

SPRING 2020

NEIGH SAVER

EQUAMORE FOUNDATION



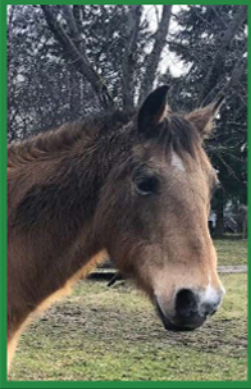
EQUAMORE
FOUNDATION



since 1991

Hungry, Neglected, Abused...
Never Again!

WHY SANCTUARY



These two geldings' stories are heartbreakingly familiar. Phoenix and Falcon were owned by a prominent local person who was keeping them in a friend's field. The owner died without making any known provision for his animals and the "friend" wanted no part of the horses. Deputies were called when the horses weight dropped to dangerously low levels. Sadly, no action was taken by the deputies and eventually Equamore was called.

The individual who had the horses claimed that he couldn't lift hay, was going to shut off their water so the pipes didn't break in the coming cold weather, and did not want the stench of rotting horses' bodies on his land. Seriously! Our initial visit found two sweet geldings desperate for feed and tightly bonded to each other. We brought them to our Sanctuary later that day.

Phoenix and Falcon both had serious dental problems which would have prevented them from maintaining proper body weight even if someone had fed them. Both were very thin, especially Falcon. Phoenix is also blind in one eye. Curiously, their hooves had recently been trimmed. Who has their horses' hooves trimmed and yet starves them?

Initially they joined the big gelding herd. But of course all the other horses were curious about the new horses and naturally came to investigate. Phoenix guards Falcon closely and was literally going in circles around Falcon, trying to keep the other horses away – a tough job with only one good eye. They have since moved to the lawn area where they now graze quietly together.

Both horses have had their teeth cared for and are gaining weight. Falcon, who was the most in danger of the two, is also responding emotionally. His head is up, he is curious and he has a very sweet disposition.

Radiographs revealed severe issues in Falcon's front feet, which have very thin soles, arthritis, and advanced founder. His new shoes with pads have decreased the sensitivity in his front feet allowing him to move around comfortably. Falcon, though much younger than Phoenix, still seems world weary. He is kind and lovely in every way, but his attitude seems like he has seen or suffered too much. We hope he recovers and learns to enjoy life again, but at a minimum he will spend the rest of his life loved and cared for and in the company of his best friend.

This is why we provide Sanctuary.

OUR MISSION

The Equamore Foundation provides rescue and sanctuary for neglected, abused, and abandoned horses who have no other alternative for life. Each day our Sanctuary pushes back against cruelty and indifference. Our mission of kindness and respect for the dignity of all life is vital and universal.

HERDS



Gael, Gizmo, Cosmo, Hazel, Toiy Beauty
and April (not shown in photo)

Horses are herd animals, with deep social orders and connections. Herd life is fundamental to horse life, and thus to life at the Sanctuary. We have distinct herds in separate fields, each with its own personality and social order: The “pony (plus the General) field” with six equines, the “blind (plus donkeys) field” also with six equines, the “couples’ field” with ten horses comprised of five bonded pairs, the “back mare (plus Chance) field” of seven horses, the “lawn crew” of two horses, the “back gelding field” with seventeen geldings, the “four amigos’ field” whose four horses join the back gelding herd during the day, and the “front field” of six horses.

Of all of these groups, the front herd is the most varied. It includes a Dutch Warm Blood Bay gelding (Cosmo), an Appy gelding (Gizmo), a liver Appy mare (Hazel), a gray Arab mare (Toiy Beauty), a solid Paint mare (April), and a Bay Thoroughbred mare (Gael.) All four of the mares came to us with no social skills. In addition to a lack of trust in people, they had no idea how to be horses or to find companionship and comfort in a herd.

Hazel was found in a chicken coop with a dog biting her tail, Toiy Beauty had “failed” at aggressive training and was on her way to be dinner at a nearby large cat sanctuary, April had been deemed unadoptable by a rescue in Seattle because she was uninterested in people and aggressive with other horses, and Gael was in a “kill pen” ready to be shipped across our border for slaughter. Of course these mares had issues!

For many years a mare named Brie lived large at our Sanctuary. She was difficult for people to deal with, but she was a great alpha mare. Brie taught all of these mares how to be part of a herd, how to socialize and how to relax and feel safe in a group. Under her leadership, these fearful, detached mares became a confident and bonded herd. Sometimes it takes a horse to heal a horse.

When we were able to build an additional shelter and obtain use of adjoining acreage, the geldings, Gizmo and Cosmo, were moved to the front field to join the four mares. After a brief period of adjusting the pecking order, they are now a cohesive herd, each individual horse with their place. Some of these horses are still difficult for people, but they are all living large as horses, together in a close and loving herd – amazing and beautiful.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual "Beyond the Finish Line" Derby After-Party is May 2nd, 2020 at our Sanctuary. Not only is this our most important fundraiser of the year, it is incredibly fun with silly hats, juleps, a sumptuous dinner buffet, and horses! This is a high energy, no pressure event. Please mark your calendars and check our web site for upcoming details.

DONKEYS. In our last issue we introduced you to Holly. Since then we have taken in two more donkeys from the same large animal shelter in Klamath County that sent us Holly. Geldings Joey and Cotton have stories similar to Holly's - massively overgrown hooves that can become life ending. All three are now in the field with the blind horses Wishes, Cash, and Eddie. They are the first donkeys we have had at the Sanctuary and we are learning a lot!

- When horses are scared they often jump or bolt. When donkeys are scared they freeze and investigate whatever scared them. They are not particularly fast and are "fight" not "flight" animals.
- After first trying to scare off predators with vocalizations, donkeys are quick to charge and will fight off dogs, coyotes, foxes, and even mountain lions. They are kept as guard animals for sheep, llamas, and goats (and now blind horses).
- While donkeys may take a nap or a sunbath lying down, they prefer to stay on their feet. There is a special part of their brain that maintains their balance even when unconscious, so they do not need to lie down like other animals.
- While donkeys are equines, they need a different diet than horses. They are highly efficient, and if fed like a horse can quickly become overweight. We are feeding our donkeys primarily barley straw which has a high fiber but low carbohydrate content, with grass hay comprising no more than a quarter of their feed.
- Like horses, donkeys have been used for various purposes including mining, as pack animals, to drive ore grinding mills, for riding, to breed mules, and more recently for the horrific "sport" of "donkey basketball." Statistics are not readily available on the number of unwanted donkeys in America. However, like horses, as their utility has diminished, many donkeys have been abandoned, abused, and neglected.
- They are unbelievably cute!



Cotton

Joey

Wishes

Cash

Holly

WAYS TO GIVE

- Make a One-Time Donation
- Make a Monthly Pledge
- For Cash Donations call us at 541.482.5550, use PayPal at equamore.org, or mail us.
- For Legacy Gifts, Gifts of Stock, and Gifts to our Endowment Fund call us or email us at legacygiving@equamore.org
- Donate Your Vehicle by calling 866.392.4483 or go to www.donateforcharity.com/charity-car-donation-form/?charity=Equamore+Foundation



GIVING. Winter can be a hard time for the Sanctuary. Aside from the challenges the weather brings for older horses as well as staff and volunteers, "Giving Tuesday" is over, the "Giving Season" has passed, and it is cold, wet, and dark. We are so grateful to our recurring donors who get us through the harder times. Please consider a special gift to help our horses through these tougher months.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11th

Dressage Show & Open Barn Day

Judge: TBA

Closing Date: March 28th

Saturday – 9:00am to 4:00pm

May 2nd

Sixth Annual "Beyond the Finish Line"

Derby After-Party

Saturday – 5:00pm to 8:00pm

June 6th

Sanctuary Social

Saturday – 3:00pm to 5:00pm

July 11th

Sanctuary Social

Saturday – 3:00pm to 5:00pm

August 1st

Dressage Show & Open Barn Day

Judge: TBA

Closing Date: July 18th

Saturday – 9:00am to 4:00pm

September 12th thru 13th

Jin Shin Jyutsu Workshop

Saturday – Sunday

September 19th

Sanctuary Picnic & Friendship Drive

Saturday – 1:00pm to 4:00pm

October 3rd

Ruby's Groom-A-Thon

Saturday – 10:00am to 4:00pm

December 12th

Year-End Friendship Celebration

Saturday – 12:00pm to 2:00pm

All Events Held at:
Equamore Sanctuary,
4723 HW 66,
Ashland, Oregon 97520