



Nickers n' Tails

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

Summer 2007

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Thank you, Team Velvet!

Velvet has been “rescued” again and is now sponsored as a retired horse here at Rainbow Meadows. Her sponsorship is the result of Team Velvet, a group of women from across the United States who have joined together to ensure that Velvet never has to face the horrors of abuse, neglect or slaughter again. Team Velvet members met through an online discussion board called the Fans of Barbaro (FOB) - see www.timwoolleyracing.com. This group started after the Thoroughbred Barbaro

sustained a horrific racing injury which eventually proved to be life-ending. As this group grew, a strong interest in improving the circumstances for race horses, in opposing slaughter and in the support for rescues also grew. The FOB raised the initial slaughter ransom which allowed Velvet to be purchased from the “kill buyer”. Their support, and the support of others, has provided Velvet with the utmost in health and wellness care. And now, Team Velvet is providing for her future. Thank You, Team Velvet!



Velvet, prior to arrival - Winter 2006



Velvet - Spring 2007

Out on the green

Avid golfers will soon have the chance to test their skills and lend a helping hand to Rainbow Meadows’ rescues and retirees – all at the same time. On Friday, July 13, a benefit golf tournament will be held at Colbert Hills Country Club in Manhattan, Kan., to raise funds for the rescue.

The tournament is open to the public and check-in will begin at 11:00 a.m. The format will be a 4-person scramble

with an entry fee of \$100 per person. Those who are not part of a team will be assigned to one at check-in. Sponsorships are also available.

The event will be hosted by Wildcat Construction, Co. of Wichita, Kan., and all proceeds will go directly to Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. For additional information or to register, contact Jim Tadtman or Shari Berry at 316-945-9408.



Operating as a 501(c)3 corporation - contributions may be tax deductible.

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, President

On May 24th, 2007, the Illinois House and Senate passed a state law (HB 1711) to ban horse slaughter. This action closed the final slaughter plant in the U.S. However, Illinois Judge Kapala issued a temporary restraining order on June 1st that allowed horses to continue to be slaughtered until issues of international commerce could be resolved. According to Kapala, only the Congress has the authority to regulate international commerce. The Cavell plant in DeKalb, IL, falls under such a classification as it is owned by Belgium, operating in Illinois at a tax loss while sending horse meat to Japan and many European countries. Fortunately, on June 28th, the Appeals Court refused to hear Cavell's arguments that their business should continue and upheld the state law. A future appeal is expected.

Still, today, while no slaughterhouses are operating in the U.S., American horses are not yet safe from the horrific conditions of slaughter because they continue to be transported by the thousands across the border into Mexico or Canada processing plants.

As lovers of horses we CANNOT allow this to continue. We must act now to get the House and Senate bills passed (HB 503 and SB 311) which would make it illegal to transport horses for slaughter for human consumption. Despite the propaganda of pro-slaughter groups such as the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the process of slaughter is NOT humane. Their added argument that we cannot absorb the horses which are currently

going to slaughter is unfounded. If breeding were controlled or regulated, and the number of horses produced in America met the demand, this problem would control itself.

Our Kansas Senators, Roberts, Tiahrt and Brownback ALL support slaughter, saying that no systems are in place to handle the unwanted horses. Well, Rainbow Meadows is here to do our part. Our volunteers, donors and supporters are here, too, and we VOTE! Please let your Representatives and your Senators know that YOU oppose the slaughter of American's horses.



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

Welcome to our new board member!

Hope White

Director of fundraising

Hope White was raised in Kansas City, Kansas. City living limited her exposure to horses and it was not until her later teenage years that Hope developed a yearning for one of her own. At the age of 33, Hope and her family moved to 10 acres in Basehor, Kansas. It was then that her dream of owning horses became a reality. After purchasing a green horse, Hope discovered the sport of Competitive Trail Riding from a neighbor who graciously invited Hope to go riding with her and to ride one of her seasoned horses.

Knowing that competing in distance events was what Hope wanted to do with horses, she purchased her true soul mate MAF Dark Shado, who came with a filly at her side. Hope was very new to

owning horses, and chose to give the foal to a home that was full of love and capable of providing the foal with the attention that it needed. That filly, Savanna's Hope, now lives at Rainbow Meadows Ranch as part of the ranch herd.

Through Hope's adventures with Shado, she has learned many of life's lessons. Shado taught her about good horsemanship, patience and helped make her successful in the distance riding arena. Currently Shado is semi-retired and enjoying her life in a herd of 8 family horses.

Professionally, Hope worked in retirement planning for 17 years. In the winter of 2007 she focused her energies as Co-Owner/Director of Operations of Electrical Contractors, a company she and her husband started a few years ago.

Hope has always believed that to experience enjoyment out of life you

must first give back (pay it forward). When she is not busy with her family, the business or the horses, she volunteers her time with the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) as New Member Chair for Region 6 and serves as the National Breed Award Chairperson.

Hope is excited about helping the horses currently in residence at Rainbow Meadows and the ones that will join us later through raising corporate and personal donations.



Rainbow Meadows Open House 2007

A look back...

On April 21st, 2007, horse lovers from far and wide joined Rainbow Meadows for its very first open house, and made it a smashing success. The silent auction and generous additional donations brought more than \$6,000 into the rescue - that's two months of operating expenses! We want to thank all the great volunteers and participants who made it happen - without you, none of this is possible!



A young guest feeds Curi through the fence at the Rainbow Meadows 2007 Open House.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007



A guest feeds Palomita at the Rainbow Meadows 2007 Open House.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007



Young volunteer Paxton gives horseback rides.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007



Young guests at the Rainbow Meadows 2007 Open House.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007



A guest pets Beau at the Rainbow Meadows 2007 Open House.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007



A guest visits Black Velvet at the Rainbow Meadows 2007 Open House.
© Michelle M. Martin, 2007

To see more photos, go online to
www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_OpenHouse2007Photos.htm

Thank you to Michelle M. Martin, who provided Rainbow Meadows usage of these photos at no charge.

Thank you to our generous supporters!

Rainbow Meadows is blessed to have many special supporters who help ensure we can care for the horses!

Don Rosine

For his 70th birthday celebration, in lieu of accepting gifts, Don instead took a collection from his guests and presented the donation to Rainbow Meadows. He also expressed his intentions to continue to take collections for the rescue at future family and personal events. Thank you, Don!



Don Rosine and wife Cheryl at Rainbow Meadows (pictured with Karen Everhart)

Marty Tadtman

Marty Tadtman also chose to turn her birthday celebration into an event to benefit Rainbow Meadows. On May 5th, Marty was joined by approximately 50 guests at Ya Ya's restaurant in Wichita, Kansas. She requested that, in place of gifts, her guests make a donation to Rainbow Meadows.

Marty's generosity does not stop there. She has been a regular supporter of Rainbow Meadows and her gifts have been instrumental in the care and recovery of Black Velvet since her arrival last December. Thank you, Marty!

We also want to thank the many others who give - we couldn't do it without you!

Saying good-bye...



Trooper
Rescued gelding
1985-2007

On May 3rd, 2007, Rainbow Meadows said good-bye to rescued gelding Trooper as he lost his battle with EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis).

Trooper came to Rainbow Meadows in the summer of 2006 and was diagnosed with EPM shortly thereafter. Following treatment for the disease, Trooper recovered sufficiently to be integrated into the herd, on open pasture and able to roam free on 240 acres of rolling hillside. He became the alpha gelding, despite his disability, and was a proud leader of 15 horses. His end came quickly with a severe relapse of his EPM symptoms. We will miss him deeply but are comforted to know that he no longer experiences any discomfort or confusion.

Our newest additions

Jada and Willow Rescued Tennessee Walker (TWH) mares

Years of birth – Approx. 1999 and 1987

Jada and Willow were ransomed from a kill buyer near Topeka, Kansas as part of one of the largest slaughter rescues in Kansas (<http://www.youtube.com/1ksjewel>). Nearly 50 horses, some as young as 2 weeks of age, were part of a herd of 77 horses and 2 donkeys which were slated to be hauled to Mexico for slaughter. Before the funds could be raised, the first load of 30 were hauled away. Soon however, more than \$15,000 dollars was raised from interested individuals across the United States to pay for the horses, saving them from the terror of slaughter.

Willow, the taller one, was selected to come to Rainbow Meadows as she was thought to be pregnant and, at her age, may need special care. Jada is very attached to Willow so keeping them together was a priority. Jada is gaited at liberty and we are excited to learn more about her training.

Both mares are available for adoption and are awaiting their forever homes.



Jada (left) and Willow (right)

FOR ADOPTION!!!

Note: As of June 30, 2007, there were 16 horses remaining in the Topeka area from this rescue effort. These horses are looking for their forever homes. Please contact us if you have an interest.

Caring for your own...

At this time of year, fresh water is KEY to providing for the health of your horse. Horses are often left to seek their own refreshment from a pond or creek in their pasture, but run-off containing E. Coli or fertilizers, as well as numerous other contaminants, is a very real concern. Recently, a number horses and dogs have died from drinking pond water containing Blue-Green Algae. So, please provide a tank full of clean water that you refresh at least once per day. Your horse will drink more readily which will keep him hydrated and can even help prevent colic.



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.)
Item: _____ Quantity: _____

If you would like to donate online, please visit our Web site at www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Did you know?

You can give to Rainbow Meadows while you shop or search online!

GoodSearch.com - Use GoodSearch (at www.goodsearch.com) for all your online searches and you are supporting our rescue efforts! For every search you make, GoodSearch will give the rescue a small donation. Don't forget to type in our full name - "Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc." under "Who do you GoodSearch for?" and press the "Verify" button!

Country Supply - Purchase your horse-related items through Country Supply (at www.horse.com) and place "Rainbow Meadows" in the Country Care box during online checkout, and our rescue will receive 5% of your purchase.

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:

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Thank you for your support!



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