



Whickers, Whinnies, Nickers and Neighs

The Fresh Start Horse Rescue News October 2006

Current status of S. 1915: The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

Official Title: A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

H.R. 503 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006 by 263 votes. The Act is now waiting to be voted on in the Senate, as **S. 1915**: The Virgie S. Arden American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. As of this writing, nothing has been done with it since it was introduced Oct. 10, 2005, when it was read and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. According to GovTrack.US, most Senate bills *never make it out of committee*. S. 1915 **MUST** pass in the Senate in 2006 with **NO** amendments to ban horse slaughter in the U.S. at last.

Were the bill to be passed, detractors have estimated that there would be an additional 272,000 “unwanted” horses wandering aimlessly about the country within the first six years (Goodlatte, Committee on Agriculture, in a report on H.R. 503). Just how many of these horses really *are* unwanted? Many folks don’t see the hooded claw lurking in the shadows when they take their horse to auction. If they did they might make better decisions. This isn’t an ideal world, but there are choices. There are rescues, there is humane euthanasia by a licensed vet for the old/sick, and the most overlooked alternative of all: **If you need help, ask!** Most people welcome the chance.

In 2004, a rider called the Burns Amendment was snuck into a 3000-page government spending bill signed by President Bush in

December that year. Unbeknownst to many, this rider removed the protection from slaughter that America’s wild horses and burros had enjoyed. In early 2005 legislation was introduced that would restore that protection. **H.R. 297**, titled, “To restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros,” and **S. 576**, its Senate counterpart, were each read and then promptly buried in committee, never to see the light of day. Don’t tolerate this desecration of America’s history. Write your senators and representatives and encourage them to bring H.R. 297, S. 576 and S. 1915 to action. Let’s light a fire under their . . . !



Silly Wizard, an American Mustang rescued from slaughter by FSHR

Mares and Menopause

Menopause affects all women in some way. Many women take hormone-replacement therapy to stay in balance and help prevent osteoporosis. But what many women *don’t* realize is that there’s a hidden cost to horses.

Premarin and drugs containing it are made from natural conjugated estrogens . . . from horses.

These estrogens are extracted from the urine of mares kept continually pregnant on ranches for the sole purpose of harvesting their urine.

Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals and PMU (Pregnant mare urine) ranchers naturally disagree with animal advocacy groups about the relative humane-ness vs. cruelty under which these gals are housed. However, according to numerous sources, the mares are kept in small stalls, hooked up to urine collection equipment for six to seven months at a time. They can't get proper exercise, lie down comfortably on their side, or even turn around. They are denied free access to water.

When they're delivered of their foals, they do get out to pasture, where they are bred and then put back into confinement. Where do the foals go? Some ranches work with rescues and other entities to adopt out the babies, but many PMU foals go to slaughter. That's also the fate, incidentally, that generally awaits the mares when they can no longer conceive.

There are numerous sites on the Internet where one can find documentation about the PMU ranches, positive and negative. There are also sites about places where PMU foals can be adopted! Draw your own conclusions. There are synthetic alternatives to Premarin. Talk to your doctor. I did, and I switched to a synthetic.

Rescue News

Daniel Ryan, president of Fresh Start, draws upon a background of being raised around horses, ranching and at the race track, in Texas. He also owns Dun-Rite Custom Carpentry in Dolores, CO. Kids Erin Ryan, 8, and Conor Ryan, 5, both ride and are an integral part of rehabbing/re-socializing the horses.

Our board:

Chairman: Richard Selah, B.S., M.S., M.T., is a life insurance agent and registered investment company representative for Primerica.

Co-chair: Sally Selah, B.S., M.T., is the clinical laboratory supervisor at Southwest Memorial Hospital in Cortez, CO. The Selahs and their beautiful dog, Yeller, have been area residents since 1991.

Secretary/treasurer: Amanda Ryan, M.T.(ASCP) rode, showed and worked as a groom in Connecticut, worked as a vet assistant in Utah and has owned horses and burros in Colorado for more than 20 years. She's the Ryan wife & mom and also writes these newsletters. **We are looking for more horsey people to join our board!** Interested individuals please call Daniel at 970-394-4120.

October has been a crazy month here at Fresh Start. I finally received some education about how to take care of our Web site. I'll try to keep it up-to-date but if you visit it and something's screwy, it's probably because I still don't know what I'm doing!

Winter's coming! The horses need your help:

- Ziggy still needs funds to have his proud flesh removed by a veterinarian.
- Volunteers to help build strong covered pens
- Feed: hay and Equine Senior
- Volunteers to ride horses and clean pens, etc.
- Four-horse stock-type trailer
- Old carpeting (any condition), straw, shavings

What the heck is "proud flesh?"

Proud flesh is, quite simply, healing tissue gone haywire. Instead of healing over, a wound overfills with bumpy, slippery tissue which rises above the skin and can keep growing, causing a serious blemish and sometimes interfering with the horse's performance. It is most often seen in the lower legs. It can be caused by infection, foreign material, poor blood supply or dead tissue. In Zig's case, because of its location on the coronet area it has permanently blemished the hoof wall, according to our farrier.



We've managed to knock it down some in the months since we got Ziggy, through cleaning and dressings. Surgery is what's recommended.

Ziggy's right hind foot

Zig was surrendered to the rescue this summer because his owner could no longer care for him.

Volunteers, Donors, Thanks

Thanks are in order to these and others! Your kindness & support helped us through our first month.

- Kim and Jim Ackles*
- Patricia Anderson - foundation member*
- Jennifer Berry*
- Jim and Wendy Cole*
- Geanna and Kevin Dawson*
- The Dolores Star*
- KPCL*
- John Lewis Kelly*
- Adrienne Markworth - foundation member*
- Ronnie Rippee*
- Sacred Mountain Wildlife Center*
- Frederick Schaak*
- Richard and Sally Selah - foundation members*
- Southwest Designs*
- Spirit Wood Farms*
- Terri & Deb*
- The Valley Voice*
- Wagons West*
- Dale Wilson*
- WindFlyers Mustang Sanctuary*

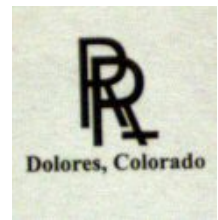
You can donate Veterinary Care Credit!
Call **Montezuma Veterinary Clinic**
at **970-565-7567**.

To donate feed call
Geisinger Feed Grains
970-565-4311



Peanuts: her name says it all. An 8-yo, overo paint auction rescue, great for the backyard or the trail. A lovable kid horse.

Order Form
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
T-shirt @ \$35 ea.....\$ _____
Size _____ Qty _____ Color _____
CD @ \$20 ea.....\$ _____
Tape @ \$15 ea.....\$ _____
Total order.....\$ _____
Make check payable to Fresh Start Horse Rescue, 17390 CR 23, Dolores CO 81323 Allow up to six weeks for delivery.



We now have T-shirts available for a \$35 donation. Shirts are natural with black or chocolate printing. Sizes S, M, L.

breast



back

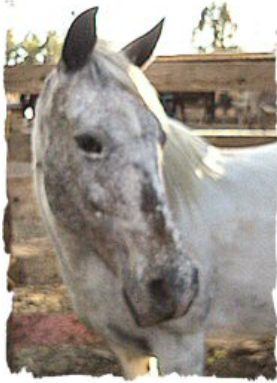


We also have Celtic music CDs and tapes. Beltaine was a local Durango, CO band for 10 years.
CD: \$20 donation
Tape: \$15 donation

Beltaine, Any Port in a Storm

These items and more are also available in **Simpler Times** in the Durango Mall or order from our Web site using PayPal, at www.happyryan.com/freshstart.

Horse of the Month:



Cloud, an auction rescue

Cloud is an appaloosa-paint mix of striking appearance. She's well-broke, anyone can ride. She trailers, gets along well with other horses, and is good with having her feet handled. She's a little stand-offish when you go to catch her, but a little love and time will wear that right out. We have twenty-one horses at the farm; we're at capacity with winter coming. In order to save more horses, we **MUST** adopt some out!

Fresh Start Horse Rescue was incorporated as a Colorado nonprofit on September 19, 2006. We are located on 40 acres of pasture and piñon-juniper forest near Dolores, CO. We're filing to become a 501(c)(3). **Our mission** is to provide a fresh start for horses (all breeds) that are abused, neglected, unwanted or potentially slaughter-bound, by rescue, care/rehab, and placement in loving homes where they will have a future; or, if unadoptable, by providing them with a permanent home ourselves.

Schedule an appointment to come see Cloud, Wizard, Peanuts or any of the others we have available for adoption or sponsorship by calling Daniel at 970-394-4120.

For more information about Fresh Start, our horses, adoption and sponsorship opportunities, visit our Web site, www.happyryan.com/freshstart or contact us directly. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our equine friends.

FRESH START HORSE RESCUE
17390 CR 23
DOLORES, CO 81323

