

FALL 2017

NEIGH SAVER

EQUAMORE FOUNDATION

EQUAMORE
FOUNDATION



since 1991

Hungry, Neglected, Abused...
Never Again!

WE'RE HAVING A PICNIC AND YOU'RE INVITED!



We are hosting “**A Thousand Friends of Equamore**” Sanctuary Picnic and Friendship Drive. We continue our efforts to find more “friends” and move further toward our goal of having all of our core expenses – feed, vet care, hoof care, utilities, etc. covered by recurring donations. We are at 60% of our goal. That means that every month we struggle to raise the other 40% (\$8000) of the basic costs of caring for our horses rather than being able to focus on long term funding, special needs, farm improvements to increase capacity, or new programs.

Please come and bring your friends! Food will be by served by Confident Caterers and music will be provided by Jeff Stanley. Visit our Sanctuary, enjoy the food and music, and visit our wonderful horses.

When: September 23, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Equamore Sanctuary, 4723 Highway 66, Ashland, Oregon 97520

There is no charge for this event, but you must register to attend. You can sign up online at www.equamore.org/picnic or call us at 541.482.5550.

FEATURED HORSE EMPRESS STEELE

For most of the horses at the Equamore Sanctuary, we know very little about their early lives other than the immediate past trauma that brought them to our barns. With Empress Steele, we know more. She is a registered Thoroughbred mare with an impressive family tree. Both her sire and her grandsire were successful race horses whose pedigrees go back to the blue grass of Kentucky. Unfortunately, we found her in the no-grass of Christmas Valley in December of 2010 where her owners had intended to breed the next generation of racers. Sadly, their financial plans failed and although Steele's owners loved her and the rest of the animals on the remote property, they could not care for them with proper feed and hoof care. Three of the horses came to Equamore. Tess, an elderly mare, succumbed after a short stay. The stallion, Awesome, had terribly overgrown and deformed feet because of gross neglect. Hoof trimmers did everything they could to correct the damaged, but it was too late and he was put to rest just a few short months after his arrival. But Empress Steele, a statuesque gray mare with a lovely face and passionate personality, has thrived.



For several years Steele lived in a wonderful foster home near our Sanctuary as a companion horse to an elderly gelding. When both the foster person and the gelding passed, Steele returned to us where she will remain. "Once an Equamore horse, always an Equamore horse!" She easily rejoined the back mare herd as if she had never left. Steele now flirts with the geldings on either side of her stall and delights us with her elegant grace as she gallops up the mare field with her friends.



Although she sports a racing tattoo on her upper lip, we do not know if Steele ever competed. Thoroughbred racing is a business that generates a new "crop" of foals every year and therefore a new trash heap of unsuccessful adult horses. Fortunately for Empress Steele, her future is secure with us and appropriately for royalty, she will live out her days with plenty of green grass, proper care, and the love of humans who cater to her every need.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

**Sanctuary Picnic
Friendship Drive**
September 23rd

Ruby's Groom-A-Thon
October 14th

**Year-End Friendship
Celebration**
December 17th

Check our web site for event updates by clicking the "Events" button.

<http://www.equamore.org>

All events held at:
Equamore Sanctuary
4723 Highway 66
Ashland, OR 97520

SUMMER DOLDRUMS REDUX

In our Fall 2015 Neighsaver we noted that summer is a low point for charitable giving and that about 1/3 of all donations come in the last three months of the year. Once again, we are experiencing this painful trend. After a wet and challenging winter and spring, and now a very hot summer, we need your help with an additional gift to tide us over to the holiday giving season. Can you help?

Here's how!

WAYS TO GIVE

- Make a One-Time Gift
- Make a Monthly Buy-A-Bale Pledge
- Sponsor a Horse
- Join a Horse's "Support Team" with a Monthly Pledge
- Donate Appreciated Stock
- Contribute to our Endowment Fund



You can also help assure our long term future with a legacy gift through your trust, will, life insurance, or retirement account.

For cash donations, call us at 541.482.5550, use PayPal at equamore.org, or mail us. For donations of stock, donations to our Endowment Fund, or legacy gifts, please call us or email us at legacygiving@equamore.org for details.



PONDER THIS

In our last issue, we asked you to "Ponder This:" According to the Jockey Club, the registered Thoroughbred foal "crop" in the United States alone has exceeded 20,000 for the last 10 years. www.jockeyclub.com/default.asp?section=Resources&area=11

Here's what we think. Of the approximately 20,000 registered Thoroughbreds born each year in the United States, at least *half* will cross our borders to slaughter. *Forbes Magazine*, November 21, 2011. Other reports cite even higher numbers. See for example www.Horsefund.org. Another 500-1000 horses will die in on-track accidents (Jockey Club quotes 484 died in on-track incidents in 2015, while activist Patrick Buettello and *Forbes Magazine* cite at least 953 confirmed just in the states that report. The hard data shows a 55%- 60% mortality rate by slaughter and racing accidents for each foal "crop."



Why Sanctuary?



Following are updates on two of our “Why Sanctuary” horses - Sara and Grace.

We last featured Sara in our Winter 2014 issue. Since that time Sara has both faced new challenges and progressed. Physically she has faced Cushing Disease and severe difficulties managing her insulin levels, causing bouts of laminitis. After much trial and error and a virtual pharmacy of medications and supplements, these conditions are being well controlled. While she will continue to be at risk, for the time being, she is sound and healthy. Emotionally, Sara continues her recovery. We last reported that she had made a human and horse friend and was exhibiting a variety of normal

horse behavior. In these last years, Sara has learned to not just accept but to express affection. In addition to periods of being sweet, demanding, and funny, Sara is now very affectionate – happy for a pet or a scratch, nickering when a friend enters the barn, giving the occasional horse hug, and seemingly knowing when a person needs a kind gesture. On rare occasion, she even grooms her “person.” Sara has also been one of our “horses in hats” models for our “Derby After-Party” event and for our “I Need a Friend” campaign – the “Gisele” of the equine world for sure!

In the Summer 2016 issue we introduced you to Grace, the elderly, nearly blind mare that came to us from a kill pen in Washington State. We had hoped that her eyesight would improve enough to join her friend Gael in the front field herd, but that was not to be. While the care of our ophthalmologist preserved what was left of her vision and made Grace pain free, her vision could not be improved. After sweetly providing a friend for Kizzy during Kizzy’s last months, Grace is now partnered with Tucker, a one-year-old Quarter Horse gelding. Tucker is too young to join the gelding herd and Grace’s vision is too poor to join the mare herd. So, this unlikely couple spends their days together in the small rear field where Grace tries to teach Tucker manners and Tucker guides Grace around the pasture. At night, they are side-by-side in their stalls in the main barn. What an unlikely and wonderful pair! While someone threw Grace away to be slaughtered, she has been a true gift to us and other needy horses of Equamore.

**This Is Why We Provide
SANCTUARY!**



REPORTING HORSE ABUSE OR NEGLECT

If you see horse abuse or neglect, report it! How and where to report it can be found at: <http://www.equamore.org/report-horse-abuse>

Don't Wait! Time Matters!

Do horses fully recover from starvation? The science is mixed. Read about our experience in the on-line version of the NeighSaver at www.equamore.org.

RECOVERY OF STARVING HORSES

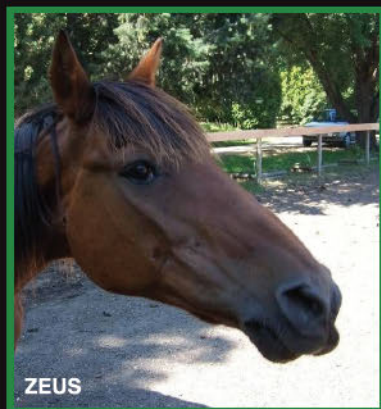


A severely starving horse will be weak, emaciated, unable to manage temperature and thus cold in what would normally be comfortable temperatures. It may also have internal issues with its gastrointestinal system and liver as well as other maladies that occur upon extreme stress.

A horse can normally gain its full body weight within 2-3 months after proper feeding begins. However, the science is mixed about whether a full recovery of all the compromised systems actually occurs. The answer seems to depend on the severity of the starvation. See for example Marsh King's article where she notes by quoting Dr. Carol Stull of UC Davis. "When a horse is starved, his body metabolizes stored fat,

then muscle tissue, eventually leading to the total depletion of fat, protein, and electrolytes from the body. In other words, the body uses muscles as an energy or food source. Explains Stull, "With severe starvation, the body doesn't discriminate which muscles it's going to use for energy when it is in a truly starved situation. Some tissue can regenerate, but some tissues can't. These severely affected horses may have cardiac problems or other long-term consequences." <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/13787/saving-survivors> (April 1, 2003).

Our experience over the decades suggests that many of these severely starved horses never fully recover, even though they appear fit and healthy. We experience a higher rate of liver failure and colic in the years after starving horses come to our Sanctuary as well as osteoporosis. These conditions have led to early deaths of horses that by outward appearances had recovered.



Bader appeared perfectly healthy and had made a wonderful recovery. Sadly, one day he fractured his hip bone simply walking and had to be euthanized. Royal Crown also seemed to fully recover from near death starvation. But he had repeated episodes of colic, liver failure, and finally succumbed. Zeus recovered his normal healthy body weight after just a few months at the Sanctuary, but died less than two years later of kidney failure.

This is why time matters in reporting neglect! In addition to ending the suffering of a starving horse as early as possible, the longer it continues the more likely they are to have serious issues later in their lives.

