

## Geronimo

CONGRATULATIONS GERONIMO (now known as Nugget). He left for his adoptive home this past weekend and he is settling in well.





CONGRATULATIONS to Lydia and Ditsy on their adoption this past weekend! These two littles came to West Virginia Horse Network, Inc. via the ASPCA's Horse Adoption Express program. These minis had been with another rescue for a long time looking for adopters. At West Virginia Horse Network we always have people looking for minis. So the ASPCA was able to bring these littles and 3 others to us so that they could find new homes faster.

It is a GREAT partnership and we are thrilled to have been able to be part of the journey to finding them a new home.

HUGE thanks also to Debra and Randelle for stepping up to foster these gals and to the volunteers working behind the scenes to process these applications with care.

Teamwork leads to more horses finding awesome homes.



#### <mark>Max</mark>

MAX is settling in great and making new friends in his adoptive home.

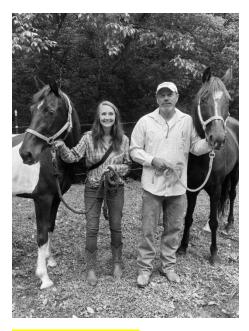


#### <mark>Loretta Lynn</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS to Loretta Lynn on her adoption this week 🖤 This sweet little mare waited a long time for her person to come along.

Special thanks to our vet for referring this adopter and helping to make this connection.

Thanks as well to Loretta's foster family and all of the volunteers who worked with her this summer through our Treasure Hunt program.



## Shako & Leroy

CONGRATULATIONS to SHAKO (renamed Midnight) and LEROY on their recent adoption ♥

They participated in our Treasure Hunt Program this summer. One of our awesome mentors, Sydney, helped coach and support Shako and Leroy's adopters as they brushed up on the skills they need to be amazing adopters.

We are so grateful to have been able to match all of these wonderful people and horses together "For the Love of Horses"



## **Chester**

CONGRATULATIONS CHESTER on your adoption. His adopter has renamed him "Kiyah" a name significant to her and her journey to finding this lovely fella.



# <mark>Spanky</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS SPANKY!! He was out on a month long trial period...but the family decided they didn't need the whole 30 days to decide!!

As you can see he's getting lots of love, grooming and spoiling in his now officially adoptive home.





CONGRATS to Gunner on being adopted this month. We never really promoted him much because we were pretty sure he was going to be adopted by his long time foster family....and this past weekend they made it official.



# <mark>Poppy</mark>

Poppy got adopted this week! She is such a lucky girl.



# **Harley**

CONGRATULATIONS HARLEY on getting adopted and finding a little girl of your own.



# **Valentino**

CONGRATULATIONS Val... We are pleased to share that Valentino has been adopted and will be living with Chester (now Kiyah).

Thanks to everyone who made this placement possible and to his awesome new family!



# <mark>Taco</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS TACO on your adoption today! We know you will be dearly loved just as you deserve to be.



# <mark>Chester</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS CHESTER on your adoption. His adopter has renamed him "Kiyah" a name significant to her and her journey to finding this lovely fella.

He will be going to live at a lovely farm in Iowa!



# Shadow

CONGRATULATIONS SHADOW on finding a wonderful new home with Melissa, one of our Adoption Academy graduates. Melissa was fully committed to the program and has continued to volunteer at the rescue to help develop even more skills to prepare her for horse ownership.

She had been waiting for the right horse to come along for her. And when Shadow came to us, we knew these two were going to be just what each other needed.

Thanks to <u>The Right Horse</u> for the grant that funded this innovative project and helped these two find each other.



# <mark>Donk</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS DONK on your adoption this weekend. Donk is actually a mini mule, but he developed the nickname and it stuck. His family is planning to keep it too because it suits him.

Thanks to everyone who pulled together to help us make this awesome match.



#### **Napoleon**

CONGRATULATIONS NAPOLEON! We are THRILLED to share that Napoleon has been adopted! We appreciate the family who has fostered him the past several months and Lisa Lawrence at Coventry Woods for helping us make this amazing match with his adopters. It takes a village sometimes to help horses find their perfect person... and Napoleon has had many people looking out for him along the way.



# <mark>Pumpkin</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS PUMPKIN on your adoption! It is official, she'll be staying with her long time foster family.



#### <mark>Trevor</mark>

After numerous approved applications that just didn't work out for one reason or another...it seems that Trevor's someone has finally come along. He is scheduled to leave for his new home in a few days.

When adoptions fall through for one reason or another it is easy to get discouraged. We know the horse is amazing. Often times applicants will be just as excited as us and then suddenly things happen and they are no longer able to adopt. It happens. But it is tough when you had such high hopes. That has happened for Trevor at least 3 times.

But today the young man that is adopting Trevor came by to visit him. He lead Trevor around the barn gleefully. He told me that when he dreams at night....he dreams of "this pony". He says from the minute he saw Trevor he was in love and asked his grandfather if he could have Trevor and his grandfather said yes. He gets a kick out of the little shuffle step that Trevor does when he takes off at a trot. This child just adores Trevor to the core.

I told one of our volunteers once during one of those adoptions that didn't go through...that I've learned not to get too discouraged. Because almost always when this happens it is because the RIGHT person hasn't come along yet. That perfect someone that the horse or pony is waiting for. I think all of those applications fell through because Trevor knew his little boy hadn't found him yet.

In this photo Trevor is pictured with Kenzie...one of our Barn Buddies who works with him. She shed tears of happiness today knowing Trevor found a kid all his own. Tears of sadness too because she'll miss him. Our volunteers give so much of themselves to these horses to prepare them for happily ever after....mostly they give a piece of their heart.



## <mark>Velvet</mark>

It is official!! Velvet has been adopted by the awesome folks at Coventry Woods Stables! They fostered and trained her the entire time she's been with us and have done a stellar job...and while doing all of that...they and the rest of the barn family fell in love with this adorable little mare. Congratulations to everyone involved.



# <mark>Oliver</mark>

OLIVER left for his new home today!!! We are so happy for him!!



# Eclipse & Cherokee

CONGRATULATIONS to Cherokee and Eclipse on your adoption today. These two horses went to such a wonderful family and we were so happy to meet them.



# <mark>Louie</mark>

LOUIE was adopted today! Thanks to his foster family for giving him a ride to his new home.

This adoption was a direct result of our Rescue Road Trip project with the ASPCA.



# <mark>Buttercup</mark>

Buttercup and her new adopter! These two make the greatest pair.



# <mark>Bonnie</mark>

We are so happy to announce that Bonnie's foster family has decided to become her adoptive family!



## <mark>Anna</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS ANNA on finding a lovely new home. This is what it is all about



# <mark>Liberty</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS to Liberty and her adopter on their new partnership.



# <mark>Chucky</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS CHUCKY on finding a new home!! His adopter picked him up this week. His buddy (Sweet Pea - adopted) didn't want him to go as you can see.

Thanks to everyone who helped Chucky along his journey.



#### **Barney**

BARNEY is settling in great at his new home and making friends with some of the other donkeys there. When we rescued him earlier this year his hooves were so overgrown he could barely walk and he hadn't been gelded or handled much. It took months of rehabilitation to get him to this point and we are so grateful to his adopter for giving him the wonderful home he deserves. We are also grateful to his fosters who helped nurse him through the more difficult

parts of his rehab and to our vet and farrier for being there to give him the (at times, intense) care that was necessary to save him.



# **Strawberry Shortcake**

CONGRATULATIONS to Strawberry Shortcake (now known as "Miss Cutie Pie") on your new home with the Linharts.

She fostered with them for a few weeks and quickly won their hearts.

The Linharts are students in our Adoption Academy program made possible through a grant from <u>The Right Horse</u>. We are happy to have been able to help this family along on their journey toward horse ownership.



# <mark>Sassy</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS SASSY!! She was officially adopted this morning and is on her way home to New York today.



# <mark>Athena</mark>

Sweet Athena found a perfect home!



#### <mark>Sweet Pea</mark>

My name is Sweet Pea and I am a yearling mini horse. The West Virginia Horse Network (WVHN) rescued me from an auction. I was scared, missing my mom, and not feeling well. After spending several weeks at WVHN, I was feeling better and a lady and little boy took me home with them.

It was scary going to another new place but there were other horses there and a lot of grass and good food. At first, I was not willing to make friends because I was so scared and missing my mom. Then I met a nice gelding who helped me to realize this was a nice place to be. I also did not know how to be part of a herd and the gelding and his friends (another gelding and mare) took me under their wings and showed me how to behave. We all spend a lot of time together out in a larger pasture with lots of grass and hills.

Then there are the people...the lady feeds me every day. I like her because she lets me hang out with her and do stuff when she is in the barn. I heard her say that she adopted me and that means I get to stay here forever. I have a fun game I play with her. I pick up stuff and drag it around the barn. Then she goes and picks it up and takes it back to where I got it from.

I also have my very own little boy! We take walks together and I am teaching him how to play ball. I toss or kick the ball and he runs and gets it and brings it back to me. He is so funny!

I am learning and doing new things every day. I would have never imagined that I could have horse friends, my own lady and little boy, and most of all a HOME!! Thank you Doris Day Animal Foundation for helping West Virginia Horse Network and helping me find a great forever home and a great life!!!



### **Picasso**

Picasso found a perfect home. We are so happy for him!



## **Champagne**

On March 13, 2020 we made the trip to Sugarcreek to pull a few horses thanks to a unique grant that we had received from the <u>Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF)</u>.

So many horses that go through that auction begin the journey to slaughter when they leave. Even the healthy perfect ones meet that fate. Much less the scrawny, sick and downtrodden.

We made this trip literally days before the country shut down because of COVID-19.

In a place where there is so much suffering and sadness the decision on who to save isn't easy. It is overwhelming. But Chammy's sad face and beauty caught our attention and she made the list of horses we'd bid on.

This mare was one decision away from the slaughter truck. But thankfully the stars aligned...and we were there the day she was there...we got this grant...she caught our attention... Deb was able to bring a 2nd trailer so we could save some extras that day.

This past weekend, Chammy (Champagne) left for her new life with the Canterbury's. When I got this picture from Dawn last night it really sunk in....how impactful one decision can be.

CONGRATULATIONS Champagne on your new life.



## Charlie Brown

Congrats Jamie and Charlie Brown! We couldn't be happier for you both.



# <mark>Pearl</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS Pearl on finding a wonderful new home! Thanks to everyone who made this day possible.



# <mark>Nacho</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS Nacho on finding the absolute perfect home alongside another West Virginia Horse Network alum Captain. Captain was adopted by a wonderful family back in the

summer of 2017. During a "check in" several weeks ago they let us know that Captain was needing a buddy.

We thought little Nacho would be the perfect man for the job. Our "Rescue Road Trip" project made the long trip to take Nacho there to see if they'd get along...a feasible option.

The family tested the two out together and as you will see in these pictures the two minis have become the best of friends....so much so that the family has decided to add little Nacho as a permanent member of the family.

We are so grateful to those who believe in the idea of adoption and previous adopters who come back to us when they are looking to expand their equine family.

Thank you to the ASPCA for believing in our Rescue Road Trip vision that is helping to break down the barriers when it comes to getting horses adopted.



# **Holiday**

Congratulations to Cariana and Holiday!



# <mark>Stuffy</mark>

Congrats Stuffy on your new adoptive home! Happy trails.



## **Webster**

Webster's foster has decided she cannot part with him and has decided to make him a permanent member of her equine family.

We are tremendously grateful for the The McElroy Family who sponsored his entire rehabilitation. They were thrilled when we told them the news that the horse they not only sponsored but also named -- has found his perfect home.

Thank you to Marlo for adopting your second WVHN horse! You ROCK.

Webster is our first adoption of 2020 and our first adoption through the Rescue Road Trip project funded by the ASPCA.



# <mark>Willie</mark>

Willie left for his new home today! Congratulations to his new family.



# <mark>Cali</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS to Cali and Elizabeth. We all need a pick me up and some positive news during this difficult time in our world. So we thought we'd share the great news that Cali's foster mom has decided to make her a permanent member of the family!



#### <mark>Gizmo</mark>

Gizmo was able to find a new home this spring with our help. His owner reached out for assistance to safely rehome him. We made arrangements to have him gelded and vaccinated and transitioned him to a fantastic new home with someone who had contacted us looking for a pasture mate.

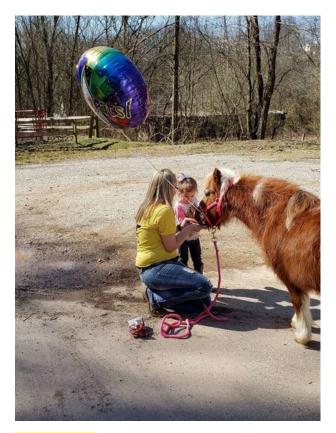


## Legend

Legend (black and white) left for his new home on Saturday. He's doing great and has a companion in a little mini horse that is keeping him in line.

His family sent us this update:

"Hi Legend checking in from my new home. This is where I live at a beautiful stable in Whipple, OH. I'm excited to be here and meet the new horses but unfortunately, they are not excited to meet me. But they will come around. This is my one friend I made on the ride home. His name is Cody. He's kind of a short horse but has a great personality. I've spent the last couple of days in my new play pen where I spend majority of my day while Cayley is in school, I was so excited to see her when she came home today."



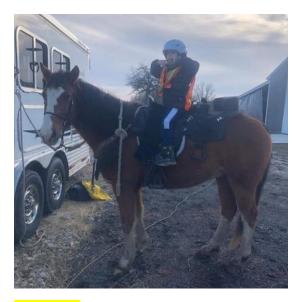
## Daisy Mae

Daisy on found a little girl to love her! Her new name is "Baby Horse" and her adopters couldn't be more excited.



# <mark>Vegas</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS to Vegas and his new family! This handsome boy was adopted today and we could not be more thrilled for him.



## **Apache**

Apache caught the eye of a family from Michigan who rides many miles of trails. They traveled all the way to West Virginia to meet him and then came back a few weeks later to pick him up and take him home.

We LOVE facilitating great matches like this one through teamwork and collaboration.

Please never let geography keep you from adopting...we adopt horses to states all across the country as long as they are great applicants.



# <mark>Georgie</mark>

Georgie was adopted today by a family that we believe is perfect for him! Thanks to his foster family for their commitment to training this previously unhandled pony and helping him to be his very best self.



# <mark>Cindy Lou Who</mark>

CONGRATULATIONS to Cindy Lou Who and the Prichard Family. She's been in foster with them for months. Today they let us know they are ready to officially welcome her as a permanent member of the family! This has been meant to be from the start and we couldn't be more thrilled for LouLou and her people.



# **Reggie**

Sweet Reggie heading to his new home.

He was found running as a stray in rural West Virginia a few months ago. His eye oozing and painful. No one ever came forward to claim him. So we agreed to bring him in to <u>West Virginia Horse Network</u>, <u>Inc.</u>. For our little rescue the cost of surgery to have his eye removed seemed oppressive but we had faith that people would step up to help. They did. Our vet was incredible. She did such a beautiful job on this procedure and he healed beautifully.

In the weeks that followed he got vaccines and got his teeth floated.

I honestly thought he'd be in the rescue forever. On a day when I was feeling especially frustrated that so many horses were still waiting for homes I did a post about Reggie...wondering if anyone would ever give him a chance.

That day I was contacted by a gal who has adopted from us before. She's part of an equine therapy program. She knew in her heart that Reggie would be great to help others grow and overcome.

And so today we sent Reggie off to do great things.

Stray - abandoned - broken - healed - restored - empowered.

A grand journey summarized in a few words.

That's his story. Thanks for every dollar you give to make this possible.



#### <mark>Violet</mark>

Sweet Violet (now Willow) finally found the perfect home. Enjoy all of the spoiling to come pretty girl.



# Legacy & Lucille

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucille (now known as Keepsake) and Legacy for finding a wonderful home together this weekend.

Both of these mares had been waiting for years to find their perfect match. So we are so pleased that they have finally found a home of their own. It is even better that they get to be together.

Because both mares were with us for so long, many many people played a part in getting them to this day. Along the way their fosters have loved them like their own, caring for them for months and months and investing heart and soul into the mission of helping them find their person.

We are so grateful to everyone who worked so hard and gave so much of themselves on behalf of Legacy and Lucille. We are also grateful to their kind adopter for realizing the beauty of adding not just one but two rescued horses to the family.



# Sarge

Some BUNNY special got adopted this weekend. Sarge went to an absolutely fantastic home that is perfect for him. He will be a companion for another senior horse.

We are so very very grateful for this family. They have been patient and kind and just so wonderful.

Congratulations Sarge on finding the place that you have always belonged.



#### <mark>Jax</mark>

It is with tremendous happiness that I announce Jax has been adopted by his long time foster Carole! Jax has come a long way in just under a year. For many of those months Carole was by his side. Congrats to both of you.

Jax is an off the track Thoroughbred (OTTB). After his racing career ended he was passed around and ended up a shell of his former self. Thankfully he ultimately landed with us.

THIS is what it is all about!



#### **Fergus**

CONGRATULATIONS to Fergus and his new family. He was adopted today and we couldn't be happier for him!



# <mark>Vince</mark>

Vince is adopted! We are very excited for his new adventures.



## <mark>Amara</mark>

Went to her new home. She was excited to meet her new friend Shrek.



# <mark>Major</mark>

Megan finally got her man. We know Major and Megan will love each other forever. Tragically, Major passed away from complications of colic. He will always be remembered.



## <mark>Trevor</mark>

Found his new home. We can't wait to hear about all of the awesome adventures he has with his adopter.



### <mark>Autumn</mark>

Found a beautiful new home in Roane County with a family excited to share their life with her.



# <mark>Pilgrim</mark>

Has stolen the hearts of everyone at the barn in his short time here. We are all so happy for him and his new family.



# <mark>Rebel</mark>

Found a new home!



# <mark>Captain</mark>

Left for his new home in Virginia. His foster family was there to see him off.



# Percy Jackson

Left for his new home. His new family is amazing. We are so thankful for great adopters like these folks.



# <mark>Sweetie</mark>

Congratulations on finding a great new home Sweetie has officially been adopted.



### <mark>Summer</mark>

Has officially been adopted by her long time foster, trainer and friend Abigail. Abigail her been there since day one of Summer's journey with West Virginia Horse Network, Inc. We are so thrilled these two were able to find each other.



## Peanut

Congrats to Peanut and Miriam I hope you enjoy your new home in Florida.



### <mark>Thor</mark>

Was adopted today! He went to a lovely new home in Virginia.

Thor came to us in October 2016...when he got off the trailer he didn't even know how to lead. When the vet first saw him while he was still with Roane County shelter he was too skittish to handle. In the months since his rescue our Barn Buddies have worked to build him into a smart and confident pony. He is well adjusted, talented and has a very sturdy foundation in place that his adopters can build upon. The kids did most of the work on their own...with guidance from us. We are in awe of their talent and dedication. They built him literally from the ground up. There were tears today...tears of pride...tears of happiness...that Thor's life has turned around for the better



#### Duke & Rory

Were adopted in October 2016 to a lovely family in Pennsylvania. They will be working with a trainer to help keep up with Duke and Rory's progress. Duke was rescued toward the end of winter in 2016 after

his previous owner fell on hard times and could no longer care for him. Aurora was rescued on July 4th after she got out of her owner's fence and went wandering. The owner told the people who found her to "keep her or shoot her". Thankfully they called us to come and get her instead. We are so happy to see both of these horses get their second chance at the life they deserve.



#### <mark>Hope</mark>

We are thrilled to report that Hope's long-time foster has decided to make it official. Hope has really thrived since she went to stay with her foster family. Some things are just meant to be.



# **Vader**

Has found a new home with a great family.



# <mark>Scout</mark>

Found his new home in Virginia. He was a prayer answered for his adopter and her family. Happy Trails sweet boy. Congratulations on your wonderful future.



## <mark>Una</mark>

Congratulations on finding your very own little girl. We are pleased to announce that Una was adopted this week. Una was rescued in October 2015 as part of a cruelty case in southern West Virginia. Happy Trails ladies.



#### lce

Was adopted in April 2016 by Paige. Paige is one of our Barn Buddies. Paige and Ice shared a special connection from the moment he came to WVHN. A little girl found her perfect horse and a horse found his perfect little girl. We couldn't be happier for these two.



#### <mark>Arizona</mark>

Several people applied for Arizona. Several were approved. Several went to meet her and loved her. But for some reason it seemed something always came up at the last minute to keep this little mare from finding a new family. But now we know why. She was waiting for her perfect kid to come along smile emoticon Barn Buddy Layla and her family went to meet her and fell in love.



# **Paisley**

Came to West Virginia Horse Network as an owner surrender when her family was no longer able to care for her. She was under a year old at the time. Her foster dad ended up falling in love with her and decided to adopt her. Paisley is a pretty girl and has a great future ahead of her.



#### **Remington**

A precious love that you have watched develop over the past few months...became "official". A kind friend of our organization reached out to us...moved by Kadence's love for Remy. She offered to cover his fee. We let Kadence's mom know about the offer...and well....

Mom signed the contract - obviously - but so did Kadence and her brother Jakob. Remy really will be a family commitment. I do want to point out the joy that it gave these kids to sign the contract -- committing to care for Remington for the rest of his life and return him to WVHN if for some reason they can no longer keep that promise. So many adults are unfortunately offended and put off by the requirement. This...is an example of what every rescue horse deserves.



#### <mark>Oreo</mark>

It is a lovely home and we are so excited for him and the great opportunities in his future.

He has been a staple in our barn for a few years now and earned the love of our Barn Buddies. While there were tears...they know that this is ultimately what we work for...every single day.



# **Chase**

Has found a new home. We hope he and his new adopter live a happy life together.



#### **Mercedes**

December 4, 2014 our group went to an auction in Jackson County. We'd been to that auction and much worse ones before. We knew what to expect. We were a brand new group at the time still doing most of our work out of pocket. So we knew...despite what our hearts might say, we could only save one.

There were many who needed us. There was an entire herd of completely unhandled yearlings. Some were injured. Some just had horrible deformities. There were old ones. There were lame ones. We had to think about which ones needed us most and which would be the most likely to be adopted after being rehabbed.

We narrowed our choices down to a thin gaited mare and a senior horse in the same corral as her. We chose the thin gaited mare. I can't tell you why. I don't know what happened to the senior horse. It makes me sick to imagine it.

We bid on the thin mare as she went through. We had the top bid....a mere \$50.

Board member Victoria named her Mercedes...."Mercy" for short. Of all the deserving horses that day she had been the one shown the mercy of a loving group of rescuers.

As we walked her away from the auction house that day she tried to jump in every trailer on the way to ours. She was ready to go.

Mercy had dental problem that made it painful for her to eat. She was so emaciated it caused her to get fecal matter in places that resulted in a horrible urinary infection. She struggled to gain weight for months even though we did all the right things and followed the vets advice. She fostered with three different board members but didn't truly thrive in any of them.

Then one day we were facing the possibility of some new intakes and were trying to make room. That is when the Reed family stepped up and volunteered to foster. There was snow on the ground that day when we delivered Mercy. There was a brightness and a joy in her eyes from the moment she arrived. It was a look and a spirit we hadn't seen before. Since Mercy arrived with the Reed family she has thrived. She's a great healthy weight. She is happy and healthy and loved.

Months have passed. We've made video upon video of Mercy being awesome, riding her through a variety of situations. We've taken her to trail rides. We've taken her to horses shows. There's been interest but never one single application. We've always wondered why? How could no one want this mare.

Mercy grew especially fond of the mother of the mother/daughter Reed foster duo. Mercy loves this woman so much. When Mercy looks up and sees someone other than her -- you can see the disappointment on Mercy's face.

So now, the beautiful crescendo of this tale. It turns out, as our board suspected, the reason we had no applicants for Mercy was because she was already where she belonged. She was already home.

Her foster family has decided to make it official and adopt Mercy.

We are so happy for all involved heart emoticon Congrats Mercy and the Reed Family. It was always meant to be.

The first two shots are of Mercy recently the others are of her the day that she started her journey to a better life.



#### **Stormy**

Is well loved in his adoptive home with Sharon H.

All is well and good. Stormy is in good shape for winter. He and Raja are still great friends. He is still running with the cattle and followed them into the hill meadow. He has a new buddy, too. The border collie and Stormy play and frolic. It is pretty funny. Stormy is so laid back and as Butch says - he is so easy and no trouble. We are very happy with him and think he is a pretty happy boy. I really think he is the perfect horse for us.



### **Daisy**

I remembered back to the day that me (Nicky) and board member Deb went to meet Daisy for the first time. A couple, who were not her owner but were helping her owner, are the ones who reached out to us initially. Daisy had been injured twice in her owner's pasture. She had been moved to a boarding facility to be on stall rest...for the second time in a year. The owner was no longer able to provide her a place to be that was not in his pasture.

So we talked to the couple that day. They told us Daisy had three options...1) Go to a riding therapy program 2) Go to a rescue 3) Go to auction. Riding therapy programs typically need sound horses for the activities they offer the community so they cannot be expected to accept horses that are healing from an injury. They also typically do not have funding available for extensive vetting and diagnostics. So that wasn't an option for Daisy.

So the conversation really came down to rescue or auction. Many times owners will throw the "auction" threat around without a plan to back it up...but in this case Daisy had a plan to get to the sale. It was going to happen.

Deb and I couldn't make any decisions without talking to our board of directors. But I spoke frankly to the couple that had contacted us on Daisy's behalf. I said "IF we cannot take her into rescue and you cannot find another rescue to take her in a timely manner I would like to offer you financial assistance to have her euthanized." From me of all people this is not something you'd typically hear. But the words came out of my mouth with confidence and certainty that they were the correct advice. NOT because Daisy would be unable to heal or because she was in horrific pain...because honestly neither of those seemed to be true.

I have observed first hand many of these auctions, not just in West Virginia but also in Kentucky and Ohio. (Daisy was headed to an out of state auction). While it might not be something we like to think about -- horse slaughter is a real thing. I'm sure many presume it is an internet myth or animal welfare

propaganda. But I have watched "the meat man" in action buying horse after horse to be hauled out of the country for slaughter. Sound, healthy, trained horses DO go to the "meat man" who can easily outbid the private person. So can you imagine the fate sweet Daisy would have met at auction? Visibly lame. Nameless. Unable to be "ridden through" the sale. Even after only meeting her a few minutes I knew enough and loved her enough to make sure - no matter what - she did NOT get on a trailer to be shipped to auction. A humane death surrounded by people who loved her would be far more just.

We never made a big deal of it because we didn't want anyone to adopt Daisy for the wrong reasons. But now that she is adopted I feel ok to say...her AQHA registered name is Big Steppin Cow. She has a pretty impressive bloodline. But at an auction I am certain she would have ended up on an over crowded stock trailer with all of the other nameless discarded horses.

Thankfully our board agreed to work Daisy into our network. It was a gamble on our part. Would the injury ever heal? Would she ever be adoptable as a riding partner? Or would we be trying to place her as a pasture mate, a job title that people typically aren't looking for in a horse. Thankfully....after months with us Daisy is on the road to recovery and has found someone who is thrilled to have her.

It could have ended so differently. Instead of getting on the trailer headed to a horrific and fearful end...she is getting on a lovely trailer to spend her life with a family that was absolutely giddy and honored to give her a beautiful home -- before they even knew her bloodline.