

Sept. 06



Free
Whickers, Whinnys, Nickers & Neighs
The Fresh Start Horse Rescue News

17390 CR 23, Dolores CO 81323
(970)882-7522/freshstart@happyryan.com

small corral in Towaoc, our hearts
going out to a tiny Bar-N gelding with a

Fresh Start Horse Rescue is located in Montezuma County, Colorado. Our mission is to provide a second chance for horses 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. We are an all-breed rescue, but as we are located minutes from the livestock auction, most of our horses come from there by way of out-bidding the kill buyers or buying directly from kill buyers who are willing to work with us. We are especially dedicated to Mustangs; no matter how full we are we at least call the sale barn every week to see if any Mustangs have been brought in.

Our Beginnings

When we rescued our first horse, we were not planning on becoming a "rescue."

Our child's horse, Stormy, was getting up in years and had been a beloved companion for the past two decades. Two years ago we began looking for another horse for Erin to get used to -- to soften the blow of the inevitable (like it could be softened! Ha!). But instead of rationally purchasing a well-rounded, bomb-proof kid horse like we'd planned, we found ourselves leaning against the weathered rail of a



huge attitude. He was underweight, wormy, frightened and angry, the littlest fellow in a very crowded, confined space. He could only be ridden, his owner explained, if he was galloped a mile or two to calm him down(?!). Why did we buy him? It looked like disaster

It was heart-wrenching work, trying to gain his trust. But as we watched this beautiful bay horse fill out and thrive the reward became well worth it. This summer, he carried our five-year old son, Conor, on an 8-mile trail ride through some truly hairy mountain terrain, carefully conscious of the lead line attaching him to my husband's horse, and careful of his precious cargo.

Snowball Effect!

In the mean time, we made the "mistake" of visiting the sale barn. The plight of the frightened, confused horses there shocked us. It took a couple of visits before the true reality of the fate awaiting most of them sank in. Sad, broken down horses, perfectly good horses, even obvious family pets were sold for slaughter. Foals were separated from their mothers. Even BLM Mustangs went to their peril. The horror was indescribable, as was what I

kept hearing from people: "These horses need to go to slaughter."

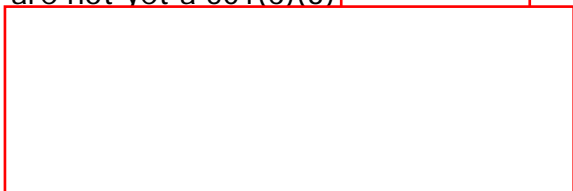
Fortunately, we are blessed to own 40 acres of grass and pinon-juniper with a stream that runs through it year-round from flood irrigation above us. Because of this, it simply did not feel right not to bring some of them home. Before we knew it, we were functioning as a rescue.

The Problem

What is this rationale, so prevalent, that horses "need" to be slaughtered? Colorado 3rd District Representative John T. Salazar voted against the Sweeney-Whitfield bill to ban the slaughter of horses. He stated in an August, 2006 letter to the WindFlyers Mustang Sanctuary that "the elimination of processing as a management option poses a risk to horse welfare." If horses don't go to slaughter, we were personally told by slaughter advocates, folks would shoot them, turn them loose any ol' where, let them starve Is this true? And if so, what can we do to stop it? Horse "processing" is seldom humanely accomplished. Slaughter not the answer! I believe the answer can be found in education, communication and responsible horse management.

Fresh Start Horse Rescue

As a rescue entity we have just opened. At present we are a private, family bubble-gum and baling twine operation, pouring literally all of our resources into feed and veterinary care of the twenty horses at our place. We are not yet a 501(c)(3) [redacted]



[redacted] Generous people have also contributed hay, gates, troughs, hoof

picks and moral support. We have a farrier who volunteers his time to keep everybody's feet trimmed, and nice, brainy, more experienced folks to help with the paperwork.

Our goal for the horses we rescue is to restore their physical and mental health and (re)socialize them as much as possible prior to adoption. When we bring a horse home we immediately worm, vaccinate, schedule a farrier visit, and if a stallion, schedule castration. Most of our horses are child-friendly & rideable or at least have had a degree of ground work. Most are good trail horses since our set-up and background with horses is conducive to this.

More goals are to cooperate and network with other rescues, horse owners, vets, auctions and government agencies. For example, a certain horse may be inappropriate for one rescue, but a perfect fit at another. One rescue may be afloat in hay, another may be starved. One rescue may know of a person who would be the perfect adopter for a horse at another rescue. Somebody might be in need of funds for veterinary care or humane euthanasia. We would like to help meet such needs.

We are in need of:

- Funds to have a veterinarian remove proud flesh
- 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 with tack compartment

We offer: Trail rides, gifts and horse-sitting for campers & travelers.

For more info, 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.