Toes were adopted out to a loving family



(Right) Shiloh and Star went home with their adopter, Bev



(Left) Bubba, Rose, Eeyore and Ruby are living the good life with their new adopter, Marty



(Above) Ko-Ko and Keoni ready to head home with their new family



(Left) Elizabeth (a.k.a. Gabby) found a new best friend - her adopter, Mackenzie

(Right) Rescued mare, Epona, will be forever loved with her adoptive family



Our newest additions



Chief

Rescued gelding, Year of birth: Approx. 1988

This proud fellow was loved by his owners, but sometimes love is not enough to cover the expenses of caring for a horse. As a result, Chief needed to find a new home where his needs could be met appropriately. A steady and reliable mount, Chief is a “done-it-all” horse. Now, as he approaches his golden years, he deserves a home where he can be someone’s “perfect horse” without the pressure of competitions or speed events. Chief would excel as a pleasure or trail horse for a classically trained experienced rider.

Dest’y

Rescued gelding, Year of birth: Approx. 1998

This tall, handsome Arabian gelding was on the short list for a trip to the Mexican slaughterhouse in August of 2008. Fortunately, the promise of a bright future was recognized in his kind eye and he was given a chance at life when Rainbow Meadows was contacted by Shooting Star Equine Rescue and Stables, Inc, near Topeka, Kansas, telling us that he only had one day before his fate would be sealed. The ransom was paid to the kill buyer and his future was ensured. Dest’y is an elegant and graceful boy, always seeking human companionship.



Silver

Rescued mare, Year of birth: 1999

Silver is a 9-year-old Missouri Fox Trotter mare. She came to Rainbow Meadows when her owner was transferred to Europe and was unsuccessful in her attempts to rehome the mare. Because she knew that sending Silver to an auction opened up the possibility of slaughter or irresponsible owners, the individual contacted Rainbow Meadows. Silver is calm and responsive. She is fully saddle-trained and gaits wonderfully. She would make an excellent trail horse and is looking for her forever home.



Our newest additions (cont.)

The “Lucky 19+4”

The “Lucky 19+4” included 19 horses, donkeys, miniature mules and miniature horses (four of which were pregnant) that were seized on March 13, 2008 along with llamas, dogs, sheep, goats, cats, cattle, turkeys, chickens and prairie dogs in one of Kansas’s largest cases of animal cruelty. According to an investigator, all animals were in various stages of emaciation and neglect. There were also numerous dead animals found on the property.

Upon seizure, the horses and donkeys were placed at Rainbow Meadows, where they received the necessary care to bring them back to health. After being granted ownership of the equids, Rainbow Meadows declared them as up for adoption. Several members of the original group were adopted, however, some still remain.



Strawberry and Freedom,
rescued miniature mare
and colt



Kaluha, rescued mare



Sierra and Justice, rescued mare
and colt



Delilah, rescued miniature
mare

Welcome to our new board member!

Perry Russell

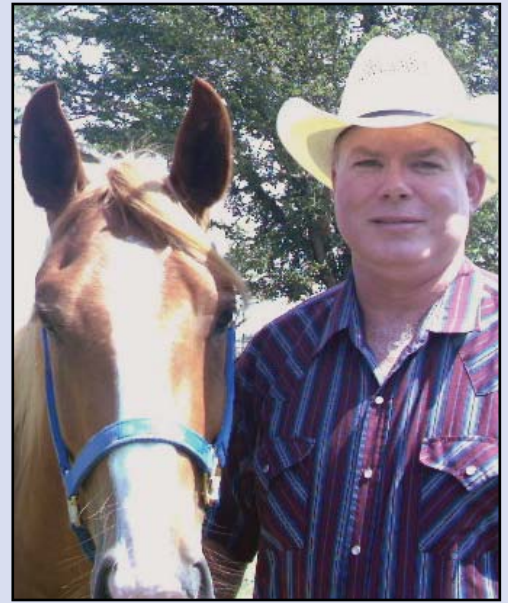
Board member

[perry.russell@](mailto:perry.russell@rainbowmeadowsranch.com)

rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Perry Russell lives with his wife, Babette, in rural Chautauqua County, Kansas, on a small farm they call the Bar Lazy R. The pair has four adult children and three grandchildren. Perry has either owned a horse or claimed one of his grandfather's for more than 40 years, and on their farm, Perry and Babette have ten horses, two of which are adopted miniatures. The others are registered and unregistered Quarter horses. They also have an assortment of dogs, cats, and chickens.

Perry has worked in the field of law enforcement for 26 years. In that time he has worked cases that led to the seizure of many neglected and abused animals, more than 100 of them horses. Perry holds a bachelor's degree from Friends University in Human Resources Management and an Associate's Degree from Independence Community College. He has donated his time as a Board Member for Four County Mental Health Center, Chairman of the Crawford County Extension Service, and as a 4-H Leader. Perry is currently a Deputy Sheriff in Elk County and is the leading candidate for the office of Chautauqua County Sheriff.



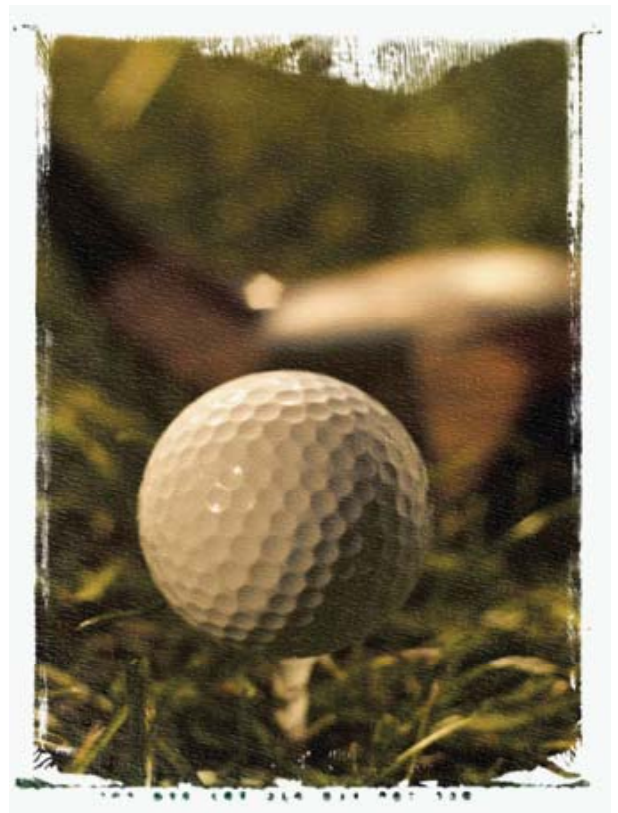
Perry Russell, Rainbow Meadows' newest board member

Benefit golf tournament a hole in one!

On August 22, 2008, golf enthusiasts grabbed their clubs and teed off in support of the horses at Rainbow Meadows. With 44 golfers, the 2nd annual Rainbow Meadows benefit golf tournament made its mark as the largest fundraising event in our organization's history, raising a total of **\$9,145** for the horses.

The tournament was held at Colbert Hills in Manhattan, Kansas, and the golfers and volunteers enjoyed a sunny day with a cool breeze. The course was excellent and everyone involved had a fantastic day.

Thank you to all of the golfers and volunteers that made it possible – the horses thank you!



A word from the board...

by Dawn Kerley, Director of Volunteers - Board of Directors

Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. is run entirely by volunteers. It starts with our Executive Director and Business Manager, who are also the founders of the rescue. They are on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - tending to all the horses, whether it is feeding, medical care or just tender loving care. The marketing coordinator also spends many hours putting together flyers and other materials for fund raising events as well as compiling this newsletter. The Board of Directors, all from different parts of Kansas and Oklahoma, work very closely together to keep the rescue running smoothly.

The rescue could not survive without the help of all our volunteers. We have volunteers that come to groom and spend time with the many different horses that are here. There are also volunteers that help transport horses that are coming to the rescue that would not have otherwise had a second chance without these wonderful people. Other volunteers

do facility checks when someone is interested in adopting one of the horses. We have volunteers in many different positions, and all are very important to the running of the rescue. Without these people being willing to spend their time helping the horses and believing in what this rescue is doing, these horses and many others in the future may not get the second chance that they deserve. Thank you to all the volunteers - it couldn't get done without you.



Caring for your own...

Times are a'changin' and so must our parasite control program. While deworming for tapeworms was nearly unheard of 5 years ago, it simply **MUST BE** a part of your annual program. In addition, ivermectin-based products have long been the cornerstone of deworming programs and, as a result, we are seeing very high levels of resistance, requiring horse owners and managers to rethink the chemicals utilized to keep our horses healthy. Talk to your equine vet, determine the best program for your area, but remember that what you did even as recently as 2-3 years ago may no longer be adequate.



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

Upcoming events

October 19, 2008

National Rescue Ride

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Kanopolis Canyon State Park

***For more information, go to
www.nationalrescueride.org**

February 2009

2nd Annual "For the Love of Horses"

Gala and Benefit

Location TBA

*For more information about our upcoming events, go to
www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_HomePage.htm*

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

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Thank you for your support!



**Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue
and Retirement, Inc.**

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