



Spring Creek Horse Rescue  
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Fall Newsletter, 2018

## ~FROM THE MANURE PILE~

AND, as 90° days turn into winter clothes and 2 weeks of rain, crazy horse's begging for sun and a solid surface to stand on. No moisture all summer & then.....

About 2 months ago we received a call on 2 Clydesdale draft horses that had been deserted, could we take them. I said of course & then multiple other horses in trouble in the time it took to get the paper work & a ride. (these guys are both over 18HH, so BIG trailer!) Alexander & Captain have been a WONDERFUL surprise. So glad someone stepped up for them & didn't let them starve. Alexander was started in dressage, then not ridden for 5 years.

Captain is just 5, & still a baby, willing to try anything we ask of him, still a bit thin, so taking it slow. We went ahead & posted them on our web site & some of the other places we post rescue horses & have been so overwhelmed with responses. Nebraska, Illinois, South Carolina, Michigan. Evidently Blue roan Clydesdales are pretty rare (so how could someone just desert them?) besides the fact that no one has abused them & they are big, beautiful, loving, and we have gotten so attached. They will soon go to their new home with an owner that has 3 generations of raising Clydesdales & is set up for them.

~Diane



*Alexander in pasture*



*Captain*

## Who Rescued Who?

After working at a job that had me going at break-neck speed and suddenly losing my parents, my aunt, my best friend and my husband unexpectedly, all within 2 years, I realized that I needed a new paradigm in my life. I had become very familiar with crisis management and having to take care of the needs of others, such that I had lost touch with the passions I enjoyed and what really matters most in life.



*Alexander and Laura*

After 38 years working in law enforcement, I retired and found myself needing to heal emotionally and learn how to slow down. Circumstances presented themselves which led to my moving to Durango in June. Getting out of the Denver Metro area and back to a rural community was the first step in my new paradigm. Around the middle of July, I began to look for opportunities to volunteer where I could find a sense of purpose. As a little girl, my love of animals, especially horses, was insatiable and I spent the best part of my adolescence on the back of a horse. I quickly decided that I wanted a career in something to do with horses and pursued a degree in Horse Training and Management and Veterinary Science. My goals were to go to work for the BLM and work with the wild horse program. Well, that goal did not work out, and my career took a different path. So, when I found Spring Creek Horse Rescue, I was excited about having the chance to rekindle my passion around horses and combine that desire with a sense of purpose.

During the short time that I have been volunteering at Spring Creek I have come to realize that working with and being around the horses and pups and Diane has actually rescued me. There is nothing better than the soft nicker from Ridge or Winslow or soft eyes of Comet greeting you in a way that says, "I am happy to see you and thank you for your kindness". You can't have a bad day when you spend time with the gentle giants, Alexander and Captain – brushing on these towering beauties and watching their silly antics. All the "residents" at Spring Creek, whether in rehab and waiting for a forever home, or permanent due to no fault of their own, have a story. Hearing about their stories, while in many cases sad, I am amazed at their resiliency to trust. The bond between Diane and all the animals at Spring Creek has shown me the way to having the same experiences in my life.



*A happy Cassie*

I have also seen and heard stories from other volunteers about how being at Spring Creek Horse Rescue has helped them to heal, find direction, or just have the time to connect with animals and others. Pulling up to those double gates, hearing the clank of the chain and scrape of the fencing on the ground as I open the gates to drive into the Rescue and being greeted by Harley, Baby and Cassie with happy barks and wagging butts always makes me feel like I am where I am supposed to be.

*~Laura*



## *A sad reality*

Over the last few years that I have been volunteering, I've begun to learn the ins and outs of running a rescue. It is not easy. Taking care of the animals alone is a near monumental task, factor in never ending projects, property maintenance, fundraising and grant applications, and there is simply not enough time in the day. Keeping a rescue afloat is the hardest part of the game. Unfortunately we live in a society where animal rights are more of an afterthought than they are a forethought. Our government offers very little in the way of grants, funding, or even laws governing the care and treatment of animals. This is a huge hurdle for us to overcome, and we must rely on adoptions, the benevolence of our community, volunteers, and donors to stay afloat. It's become apparent to me that many people fall short of truly appreciating the problems that rescues face. It's not as simple as taking in sanctuary horses and providing them a warm place to stay with a meal every day. The sad reality of rescue is that we cannot save all of them, in fact we can only spare a small minority. Simply taking in permanent residents left and right is not at all conducive to running a rescue, there is no return on investment so to speak. A large part of our income comes from adoptions. That is our goal at Spring Creek Horse Rescue: to rehabilitate horses, and place them into forever loving homes. Money earned from this is turned right around to continue the process. This cycle, however, does not leave a lot of room (or money) for us to take in elder, unwanted, or unhandled equines. That is not to say that we don't wish that we could (or that we don't, because we do!), but simply that finances, time, and manpower are limiting factors that we must abide by.



*Lilly, one of our permanent residents (who also has long whiskers!)*

The root cause of this problem is the lack of responsibility among owners. If one accepts the role of taking care of an animal, they also accept the accompanying work, finances, and love that goes into ownership. Recently it seems that many people expect rescues to serve a specific function that we just simply cannot maintain. We cannot take animals in because their owner is irresponsible about their care.

If one ever finds themselves in a position where they're unable to properly care for their animals, they must exhaust every other alternative. A rescue is a good place to start, but they must understand that we cannot always take in every horse. If they cannot re-home their horse and cannot or will not take care of that animal, we believe euthanasia is the right action moving forward. The abhorrent conditions and treatment present on most feed/kill lots is unacceptable, and only serve to temporarily delay the inevitable. It is preferable to put the animal down in a place where it has lived and is cared for. This is not an ideal situation, yet it is still one that owners may find themselves in. We try our best as a rescue, but we cannot help every animal and owner in need.

As always, we rely on the generosity of our community, donors, and volunteers. Thank you!!

*~Kevin*

