



Nickers n' Tails

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

Summer 2011

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Spa N' Saw a great, hot day for the horses

The temperatures were high, and so was the enthusiasm. Volunteers from near and far arrived at Rainbow Meadows on the morning of June 18 ready to work hard for the horses, and work they did!

With a team of nearly 50 individuals, more than 30 horses were bathed, groomed, trimmed and loved on. Countless trees were cut down and drug away to allow for a smooth wire fence to be erected along the perimeter of the hay meadow that produces the forage that feeds the rescue horses throughout the winter.

Volunteers warmed up with a fun fitness session, led by executive director (and former exercise instructor) Karen Everhart. Truffles Catering kept everyone feeling fresh and full with endless cold drinks, refreshments and a scrumptious

(cont. on page 3)



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

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

I'm tired. Not the tired that embraces me at the end of a long, hard day, but a deeper tired that steals enthusiasm and energy. I am tired of hearing slaughter advocates - from local ranch horse owners to the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) - tell me that the only answer to the "unwanted horse" issue is to haul them to the kill floor and penetrate their brain with a captive bolt. Yes, the economic downturn of 2008 has deeply affected the ability of individuals to care for their horse(s). That same economy has eviscerated the prices for low to middle range horses,

impacting breeders.

Yet, rather than discontinuing the production of additional horses, only minimal declines in registration activities have been reported by the largest breed organizations in the country, such as the American Quarter Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association, American Jockey Club, etc. Why haven't the breed organizations and equine veterinarians stepped up to aggressively promote gelding of stallions or the spaying of mares by offering incentives for such medical procedures? I would even support a "foaling fee" for all

new babies born in an attempt to discourage production.

There have to be proactive solutions to the problem of excess horses that does not include the knee jerk reaction of intense suffering and terror experienced by the horses in America. We need to stop this insanity.



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

Riding to the Rescue



Competitive Trail Ride
Perry Lake, KS

Riding to the Rescue has been moved!

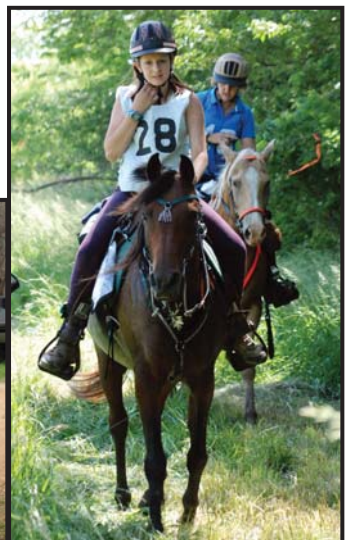
Due to health concerns surrounding the recent EHV-1 outbreak, we moved our Riding to the Rescue CTR from the originally scheduled June 3-5 to

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2011

We hope to see you there!

For more information, go to:

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue%20images/Flyers/R2RFlyer2011.pdf





"Spa N' Saw..."

(cont. from page 1)

and a scrumptious brunch, lunch and dinner. Jim Bell and Son Clothing Co. in Cottonwood Falls, Kan., provided great guy n' gal spa bags for everyone, and Denise Nelson, board member, included "Sanctuary"-scented candles and massage oils blended especially for Rainbow Meadows.



Everyone had a great time, and the day was very, very productive. Because of the dedication and hard work of the many volunteers, great progress was made at the rescue. We're all looking forward to next year!

Thank you to all of the great volunteers who gave of their time and talents and made Spa N' Saw a success!



Our newest additions

HORSE DESCRIPTION LEGEND CODES:

DOB: Date of birth

G: Gender

HT: Height

CO: Companion only

WT: Weight (lbs.)

ST: Saddle training

RE: Riding experience needed

PR: Personality (1=very calm/laid back, 10=sensitive/reactive)

TL: Training level (1=green, 5=very experienced)

RMR Heart Song (a.k.a. Charity)

DOB: May 15, 2011 ~ G: Mare ~ HT: 10h ~ WT: 220 and growing

PR: 3 ~ ST: n/a ~ TL: Learning baby lessons ~ RE: n/a

Born to Ses, Charity has spent every day since her birth at Rainbow Meadows. Ses was seized by a Kansas humane society due to severe neglect and malnutrition and later foaled in May 2011 at the rescue. Charity is an outgoing and curious young filly who is very enthusiastic to learn her baby lessons and is very easily handled. She will not be available for adoption separate from Ses until she is weaned later in 2011.



Clyde

DOB: Approx. 1991 ~ G: Gelding ~ HT: 15h1/2" ~ WT: 1100

PR: 1 ~ ST: Yes ~ TL: 5 ~ RE: Beginner

Saved from a trip to the local sale barn in central Kansas, Clyde has been the resident 'guest horse' for the ranch owner who rescued him from a probable trip to Mexico. He spent the majority of his previous years as a working ranch horse and deserves some easy years as a recreational trail horse. His owner asked that Rainbow Meadows become Clyde's advocate and find him a new home.

Faith

DOB: Approx. 1990 ~ G: Mare ~ HT: 16h ~ WT: 950 and gaining

PR: 1 ~ ST: Yes ~ TL: Unknown ~ RE: Unknown

Faith was part of the large herd of horses seized from a KS rescue in July 2010. At the time of seizure she was severely malnourished and weak. Unfortunately, she was returned to the rescue operator as a part of a plea bargain by the courts. A few months later Faith needed a new home and Rainbow Meadows stepped up to offer this sweet mare a safe place to land where her needs will be met until a forever home is located. She is reported to have been a cross country eventer in the past but there is no way to know for certain.



Strawberry

DOB: 2001 ~ G: Mare ~ HT: 10h2" ~ WT: 462

PR: 1 ~ ST: Yes ~ TL: 2 ~ RE: 2



Strawberry originally came to Rainbow Meadows in 2008 as one of 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 along with llamas, dogs, sheep, goats, cats, cattle, turkeys, chickens and prairie dogs in one of Kansas's largest cases of animal cruelty. Strawberry was adopted with her colt, Freedom, in February 2009. However, in May 2011, the adopters chose to return the ponies to Rainbow Meadows due to personal reasons. During her adoption Strawberry was used as a riding pony for their young grandson, and will make a great partner to her new adoptive family!

Freedom

DOB: June 5, 2008 ~ G: Gelding ~ HT: 9h3" ~ WT: 445

PR: 2 ~ ST: No (too young) ~ TL: 2 ~ RE: n/a

Freedom was born at Rainbow Meadows to Strawberry in 2008, one of the "Lucky 19+4." Freedom was adopted with Strawberry in February 2009. However, in May 2011, the adopters chose to return the ponies to Rainbow Meadows due to personal reasons. During his adoption, Freedom was allowed to grow up into the handsome and gentle boy that he is. He is waiting to be a wonderful addition to his new adoptive home.



Finally home...

Rainbow Meadows rescues find their forever homes...



Big Boy and John with adopter

Tucker and Mickie with adopters



Abbi with adopters

The Way Forward on Horse Welfare

By Michael Markarian, president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund

Source: http://hslf.typepad.com/political_animal/2011/06/the-way-forward-on-horse-welfare.html

The Government Accountability Office released a new report yesterday, "Horse Welfare: Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter," and some proponents of horse slaughter are using it as a rallying cry to re-open equine abattoirs on American soil. But the GAO report is a lot more nuanced than the horse slaughter industry suggests, and the report provides some good insights into better policy solutions for horse welfare. And it confirms what we have long known: that shipping horses long distances in double-decker trailers and killing them for food exports isn't good for the horses.

The report indicates that since Congress blocked the use of tax dollars for USDA to conduct horse slaughter inspections in 2005, and since state legislation shut down the last remaining plants in Illinois and Texas in 2007, there have been anecdotal accounts of an increase in horse neglect and abandonment, and a decline in horse prices. Given that this time period has coincided with the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the GAO can't conclude whether these problems are due to a closure of U.S. horse slaughter plants or to the country's financial crisis. However, the report clearly shows that the number of horses being sent to slaughter, more than 130,000 each year, has not changed all that much since the closure of the domestic plants (due to an increase in export of horses for slaughter to Canada and Mexico), suggesting that the same number of irresponsible owners—not more—are still sending their horses to slaughter.

Industries that want to profit from horse slaughter, and the export of American horse meat to Europe



and Asia, will claim that we need to re-open horse slaughter plants in the U.S. so that horses are not traveling long distances to Canada and Mexico, and that Congress should fund USDA oversight of horse slaughter, potentially adding millions of dollars to the federal budget and distracting agency inspectors from other food safety responsibilities. But when a handful of slaughter plants did operate in the U.S., horses still traveled long distances across the country in dangerous double-decker trucks, and the transport and slaughter processes involved were inherently inhumane. There's no reason to believe that slaughter plants would spring up in every community to make the transport distances shorter, or that horses would evolve into a species that no longer has a flight response, which makes the stunning and slaughter process very difficult and clumsy. It's like saying the U.S. should repeal its child labor laws because bad actors are using Mexican children to work in factories or transporting American children across the border to Mexico to work in response to U.S. law.

Instead, the GAO report offers a menu of options for lawmakers and regulators to

consider, some of them very good: The report recommends that "Congress may wish to consider instituting an explicit ban on the domestic slaughter of horses and exports of U.S. horses intended for slaughter in foreign countries." That's the right response for Congress to stem the tide of American horses going over our borders for slaughter in Canada and Mexico and ensure that this inhumane practice doesn't resume in this country. That's exactly what the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act aims to do. The Senate bill, S. 1176, was introduced this month by Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. The House-passed agriculture spending bill retains the current de-funding provision to block funds for horse slaughter, and we'll be working to make sure that the right language holds up in the Senate and that key members of the Appropriations Committee don't attempt to subvert the House position when they hammer out the final bill in conference committee. Congress needs to ban exports of horses for slaughter, not try to create a new network of U.S. slaughter plants.

The GAO report also confirms that the use of double-decker trailers in the transport of horses represents a



“The way forward...” (cont. from page 6)

significant threat to animal welfare, recommending that “USDA issue a final rule to protect horses through more of the transportation chain to slaughter.” Double-decker trailers are designed for animals such as cattle and pigs—shorter-necked species than horses, who require more headroom than double-decker trailers afford. Horses often throw their heads to maintain balance, and injure themselves easily in such vehicles. In 2006, a double-decker truck hauling 41 horses in Missouri crashed, killing 16 horses. In 2007, a double-decker carrying 59 horses in Illinois struck another vehicle after blowing through a stop sign. It took five hours to rescue the horses from this mangled truck, resulting in the death of nine of them; six died later due to injuries sustained. In both instances, the design of the trailers caused horses to lose parts of their legs or break their backs. A few were crushed under the weight of other horses falling on top of them.

Such a rule to prevent injury and death was first proposed by USDA in 2007, and we call on the agency to finalize it without delay, banning the use of double-decker trailers for the transport of horses to all points en route to slaughter.

In addition to policy solutions, more education of horse owners is needed. The cost of horse ownership has gone up significantly, at a time when the average horse owner's ability to afford that cost has fallen drastically. This situation can only be resolved by greater outreach and information about the private responsibilities and expense of horse ownership, and the options available to struggling horse owners such as adoption and rescue groups. We also need a continued reduction in breeding of new horses while the economy is creating fewer, not more, horse owners—a practice that many responsible horsemen are currently following.

The horse slaughter industry, along with their allies in the agribusiness lobby and some veterinarians aligned with industry, are the ones who have blocked legislation to stop long-distance transport of horses to foreign countries for the purpose of slaughter, and have created the major problem identified by the GAO report. These horse exports exist only because of their obstructionism, and Congress can solve this aspect of the problem by passing the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. It's time for all sides to come together and act with great haste to close our national borders to the horse slaughter pipeline.



Michael Markarian, president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund

Equine Herpesvirus-1 Fact Sheet



With the recent outbreak of a mutant strain of equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), the highly contagious infection has been on many horse owners' minds. However, one key factor to the successful prevention and treatment of EHV-1 is to stay well informed. The Horse magazine's EHV-1 fact sheet is an excellent resources for just that. You can download it at:

<http://www.thehorse.com/Free-Reports/View.aspx?n=equine-herpesvirus-1&id=235&src=RFR>

Become a fan!



Check us out on Facebook at:
[facebook.com/RainbowMeadows](https://www.facebook.com/RainbowMeadows)



A dedication to Winrischa

*Sunshine on my shoulders
makes me happy...*



Win (above) in 2009 before he was rescued by a wonderful team of concerned individuals to June 2011 (below) when he was pampered and loved by a team of volunteers. Win is now 2 years old and loving life!!



All you need is love...

By Jeanne Dagenette, one of Win's angels



Second annual Rainbow of Hope member recognition event set for September 24

On September 24th, Rainbow Meadows will be hosting its second annual member recognition event in honor of the members of our Rainbow of Hope program. The day will feature various activities, including ranch tours, clinics delicious refreshments and the revealing of our current progress on the Rainbow of Hope itself!

Be watching your inbox for your official invitation!

***Still want to join for 2011?
It's not too late!***

Go to [www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/
Rescue_RainbowOfHope.htm](http://www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_RainbowOfHope.htm).



Want to turn a cherished photo into a glowing work of art?

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To get started, go to www.triplecrownstudio.com/contact.html. Simply provide your contact information and click the Rainbow Meadows "Buy Now" button at the bottom of the page. Then send your high quality digital photo to the e-mail address provided, and Triple Crown Studio will take it from there!

\$20 Nightlight

(With \$5 going back to Rainbow Meadows with every purchase)

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Delivery time is 2 weeks. DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME (305)305-1232 triplecrownstudio@yahoo.com



Doing some shopping? Don't forget the horses!

iGive.com has more than 680 stores that will donate to Rainbow Meadows each time you shop!

Just go to www.iGive.com, and select "Rainbow Meadows" as your cause. Then get registered, and start shopping!



We've got lots of great items at our sale barn on eBay - plus the money all goes back to the horses!



Check out our eBay Giving Works listing page at http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=31170. The horses thank you!

Welcome, Charity!



RMR Heart Song (a.k.a. Charity) was born at 12:01 a.m. on May 15, 2011 to rescued Egyptian mare, Bint Mi Seshata.

In honor of her arrival, individuals wishing to donate to her care will be gifted with a lovely glass heart pendant and cord for any donation of \$25 or more.

To receive yours, simply indicate "Filly" on your check or PayPal transaction. Pendants vary in color and size.

To donate, go to www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_HowToDonate.htm.

WANTED
VOLUNTEERS
WEB MASTER

Purpose:
Assist Rainbow Meadows in enhancing its web presence through a redesign of current site and maintaining new site

Skill set:
Previous experience in site construction, knowledge and interest in new web technologies

Monthly time commitment:
Variable during site redesign, 3-6 hours monthly for maintenance

If interested, contact director of volunteers Gracie Royle at gracie.royle@rainbowmeadowsranch.com or 316-214-1198.

Caring for your own...

Horses need an adequate volume of salt all year long, but it is especially important during the hot summer months. Ensure that your horse is getting plenty of salt by offering free choice "loose salt." Many horses will not lick enough from a typical salt block and loose salt is easier for the horse to consume. Stock salt is inexpensive and can be placed in a flat bottom bowl or in a mineral feeder.



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

August 13, 2011

Come see us in the Halstead Old Settlers Parade!

10 a.m. - Halstead, Kan.

oldsettlers.halsteadkansas.com

September 24, 2011

Rainbow of Hope Member Recognition
Rainbow Meadows Ranch - Sedan, Kan.

September 30 - October 2, 2011

RESCHEDULED!

“Riding to the Rescue” CTR

Perry State Lake - Ozawie, Kan.

www.natrc.org

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

or click here to donate:



Thank you for your support!



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

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Sedan, KS 67361