



Nickers n' Tails

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

Spring 2008

In this issue...

The devastation of neglect..... 1

HoofBeats..... 2

Our newest addition..... 2

“Riding to the Rescue”..... 3

An evening for the horses..... 4

Online resources..... 4

Custom saddle covers..... 4

A word from the board..... 5

The devastation of neglect

Rainbow Meadows steps up in local case of animal cruelty

On March 16, 2008, Rainbow Meadows became a partner in the rescue of 19 equines in one of the largest animal cruelty cases in Elk County, Kansas. The animals, which included miniature horses, miniature mules, donkeys, ponies and full-sized horses, were seized by the Elk County Sheriff's Department as victims of neglect and cruelty by their owners.

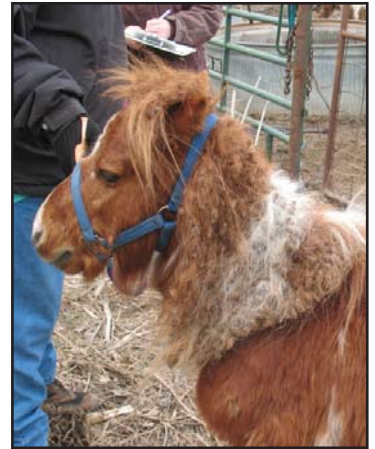
The equines were among more than 60 animals seized from a couple's property in southeast Kansas. Also on the property were dogs, goats, sheep, cats, cattle, llamas and prairie dogs. Reports note that, in addition, officials found more than 100 animal carcasses, including four dead horses and a pile of dead goats the dogs were feeding on.

The equines came to Rainbow Meadows in a severe state of starvation and neglect. Many had extremely overgrown hooves and manes completely matted with cackleburs. Several of the mares were pregnant. Most were somewhat wary of people, appearing to have had minimal human contact.

The animals are being housed temporarily

at Rainbow Meadows, where volunteers have worked tirelessly for weeks removing cackleburs, grooming and trimming feet. They feed them multiple times a day in order to bring them back to a healthy weight, and monitor the pregnant mares night and day so they can provide assistance during the births, if needed. The fate of the equines remains uncertain as no legal decisions regarding the couple have been made.

To find out more about how you can help these animals, contact Karen Everhart at karen.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com or 620-725-3402.



This little miniature's mane was so matted with cackle burs that it was like a solid piece of armor.



This extremely underfed and malnourished mare was full-term pregnant when rescued.



A miniature horse seized in the raid with severely overgrown hooves.



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

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

Our “Riding to the Rescue Competitive Trail ride” is gearing up to be a fantastic event. Scheduled for April 25-27 at Perry Lake State Park, near Topeka, KS, we have been working hard to meet all the sanction requirements of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) and mark and measure the trail. Anyone interested in participating or volunteering can contact our board president, Hope White, who is also serving as the ride secretary, at hope.white@rainbowmeadowsranch.com.

Competitive Trail Riding is a wonderful sport for anyone who enjoys the out of doors with their favorite equine friend. There are three divisions: Novice and

Competitive Pleasure, which will traverse 40 miles over two days, and the Open division, which will complete 60 miles. There are two judging components in the evaluation of all horse/rider teams: Horsemanship (successful equitation and teamwork), which is judged by an experienced NATRC competitor who has completed numerous rides and has met the national horsemanship judging criteria, and Horse (metabolics, lameness, conditioning, manners), which is judged by a veterinarian. Awards are presented on Sunday afternoon following completion of the ride and when all points are calculated.

Remember that all proceeds

of this event benefit the horses here at Rainbow Meadows. If you have any trail riding friends who live in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, or Colorado, encourage them to come join us if they are interested in spending the weekend with their horse and riding some beautiful trails in the northern Flint Hills of Kansas. Have them contact Hope as soon as possible as the ride is filling fast and there is a rider limit.



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

Our newest addition



Hoffa (a.k.a Tommy)

Rescued gelding, year of birth: 1993

Hoffa (a.k.a. Tommy) is a registered Saddlebred whose owners recently found themselves on the slippery slope of financial distress. They attempted to find a forever home for Tommy, but when the free-lease arrangement went bad, Tommy was left without a place to call home. His owners contacted Rainbow Meadows and we were able to accept him into the rescue. Tommy has performed in the show ring and been a lesson horse for young children. He is 16h 2” tall and a true gentleman. Tommy is looking for his forever home.

Riding to the Rescue



Rainbow
Meadows

Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.

Competitive Trail Ride

April 26th-27th, 2008 • Perry Lake, KS

Thank you for helping us help the horses!

All proceeds will benefit Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.

Perry Lake State Park, Ozawkie, KS - Wild Horse Camp

Check-in begins on Friday afternoon, April 25, 2008

Pre-registration required.

To register, contact *Hope White* at

Hope@electricaldevelopment.com or 913-238-9528

Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to provide a safe haven for abused, neglected and abandoned horses. All services provided by Rainbow Meadows are funded entirely by gifts and donations, and all contributions are tax deductible. To learn more about the rescue, visit www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com.



*Sanctioned by the North American Trail Ride
Conference - visit www.natrc.org for rules and other
information.*



An evening for the horses...

The night was snowy and the roads were slippery, but supporters came from near and far to make sure that the first Rainbow Meadows "For the Love of Horses" Gala and Benefit was a success. On Saturday, February 23, 2008, nearly 90 horse lovers from all around Kansas gathered at City Arts of Old Town in Wichita, Kansas, for the "For the Love of Horses" gala to benefit Rainbow Meadows.

Attendees enjoyed dinner, a silent auction, live music and festivities, including a fun-filled round of Horseopoly. The event raised a total of more than \$7,000 for the rescue, making it a true success.



Gala attendees enjoy a competitive game of Horseopoly.

"It was wonderful to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who care about these magnificent creatures," said Karen Everhart, Executive Director and co-founder of Rainbow Meadows. "Their emotional and financial support is critical to do what we do every day."

We hope to see you at next year's "For the Love of Horses" Gala and Benefit – be watching for details!

Thank you for helping us help the horses!



Horse lover Rosie Cassell gets stuck in the "trailer" during the evening's Horseopoly game.

Online resources for you and your herd

Be sure to take a look at these Web sites for more information on how to best care for your own equine companions:

America's Healthy Horse
Fort Dodge Animal Health and the American Association of Equine Practitioners

www.americashealthyhorse.com

eXtension: Horses
eXtension
www.extension.org/horses

EquestNetwork.com
www.equestnetwork.com

Custom saddle covers made just for your saddle!

Want to keep your saddle clean and free of dust?

Order a custom-made embroidered saddle cover, and *all proceeds will go directly to the horses at Rainbow Meadows!*

You can get a drape style, horned or English cover!

Covers are handmade from washable polyester fleece and can be custom embroidered to your preferences. Cost per cover:

No embroidery: \$35

Embroidery only: \$50

Embroidery and custom edge stitching: \$65

Contact Nancy Kemmerer at nancy.kemmerer@rainbowmeadowsranch.com or 316-644-0332 for design options or to order.



A word from the board...

by Hope White, President - Board of Directors

Spring is here, the flowers are blooming, the sun is shining. It is time to clean those winter blankets and groom the horses to help them shed their winter coats.

We have been VERY busy here at Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. - working on fund raising, caring for our new rescues and helping each horse begin a new life.

I would like to thank each of you for all your emotional, physical and financial support. Without your help, we would not be able to help the horses that have been at the rescue and are now at their forever safe home, the horses that are currently at the ranch or those that are soon to come. I hope that you feel the personal rewards that each of our Board Members feel when touching the lives of the horses. In addition, I would like you to know that every decision that the board makes is very emotional and tearful, and the passion that flows at the table is like no other. Your continued support is reinforcement to the Board, Karen, Dave and Kira that we are

doing the mission that we were placed on this earth to do and that the hard, long, tiring hours that are put in is the right thing.



THANK YOU

again for believing and supporting our mission.

I would like to leave you with a "Did you know?" thought: *Did you know that if you eat out one less time a month and instead donated that money to Rainbow Meadows, not only would you be able deduct it from your taxes, but you would also know that what was once a weak whinny from one of the horses here at the rescue becomes stronger every day thanks to your generosity.*

Thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart.

Caring for your own...

Rabies is a fatal disease of all mammals, including horses, causing encephalopathy and ultimately death. If your horse contracts the disease, there is no possibility of survival. If anyone interacts with the horse, at the very least, they must be subjected to rabies postexposure prophylaxis (rabies shots). The prevention is simple: vaccinate your horse and all other mammals at risk on your premises. Vaccinations are cheap insurance.



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

April 25-27, 2008

“Riding to the Rescue” NATRC
Competitive Trail Ride

Perry Lake, Kansas

**All profits will benefit Rainbow
Meadows - see page 3 for more details.
We are in need of volunteers - contact
Karen Everhart at [karen.everhart@
rainbowmeadowsranch.com](mailto:karen.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com) for more
information!**

August 22, 2008

2nd Annual Rainbow Meadows Benefit
Golf Tournament

Colbert Hills - Manhattan, Kansas

**www.colberthills.com
More details to come!**

*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

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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