



Nickers n' Tails

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

Summer 2008

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Rainbow Meadows gains ownership of neglected horses

Nearly three months following one of the largest animal cruelty cases in Kansas, the courts have granted ownership of all equids involved to Rainbow Meadows, ensuring the animals' days of neglect are over.

The 19 horses, donkeys, miniature mules and miniature horses (four of which were pregnant) were seized on March 13, 2008 along with llamas, dogs, sheep, goats, cats, cattle, turkeys, chickens and prairie dogs in an extreme case of animal hoarding. 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. As several were wary of people, they also received regular handling to increase their confidence in human interaction.

As with all other rescues housed at Rainbow Meadows, the seized horses and donkeys will be placed for adoption to caring, forever homes immediately. Several



Sierra was underfed and malnourished when rescued. Now she is in good health and mother to Justice, a spunky young colt.

have already found their forever homes, but nearly a dozen are still in need of an adopter. Rainbow Meadows will host an open house and adoption day on July 20, 2008 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. to allow interested visitors to meet all rescued horses and arrange for an adoption if interested. See page 2 of this issue for more information on the upcoming adoption day.



Star, a miniature mare with a mane full of cockleburs (left) found a new chance at life (middle). Freedom (right) stands with his mother, Strawberry in their pasture at Rainbow Meadows.



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Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

Lately, it seems that every time we pick up a horse magazine or newspaper, or listen to a news report, we are subjected to stories of unwanted horses being turned loose on the streets, reports of horse abuse or complaints that the horse industry is suffering incredible declines in sales. All of these situations have been linked to the closing of the slaughterhouses. Well, don't let them fool you. While there are always unusual cases of abandonment and neglect and while the horse industry is suffering a decline in sales of lower-end horses, it has nothing to do with the slaughterhouses closing in the U.S. If anything, it is the current economic realities of higher feed and fuel costs.

There are also rumors circulating

widely that horses can no longer be sent to slaughter. Nothing is further from the truth. Horses are being shipped to Mexico or Canada on a daily basis. Until the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R 503/S 311) is passed in the Senate, they will continue to be subjected to this horror. I was shocked to be in conversation with an equine veterinarian last month, who confidently "informed" me that horses could not be sold for slaughter any longer. Where did this information come from?

Don't let all this "hype" suck you in. The truth is that the horse industry has had cycles, up and down, for decades. The neglect cases have happened, perhaps even more so, in the past, but now, with

increased awareness by the public, these stories are picked up quickly and the information is circulated in a cyber-second over the Internet.

Horses have been and continue to suffer at the hands of mankind, but I truly believe that the tide is turning and that YOU are a part of the reason that is happening. Stay vigilant, report horse abuse and contact your Senators to insist that they support the AHSPA so that America's horses are no longer killed for profit.



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

Join us for an

Adoption Day & Open House

Sunday, July 20, 2008

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tour the ranch, meet the rescues, and adopt your very own!

To see our rescues that are up for adoption, go to www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_OurRescues.htm.

Those interested in adopting a rescue should fill out and submit an adoption application prior to Adoption Day. For more information, go to www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_AdoptingARescue.htm

For more information, contact Karen Everhart, Executive Director, at 620-725-3402 or rainbowmeadowsranch@gmail.com



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

1949 Dalton Road
Sedan, KS 67361

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

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

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



SAVE THE DATE

for the 2nd annual
Rainbow Meadows
 Benefit Golf Tournament
Hosted by Wildcat Construction Co., Inc.

4-person team scramble

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

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Contact Shari Berry of Wildcat Construction for more details at 316-945-9408.

Friday, August 22, 2008

at

Colbert Hills Country Club
 Manhattan, Kansas

www.colberthills.com

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

Finally home

This spring, two more rescues at Rainbow Meadows found their forever homes. Cap'n Morgan and Sterling have gone to families where love and care will never run short!



Cap'n Morgan with his new riding partner, Sierra, and her parents



Sterling and his new girl, Paxton

Suffolk Downs instates zero-tolerance slaughter policy

In a highly noteworthy step towards ending the seemingly never-ending supply of unwanted racehorses sent to the slaughterhouse, Suffolk Downs has instated a new policy that holds trainers responsible if their horses are sent to slaughter. If a horse under a Suffolk Downs trainer is found to be sold to slaughter, that trainer will be revoked of all stalls at the facility and will be denied of any in the future.

For more information about this courageous and admirable new policy, visit: www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2008/June/27/Suffolk-Downs-begins-zero-tolerance-slaughter-policy.aspx

Rainbow Meadows volunteer crowned Chautauqua County Rodeo Queen on "Throw-Away" Horse

On June 21, 2008, Paxton Kerley, a 14-year-old Rainbow Meadows volunteer and avid horse lover, was crowned Chautauqua County Rodeo Queen astride Sterling, a 26-year-old "throw-away" horse that was nursed back to health following his arrival at the rescue in January 2008.

The gentle gray Arabian was on the brink of starvation when he was rescued by Rainbow Meadows. After months of intense care, he regained a youthful spunk that caught the eye of young Paxton, who takes Centered Riding lessons and often rides the rescue's horses. She requested to be able to use him in her campaign for queen, and the two were immediately a match made in heaven.

It quickly became obvious that this was not Sterling's first rodeo, and he proved both steady and ready. Decked out in pink rhinestones, the

two rode to victory.

The bond that was formed between Paxton and Sterling was so great, that it became clear that he had found his forever home - the Kerley family adopted Sterling soon afterwards.



Paxton and Sterling - a queen and her steed

In the news...

Did you see Rainbow Meadows in the news? If not, be sure to check out these articles and videos:

Kansas couple rescues dozens of horses

KSN News - Wichita (June 18, 2008)
www.ksn.com/news/local/20551604.html

Abused animals nursed to health

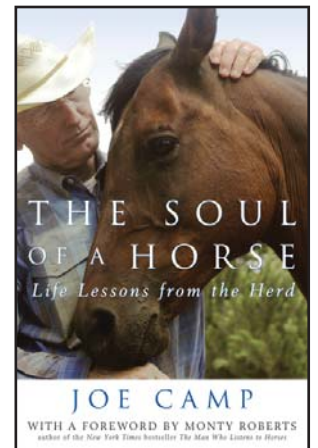
KAKE News - Wichita (June 11, 2008)
www.kake.com/home/headlines/19810204.html

Throw-away horse takes rural Kansas teen to rodeo royalty

Winfield Courier (June 28, 2008)
www.winfieldcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=24923

The Soul of a Horse speaks to all horse lovers

In a book that touches on everything from hoof care to diet and training to relationships, *The Soul of a Horse* is for the new horse owner, the old pro, and everyone in between. In it, Joe Camp, author and creator of the Benji series, chronicles his journey to true horsemanship and the lessons he learned along



the way. Through his love for a horse named Cash, and with the help of various "natural" trainers and trimmers, Joe explores the fascinating nature of horses and how horse owners can respond to this nature to develop a strong bond with their equine partner. *The Soul of a Horse* is available through most booksellers. For more information about the book, go to www.thesoulofahorse.com.

A word from the board...

by Gracie Royle, Vice President - Board of Directors

A few months ago, while out performing my usual health care sales job, it occurred to me fundraising for an equine rescue is probably one of the most difficult jobs I have had.

As volunteers, board members, executives and friends, we are forced to begin to think out of the box (or the stall) about new and innovative ways to “sell” the public on the fact that saving horses is the right thing to do. In general, everyone’s dollar is not going as far as it once was, and many not-for-profits are beginning to feel the crunch as donations decline. As a niche service, to attract the dollars, we must help the public see that saving horses is a worthwhile cause while at the same time, answering their question, “What’s in it for me?”

The majority of people I come into daily contact with fall into two categories: 1) They have either never known a horse, or have never contemplated that these great animals have their own personalities and emotions, or, 2) They see horses as livestock who, when are no longer needed or cannot serve the owner’s purpose, then are not worthy of care

and food. Those that see horses as more than this, sadly, are only the minority.

As we move forward with seeking support for the Rainbow Meadows’ mission, I encourage us all to get creative in addressing these attitudes. Have pictures and stories readily available so when the opportunity presents itself we can immediately have hearty discussions. Sterling and Paxton are a great example of a horse’s giving nature, and when one job in a horse’s life is done, another often awaits.

And to answer the “What’s in it for me?” question, perhaps this quote can serve as a response:

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Mahatma Gandhi



Caring for your own...

Ticks and flies are nuisances of the summer for many horse owners. Using spot-on treatments, such as Equi-Spot or Freedom Spot-on are of great help in providing protection to horses, but must be used with caution. Apply the product as instructed then watch your horse for systemic or local reactions for a few days. If it appears that your horse handles the product well, DO NOT apply any additional pesticide (fly spray, etc.) to your horse for at least 2-3 weeks. If you are planning to ride your horse, do not apply the treatment in an area where the saddle and saddle blanket rest. The build-up of heat in that area while riding can cause a reaction with the oil-based pesticide, causing irritation and pain.



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

July 20, 2008

Adoption Day and Open House

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rainbow Meadows Ranch - Sedan, KS

August 22, 2008

2nd Annual Rainbow Meadows Benefit
Golf Tournament

Colbert Hills - Manhattan, Kansas

www.colberthills.com

***Contact Shari Berry at 316-945-9408
for more details***

*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

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Phone: (620) 725-3402

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www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Thank you for your support!



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