

FALL 2020

NEIGH SAVER

EQUAMORE FOUNDATION



Hungry, Neglected, Abused...
Never Again!

MEET SUGAR AND MIRACLE – AN ACCIDENTAL RESCUE



Our neighbor kindly allows Equamore horses use two of her fields for turn out each day. A third field is let out for grazing rights and has been occupied for several years by Sugar, a Bay Thoroughbred gelding and Miracle, a Paint mare. Both horses were on the racetrack. Story has it that Sugar was the owner's "first big winner." Busy with other horses on the track, Sugar and Miracle were discarded.

Grazing alone was insufficient for these horses to maintain their healthy body weight and the owner was not providing any additional feed. Equamore began offering hay to supplement their diet. The Foundation needed to help them – the difference between starving and not cannot be our fence line! The owner also failed to take care of their feet. Of course, Equamore eventually had our hoof trimmers manage their hoof care. This patterned followed along with veterinary care, fly masks, etc. While our neighbor continually tried to obtain reimbursement of our expenses, along with the pasture rent, the horses' owner essentially abandoned these horses next door to our Sanctuary. It reminds us of stories of children abandoned on hospital steps.

Fearing that the owner would relocate the horses and then abandon their care again, we offered to take them both into the Foundation. Nearly a year after the offer was made, our neighbor was finally successful in getting the owner to sign the horses over to Equamore in June of this year. Sugar and Miracle became the newest Equamore horses, although by then they were more like old friends than new rescues.

These horses are tightly bonded to each other, and each have a sweet and friendly disposition. Eventually they will be incorporated into one of the other herds, but for now are happy in the field they have called home for several years.



FEATURED (MINIATURE) HORSE

Jasmine. This adorable miniature mare came to our Sanctuary in April of 2013 lame and suffering from acute laminitis.

Miniature horses attract many first-time horse owners because they are cute, small, and apparently inexpensive to own. Unfortunately, for the horse and the would-be owner, such is not the case. Although “minis” are, indeed, cute and small, they are almost as expensive to own as a full-grown horse.

Not realizing that their mini needed special care, Jasmine’s owners were unprepared for the expense and time it takes to keep a horse – and especially a “toy” horse – healthy. They provided her a rich, green pasture when she needed to be in a dry lot or in an environment with limited grazing. As a result, Jasmine got too much of a good thing and suffered the consequences – an attack of laminitis.

Laminitis is a painful condition of the foot. Imagine wearing hard, inflexible shoes that do not expand and then having your feet swell. Ouch! Not only can a bout of laminitis be painful, it can lead to permanent lameness when the prolonged swelling causes the rotation of the coffin bone. This damage cannot be reversed and can be so severe as to lead to death.

When Jasmine joined us seven years ago, she was immediately placed in the care of Equamore’s veterinarians. Thankfully, radiographs showed that the damage to the coffin bones in her hooves was minimal. After just two months of correct hoof care and a modified feeding regimen, Jasmine was galloping alongside the other minis, ponies, and the General.



Even though her field has limited grazing and her diet is controlled, Jasmine has just recovered from a bout of laminitis in all four feet. After a brief period on anti-inflammatory and pain medications, along with soaking her hay to remove as much sugar as possible, Jasmine is back to her sound self – galloping around the large arena with her mini-friend and comic sidekick, Ranger.

REMINDERS FROM THOR

After being at our Sanctuary for over eight years, Thor died on August 12th of this year. This gorgeous black bay Quarter Horse came to us as a terrified and terrifying horse. Thor left us as a sweet and gentle friend. The emotional progress he made over the years was amazing and reinforced what we all know.

Kindness matters. Thor had clearly been abused and was afraid of people when he arrived. In his first year, we closed the barn doors when he was moved because he would bolt, trying to get away from any human. The smallest noise could set him off. He even knocked a vet down in his stall in a panic and generally scared everyone. But in his later years, Thor would come in from his field by himself without a halter and go right to his own stall. He became the perfect gentleman. Years of consistent kindness revealed his kind nature.

Horses are emotionally generous. For all his trials, Thor related to people that were considered "damaged" or thrown away. He befriended a volunteer who was fearful and clumsy with horses. Though always wary of strangers, he let young visitors from a home for troubled youth pet him! He gently took carrots from the arthritic hands of retirement home residents visiting the Sanctuary with walkers and canes.

Redemption is Possible. Thor did his part in his own rehabilitation. He came to us as an unwanted horse presenting as dangerous and unmanageable. In his middle years with us, he would stand in the cross ties perfectly behaved – even though he would show the whites of his eyes. He worked hard to please! In his later years with us, he was relaxed and enjoyed his grooming and treats. The combination of his efforts and ours revealed a gentle soul with a huge heart.

All of our horses reflect our mission, but none demonstrated it more vividly than did Thor. What we do matters. We will miss him, his kind eye, and his huge baritone nicker. We will remember Thor.



Thor



Thor grazing

WHY EQUAMORE AND WHY NOW?

Even before the coronavirus emergency, horses have had an uphill battle in the United States.

- The strictest rules regarding treatment of animals apply to companion animals/house pets. Horses are considered “livestock” and have limited legal protections.
- Law enforcement in our county is virtually non-existent for horses. Despite our efforts over the years, law enforcement is unresponsive. To our knowledge, the last seizure of a horse in Jackson County by law enforcement was in 2011.
- Unlike in other counties, there is no large animal shelter in Jackson County. Unlike for companion animals, the county provides no funds or facilities for rescue, treatment, or housing of unwanted equines.

Despite their storied history in our country, the welfare of horses has been left to charities like Equamore and the donors who support them.

Add the pandemic! While overall charitable giving has increased in response to this disaster, the increase has been primarily by large donors, corporations, and foundations. These donors have, of course, trended toward social services. For example, our own beloved Oregon Community Foundation provided “rapid response grants” in response to the coronavirus to an amazing 878 Oregon non-profits as of July 10, 2020. Not a single recipient was an animal welfare organization. Forty-two non-profit organizations received grants related to the coronavirus crisis by Jackson County United Way – none were awarded to animal welfare groups. These are wonderful contributors to important causes. But, animals in general and equines specifically are not in their portfolios.

Giving by smaller donors – our mainstay – is decreasing due to financial uncertainty and job losses.

Thank you to all our amazing donors who have stepped up these last months. We have a long way to go. Please consider an extra donation for our horses this year. They need it now more than ever.



[YOU CAN HELP! CLICK HERE](#)

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.

UPDATE ON GAEL

We introduced you to Gael nearly five years ago when this beautiful Thoroughbred mare arrived from a kill pen in Washington State where she had been waiting for her shipment date to slaughter across the border into Canada. Gael has been featured in our event materials and newsletters, as she is not only lovely and photogenic, she seems to love the camera! Strike a pose, hold it, adjust, hold it...



Gael

When Gael arrived she had some difficulties with her right hind leg and has had various lameness issues in her front legs and feet as well. While she has been mostly sound, in July of this year she suffered a small fracture in her left knee. It turns out, you don't always have to put a horse down who has a fractured leg. With pain medication and limited exercise for a period, Gael is healing and is back enjoying grazing and playing in the big front field with her herd. We are so glad she was not on the track when this happened!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2020

October 3rd
Ruby's Groom-A-Thon
Saturday - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

December 12th
Year-End Friendship Celebration
Saturday - 12:00 to 2:00 PM

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

Check our website for updates.