



Nickers n' Tails

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

Winter 2009

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Rainbow Meadows to host 2nd annual "For the Love of Horses..." benefit and gala

It will be an evening of food, fun and festivities – and most of all, horses. On Saturday, Feb. 28, Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. will be hosting its second annual "For the Love of Horses..." gala from 6:00-9:30 p.m. at the Midian Shrine Temple in downtown Wichita. Proceeds will benefit the Sedan-area horse rescue and retirement facility.

Attendees of the gala will enjoy international food fare and drink pairings,

live entertainment, a silent auction and a fun-filled Horseopoly competition with prizes for winners. Tickets are \$50 per plate or \$350 to reserve an eight-person table. Seating is limited, and advanced reservations are required. Both corporate and individual sponsorships are available.

To make a reservation, contact Karen Everhart, Executive Director, at 620-725-3402 or rainbowmeadowsranch@gmail.com no later than Feb. 21.



FOR THE LOVE OF HORSES...

A MANE AFFAIR BENEFIT AND GALA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2009
6:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

AT WICHITA'S DOWNTOWN
MIDIAN SHRINE TEMPLE
MECCA ROOM - 2ND FLOOR
130 N. TOPEKA

*PARKING LOTS TO NORTH, SOUTH AND EAST.
ELEVATOR AVAILABLE*

\$50.00 PER PLATE OR \$350.00 FOR ONE
8-PERSON TABLE. SEATING LIMITED.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

AN EVENING OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, A SILENT AUCTION AND A FUN-FILLED HORSEOPOLY COMPETITION WITH PRIZES FOR WINNERS!

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FARE WILL BE SERVED WITH SPECIALTY WINE/LIQUOR PAIRINGS

PLEASE RSVP TO KAREN EVERHART AT 620-725-3402 OR KAREN.EVERHART@RAINBOWMEADOWSRANCH.COM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21ST.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT RAINBOW MEADOWS EQUINE RESCUE AND RETIREMENT, INC., AN IRS-DESIGNATED 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY. WWW.RAINBOWMEADOWSRANCH.COM



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

Hoof Beats

with Karen Everhart, Executive Director

Rainbow Meadows was incorporated in October of 2005. Before incorporation, our dream had been to purchase enough land to provide plenty of room for our 10 horses to “just be horses,” as we believe they were designed to be. We thought it would also be worthwhile to provide a place of safety and love for 3-4 “rescued” horses each year. But, the dream changed quickly once people learned of our work. Well before we were ready we had horses, donations, volunteers and adopters. What was initially going to be a hobby became our “life’s work”.

Looking back over the past 3 years, we are proud of the following statistics:

Horses rescued: 61

Horses retired: 2

Placement assists: 5

Total horses rescued/assisted: 68

Horses adopted: 38

What those numbers tell us is that we have truly made a difference for a number of

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



homeless horses. Without YOUR help, we would not have been so successful. THANK YOU!!! No, we cannot save them all, but we can save them, one horse at a time. YOU can save them, one at a time, by continuing to support us.

Times are tough for everyone, but they are particularly tough for the horses. Please continue to help us help them!!



Rosie Cassell, above, with mount Sundance, during the National Rescue Ride at Kanopolis Canyon in the fall 2008.

Rainbow Meadows volunteer named top rider for National Rescue Ride

Rainbow Meadows volunteer and supporter Rosie Cassell, of Wichita, Kan., was named the top rider in the nation by collecting more sponsorship money than any other participant. Rosie raised \$4,015 for Rainbow Meadows, putting her in first place. A first prize of an additional \$1,000 was awarded to the rescue by the National Rescue Ride organization, making the total donation amount raised by Rosie \$5,015.

The October 19th National Rescue Ride attracted horse and animal lovers from 85 charities with 850 registered riders from 31 states participating. Riders and walkers collected sponsorships and rode or walked for their selected charity raising a total of over \$250,000. Rainbow Meadows hosted its event at Kanopolis Canyon State Park, and raised a total of \$7,340.00

The horses thank you, Rosie!

Welcome to our new board member!

Beth Loos

Board member

[beth.loos@](mailto:beth.loos@rainbowmeadowsranch.com)

rainbowmeadowsranch.com

For Beth, horses have always been in her spirit, from the rocking horse she would bounce across the room as a child to the horses she as encountered throughout her life. As a young child this was initially limited to lessons in Western riding since her parents moved every few years. During middle school, when her father left the military and stayed in one place for several years, an old Calvary rider, "Andy" provided lessons, starting with learning how to groom and clean tack to riding bareback and eventually to the saddle, riding English, jumping and riding trails. "Andy" guided Beth in purchasing her first horse, "Top 'O the Mornin'" a Morgan-Thoroughbred cross. "Topsy" a patient schooling horse, helped Beth move outside the arena and learn the ropes of showing and trail riding.

During her junior year in high school, a move from Tennessee to Wichita ended this relationship. Beth waited until college to find another equine friend, "Salty," a buckskin quarter horse. During



her college years, Beth and Salty enjoyed time in many fields and trails. However, owning a horse truly requires dedicated time and cash. College graduation, marriage and employment were on the forefront. Knowing this, Beth chose to find a better home for Salty where his needs for love and attention would be better met. Beth took a long break from horses to raise her children with husband, Steve.

Five years ago, Beth's son took her for an afternoon of riding: a high school teacher had horses to ride! The teacher invited Beth and her son back to help work their horses. Beth returned, the horse bug having bitten hard! For three years, Beth worked several times a week with the owner's young mare. Once the owner felt comfortable enough to

ride, Beth found her forever equine friend, quarter horse, Princess Dally! Purchased as a two-year-old, Beth and Dally spent a tremendous amount of time on the ground developing a relationship and the skills needed before moving to the saddle as a four-year-old. Dally proved herself beautifully during the October 2008 Ride to the Rescue held at Kanopolis. As a result, as a team, Beth and Dally hope to move into Competitive Trail Riding.

This passion was passed onto Beth's youngest son, Robbie. Robbie and Beth spend as much time as possible riding together, while husband/dad Steve helps out with the management of the barn. Out of the saddle, Beth has spent her life as an educator having worked with all ages - from young mothers to students in the public school arena and with adults as a fitness instructor. Currently, Beth works as a Data Coach and Assessment Coordinator for Wichita Public Schools.

Welcome, Beth!

2008 Financial Report

TOTAL EXPENSES

Office expenses	4%
Fundraiser expenses	7%
Programs and services	89%

TOTAL INFLOWS

74,044.42

2008 NET CASH FLOW

\$23,120.76

We thank all our generous donors who have supported our efforts and allow us to enter into 2009 with a positive balance and the confidence that we will be able to meet our expenses for the remainder of the winter months. Still, Rainbow Meadows continues to have to utilize dollars generated from our special fundraisers for operational expenses. Our goal remains that the fund raising events scheduled each year will allow us to launch more proactive educational programs as well as have the means to cover unexpected illness or injuries.

Our newest additions



Athena and Gaea

Rescued mare and filly, Year of birth: Approx. 1997 and 2008

Caught in the vicious cycle of neglect, this beautiful buckskin mare, Athena, and her striking foal, Gaea, have suffered greatly. Severe emaciation, heavy parasite infestation, unkempt hooves, and poor dental care all contributed to their misery. Now on the road to recovery, mother and baby must remain together until Gaea is at least 6 months old (May 2009). Athena is a very calm and docile mare who is willing to please. Gaea was totally unhandled until arrival at Rainbow Meadows and requires continued training and routine interaction to teach her that people are trustworthy.

Misty and Breeze

Rescued mare and filly, Year of birth: Approx. 1997 and 2008

In October 2008, Breeze Future Poco (a.k.a. Breeze), a Quarter horse mare of highly desirable bloodlines, and her one-month-old filly, Misty Breeze (a.k.a. Misty), were taken to a Nebraska sale barn. Breeze was slated for sale to slaughter and the auction owner reported that if Misty wasn't purchased as well, she would be shot after the mare left. Fortunately, a former killer buyer saw potential in the mare and made a point of offering to bring her home in cooperation with Shooting Star Equine Rescue and Stables, Inc. and the Fans of Barbaro/Alex Brown Racing forum if the appropriate funds could be raised.

The purchase price was paid and arrangements were made for the pair to come to the safety of Rainbow Meadows. If it were not for the generosity and open hearts of volunteers and donors, these two beautiful horses would have met a very different fate. Both are looking for their forever home.



Gigi

Rescued mare, Year of birth: Approx. 1999

GiGi is a very pretty little Saddlebred mare who was nearly 150 pounds underweight upon her arrival and was quite frightened and suspicious of humans. She was initially rescued by a caring individual in 2006 from a neglectful situation involving 12 other horses and nearly 100 goats. She was later sold, and sadly found herself again in harm's way as she was essentially abandoned by her new owner. After time spent with volunteers and care at Rainbow Meadows, Gigi is now at a healthy weight and has gained much trust in human companionship. She is waiting for a forever home and the love of an adopter.

Trucker

Rescued gelding, Year of birth: Approx. 1988

Trucker is a Saddlebred gelding who stands over 15 hands tall. He arrived at Rainbow Meadows totally emaciated. Though his owner had tried everything to address his weight issues, he was in a boarding environment with more than 30 other horses in a very small, littered dry lot, and the stresses of trying to fight for food was just too much. Trucker was a reliable mount for his former owner, who had never owned a horse before. He is gaining weight well, and although an appropriate senior feed will need to be part of his diet, he will make a wonderful riding partner for a new adoptive owner.



Mia

Rescued mare, Year of birth: Approx. 1999

This striking sorrel mare, Mia, was caught in the downward spiral of a family crisis along with another Rainbow Meadows rescue, Six (adopted). A tragic accident and significant injury to their owner resulted in strained finances and substandard care for these wonderful animals. Fortunately, a caring friend suggested that they might be better served in the loving care of Rainbow Meadows. That suggestion brought them to the safety of the rescue. Now, Mia simply awaits a new home.

Congress Addressing Horse Slaughter Cruelty in Federal Legislation

Source: The Humane Society of the United States, Press Release - January 15, 2009

A large, bipartisan coalition of lawmakers has introduced legislation to stop Mexico and Canada from killing and butchering tens of thousands of healthy American horses, as well as to codify a de facto ban on the slaughter of American horses here in the United States for sale to countries in Europe and Asia. House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) introduced the bill known as the Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, and its passage is a top priority for The Humane Society of the United States and other animal welfare and equine rescue organizations, veterinarians, horse industry groups.

Conyers and Burton were joined by 59 original co-sponsors in introducing the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, demonstrating their strong commitment to move this legislation through the process as quickly as possible and spare horses the cruel fate of slaughter for foreign gourmants. This bill is similar to legislation passed by the House Judiciary Committee last September.

"Every day that passes means that there will be more torment and more suffering for America's horses," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. "The horse is an American icon, and it is a betrayal of our responsibility to these animals to treat them like cheap commodities and send them across our borders for slaughter. We ask leaders in Congress for an up or down vote and passage of this critical legislation."

State legislatures have acted to stop horse slaughter, shuttering the last remaining foreign-owned horse slaughter plants in the U.S. in 2007, and federal courts have upheld those state laws. But Congress has failed to act to stop the export of live horses to Canada and Mexico for slaughter, which is still occurring. More than 86,000 horses were sent across U.S. borders to slaughter in Canada or Mexico in 2008, surpassing the number of exports to date in 2007.

Finally home...

More Rainbow Meadows rescues have found their forever homes!



Silver (above) went to her forever home.



Noble and Izzy (below) with their adoptive family.



Hope (above left) with adopter, Susan and Tommy (above right) with adopter, Bev.



Six (above) with adopter, Vic.



Chief (below) with his adoptive family.



Holiday Giving Campaign a success!

The 2008 Holiday Giving Campaign was a marked success for Rainbow Meadows! Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the campaign brought in \$3,336.00 for the rescue in the month of December.

We want to offer our sincere gratitude to everyone who has given to the rescue over this past year - we couldn't do it without you!



Take a look and help the horses!

Be sure to take a look at these Web sites for gifts, information and more - all to help the horses!

American Horse Defense Fund

<http://www.ahdf.org/>

Glorious Greetings

<http://www.gloryofhorses.com/glorious-greetings.php>

Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009

Animal Welfare Institute

<http://www.awionline.org/legislation/horse-transportation/index.htm>

A word from the board...

by Dr. Jan Johnston, DVM, Medical Director - Board of Directors

I had thought about focusing this piece on the present down-spiraling economic situation and various other negative topics such as horse neglect, abuse, and abandonment cases. But, unfortunate as they are, you are probably all very aware of these or you wouldn't be interested in reading this newsletter.

Instead, I would like to bring to everyone's attention the fact that Rainbow Meadows not only discusses these topics, but is taking action to help provide a solution. I am honored to be a part of that. Educating the general public is an important integral, and everybody associated with Rainbow Meadows does their part to open the public's eyes to issues such as proper care, nutrition, and probably one of the least recognized - the ongoing expense of owning a horse. Then there is the ever so controversial subject of slaughter. One would not believe the number of people who are not aware or choose to deny that there IS an alternative. These people need to be taught differently. So we try to educate.

Of course, the rescue and retirement portion of Rainbow Meadows remains the mainstay. Rainbow Meadows has truly been blessed with adopters, new owners, willing participants, outstretched hands, and

open hearts. It never ceases to amaze me how many horses can be placed when given the opportunity. We all know that God has to have his hand in this, because invariably, like a puzzle piece falling into place, the horse will fill a void in that new owner's life. Ultimately, we are here for the horses, but no one can deny the satisfaction derived from seeing a person's life changed for the better as well.

On a final note, I must say that Rainbow Meadows does a phenomenal job of managing the medical needs of all the horses that arrive at the ranch. Karen and David cannot be praised enough for the amount of time and attention they devote to each and every horse. I personally thank them for making my job easier and the horses happier. After all, allowing the horses to be happy is what it is all about. God bless them all and may we all have a hand in making 2009 a better year for the horse!



Caring for your own...

Winter generally means that the cost to heat our house increases, but did you know that the metabolic cost to keep your horse warm increases, too? Providing your horses with 10 - 15 % more hay is necessary to increase the digestive activities to keep him warm through these cold days and nights.



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

February 10, 2009

Kansas Humane Lobby Day
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Docking State Office Building - Topeka, KS

February 13-15, 2009

12th Annual Equifest of Kansas
Kansas Coliseum - Wichita, KS

February 28, 2009

2nd Annual "For the Love of Horses..."
Benefit and Gala
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Midian Shrine - Wichita, KS

June 6-7, 2009

2nd Annual "Riding to the Rescue" CTR
Perry Lake, KS

*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

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Phone: (620) 725-3402

Email: karen.everhart@rainbowmeadowsranch.com

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

or click here to donate:



Thank you for your support!



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