



# Spring Creek News



Spring Creek Horse Rescue, Inc.  
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## Greetings from Spring Creek, 2010

It has been an eventful start to the year at Spring Creek! Twelve new horses so far, and two adoptions. Our unstoppable, intrepid Executive Director, Diane McCracken, brought all of our horses through the winter in beautiful shape, even if they do insist on rolling in the mud.

We established a new Board of Directors in December. The members are: Tedda Crossen, Becca Steinbach, Naomi Pennington, Dr. Ben Hufnagel, and Kate Burke, Chair. With a new Board comes new plans, including a spring open house event, horsemanship classes during the summer, and a drive for members!

Everything Spring Creek does for horses relies on the generosity and assistance of our volunteers, donors and members. Our gratitude knows no bounds!

## Meet Rio—More Than A Horse, A True Friend

Rio is a beautiful sorrel Quarter horse gelding that sustained a severe injury to his left front hoof and shoulder. He was turned over to the rescue, because his owner could no longer keep him. When I began volunteering at the rescue, I had not been around horses for years. I was immediately taken by his sweet, gentle nature. Rio soon became my buddy and I couldn't wait for the weekends to arrive to visit him.

Rio continues to progress with diligent care and soaking of his front leg. He is kind and patient and I believe that he knows that he is safe and loved. Although Rio can never be ridden it is important to say that there is way more to having a horse than just riding. It's about the relationship, he is my friend.

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—Naomi Pennington



Rio and Naomi

## The Story of Stiltz—A Story of Survival

Nine weeks ago, we took in a mare and her foal that had wandered up above tree line last October. Winter snows came and no one could get to the horses. By the time anyone could get through, for most it was too late. Stiltz survived, but barely.

We now believe Stiltz

has arsenic poisoning, as she was up above a mine where clean-up of toxic material has not finished. She is putting on weight, but still has some challenges from her experience. We are hoping she continues to improve physically and that time will take the poison from her system.

Stiltz is a beautiful dun ap-

pendix, already over sixteen hands at two years old.



## April 2010

### Upcoming Events of Interest:

- *May 2 Spring Creek Open House*
- *May 13 FCBH Show at Sky Ute Fairgrounds*
- *May 19 Purina Horse Owner Workshop at LPC Fairgrounds*
- *June 5 FCHC Horse Show at Sky Ute Fairgrounds*
- *June 10 Mounted Rangers Pancake Breakfast at LPC Fairgrounds*
- *July 16-18 FCCHC Cutting Show at Sky Ute Fairgrounds*
- *June-August "From the Ground Up" mini-clinics at Spring Creek—stay tuned for details!*



### Our Wish List:

Caring for dozens of horses requires lots and lots of equipment. We are currently in need of these items:

- 3/4 ton truck to pull a horse trailer
- 4X4 utility vehicle with a dump bed
- Flat Bed trailer
- Manure forks
- Soft Cotton lead ropes w/ straight clasps
- 6X4 harrow
- Powder Mountain livestock panels
- Bumper pull stock trailer with ramp
- Salt blocks
- Purina equine adult and equine senior
- Pro Biotic supplements
- Dewormers

And our ultimate wish:

A large piece of property of our very own where we can house more horses in need!

### Horse Health Tip:

Do you know how to tell when a horse is overweight or underweight? Professionals use a nine-point scoring system:

- 1-Poor/Extremely Emaciated:** Vertebrae, ribs, tailhead and pelvic bones are prominent. Bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable. No fatty tissue to be felt.
- 2-Very Thin/Emaciated:** Slight fat covering over base of vertebrae. Loin area vertebrae feel rounded. Vertebrae, ribs, shoulders, and neck structures are faintly discernible.
- 3-Thin:** Fat is built up about halfway up vertebrae. Loin area vertebrae cannot be felt. Slight fat cover over ribs. Vertebrae and ribs are easily discernible. Tailhead is prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hip bones may be rounded but are easily discernible. Withers, shoulders, and neck are accentuated.
- 4-Moderately Thin:** Vertebral processes along back protrude above surrounding tissue. Faint outline of ribs is discernible. Fat can be felt around tailhead. Front-pointing hip bones are not discernible. Withers, shoulders, and neck are not obviously thin.
- 5-Moderate:** Back is level. Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt. Fat around tailhead may feel spongy. Withers appear rounded over vertebrae. Shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.
- 6-Moderate to Fleishy:** May have slight crease down center of back. Fat over ribs feels spongy. Fat around tailhead feels soft. Fat begins to be deposited along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders and along the sides of the neck.
- 7-Fleishy:** May have crease down back. Ribs can be felt, but with filling of fat between. Fat around tailhead is soft. Fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.
- 8-Fat:** Crease down back. Difficult to feel ribs. Fat around tailhead is very soft. Area along withers filled with fat. Area behind shoulder is flush with rest of body. Noticeable thickening of neck. Fat deposited along inner buttocks.
- 9-Extremely Fat:** Obvious crease down back. Patch fat over ribs. Bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck. Flank is flush with rest of the body.

It is dangerous for horses to be either very over or under weight, so keep an eye on your equine friends! Age and conformation will somewhat affect the scale system, but it is a good guideline. If you have any questions, call your vet!

## Join Spring Creek Horse Rescue Today!

Our horses need your support! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization funded wholly by donations and grants. We spend over 90% of every tax-deductible, donated dollar directly on horse care. Please join our team and help us help horses!

You can make your membership pledge or donation at our website, [www.springcreekhorserserescue.com](http://www.springcreekhorserserescue.com).

Or, detach this portion of the newsletter and mail it with your check to 39908 US Hwy 160, Bayfield, Colorado, 81122.

Yes, sign me up as a member today!

- Pony (\$30 per year)
- Mustang (\$ 50 per year)
- Quarter Horse (\$100 per year)
- Belgian (\$200 per year)
- Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ but do not make me a member of Spring Creek



Thanks for helping us out!!!

