



Spring Creek Horse Rescue
2888 County Road 234
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Summer Newsletter, 2016

~FROM THE MANURE PILE~

A Word from Diane: Panel Challenge! and Horse Update

One of our volunteers came up with a brilliant idea: as badly as we need fencing so we can use more of the new property, she suggested it was time to run a Panel Challenge! For all businesses, individuals, schools, etc. - please share with all of your friends at work/school/home/wherever! Agritek is partnering with us to offer Powder Mountain fence panels at a reduced cost of only \$132.36 per panel.



Pacino, staring longingly at the grass he can't eat

We already have donations for 19 panels, with our end goal being 1,000 (which would allow us to fence off at least half of the 35 acres of beautiful grass that currently remains untouched and uneaten). You can make donations via PayPal on our website (springcreekhorserescue.org) - please mark them "Panel Challenge" so we know who to thank! Look for updates on Facebook about how many panels we have raised so far!



Current "fence" - that's a 30-foot drop behind it!

As for the horses, all of them are doing wonderful. Our newest arrival is Snip, a 21-year-old gelding who has been doing ranch work most of his life. Snip came from a very kind owner who obviously cares for his animals very much and who wanted Snip to have a good home for his retirement from gathering cattle.



Snip, wondering why we're taking his photo mid-dinner

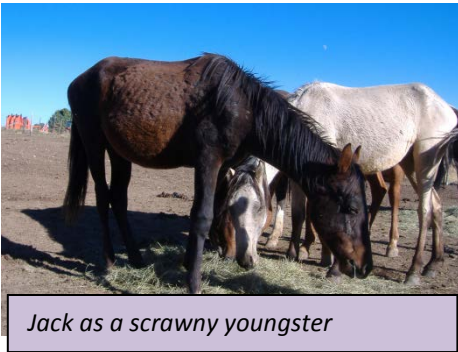
Thank you to everyone, as always, for your support and for being friends of Spring Creek - anyone with weather powers, please ask the heat to let up a little bit! The horses are all swimming and splashing in their water tanks, providing loads of amusement but also necessitating daily cleanings (which is where I'm headed as soon as I finish this letter). :-)

- *Diane*



Jack Wins the Jackpot

Jack, a three-month-old dark bay quarter horse gelding, came to the Rescue with 39 other babies, all saved off a kill truck. Jack stayed by the side of another bay, a filly from that same truck. The two were inseparable. He became Jack; she became Jill. Jack and Jill were constant companions - very cute, very sweet.



Jack as a scrawny youngster

Time passed and Jack and Jill grew into beautiful 2-3 year olds.

Jill was adopted and Jack was left without his sidekick. So Jack was put in a corral with six mates, all geldings, all from the same kill truck. When Eric, Pacino, Trigger, Jake, and Zach were turned out, Jack alone stayed. He stayed next to the cart and next to the volunteers. This is when I really came to know Jack. He was shy; the rambunctious geldings a bit much for him. He became a favorite of mine.



Jack at four years old - filling out nicely!



Jack now - much more comfortable in his own skin!

Then one day when I went out to the Rescue, I was told Jack was adopted. I was happy, although I knew I would miss this special guy. It is wonderful when a horse from the Rescue goes to a home: a place where attention is given, where riding and loving care is part of the routine.

Unfortunately, within a month, Jack's adopters had not done any of their scheduled updates or let us know how he was doing. When we finally got in contact with them and discovered they couldn't even catch him, we sent our trainer to go pick him up. He came back to us stressed and unsure, so we determined he needed a "recovery period" that included some time off and some fun with his new pasture mates,



Jack grazing this last winter with Colton

Colton and Woodrow. Since then, the "boys" have become fast friends, and Jack has been at the Rescue waiting for a special adopter who really "clicks" with him.

And he finally found her! This June, a caring and experienced horse woman is planning to adopt Jack, for a companion for her current horse (also named Jack!) and for a riding partner. Jack hit the jackpot!

- *Becca*



Jack posing & giving kisses like a champ!



Horsemanship Lessons:

Many of our lesson slots have filled but we still have a few left! Tell your friends: \$45/hour for a 1-hour lesson (adults or kids), \$20 for kids 5 and under. Lessons make great presents for the kids or grandkids! Here's a recent Facebook comment from a happy parent:

[Brandy Phelps- Luzietti](#) I am so thankful to have found Spring Creek Horse Rescue who has a trainer that can teach ALL the ways to handle a horse. It's not just about tossing her on a horse and holding on, she learning how to take care of and handle any horse she comes in contact with because, like people, no two horses are alike, they have different personalities and what works for one may not work for another. Thank you for giving my horse crazy daughter the tools she needs to not only ride any horse but to know how to love and care for them as well



Why I Volunteer

I've never owned a horse. One of the last places I thought I ever would be volunteering was a horse rescue. After our family move to Colorado from Oklahoma, we attempted to plug in to our new community. Gratefully, we discovered Spring Creek Horse Rescue. Needless to say, I showed up with virtually no experience but a willingness to learn. From day one, Diane took my daughters and me through the steep learning curve of what it takes to truly care for horses. Every time we arrived it seemed we learned something new.

Three years later, I still don't own my own horse, but I sure look forward to hanging out with my buddies every week.



A typically idyllic Spring Creek scene

The horses always seem so happy to see us! Our retired show horse, (we know that, but apparently he doesn't) Samuel, has always been one of our favorites. Honestly, it has been a delight to get to know each horse's individual personality. We especially enjoy the spirited demeanor of Pacino, the sweet



Volunteers "horsing around" with Pearl

natures of Tambra and Keester, the "pushy" love of Pearl and Tara, and the spunkiness of our three baby stooges - Sedona, Ruby, and Greta. It is such a wonderful experience to interact with all the horses every time we're out. They are all such a joy to be around!

One of the most exciting things to experience out here is the adoption of one of the horses. I fondly remember our days together, watching them grow, learn, and trust. Many of the horses come to us with very serious needs, and it's nothing short of miraculous to witness their transformation.

So why do I keep coming back every week? Mostly I believe I'm there to help with the horses; in reality I know I benefit immensely from the days I spend with them. There is nothing like time spent with horses!

I would like to take this time to dearly thank our sponsors and donors for all you've done to support us. We are extremely grateful for your assistance, as none of this would be possible without your consistent generosity. We appreciate you!

- Susan



It Takes a Village...to Raise a Filly!

Over the years, Spring Creek has had an array of dedicated and talented volunteers, and in no place does that show more clearly than in the training and upbringing of its rescued horses. A recent anecdote from our training adventures clearly illustrates the power of a good team, working together to lend their strengths:

Ruby, the "middle child" of our three youngest arrivals, came to us wearing a halter and a "You'd better stay away from me" expression. When we removed the halter (for safety) we immediately discovered that, while Ruby was wary of people in general, she also had a deep distrust of ropes and halters in



Ruby looking scruffy this winter!

particular. While her two “roommates” took to being haltered, groomed, and taken out to graze with great enthusiasm, Ruby remained - for months - difficult to touch and impossible to catch. Enter our team of amazing volunteers:

First, Diane spent hours and hours quietly observing Ruby’s growing curiosity and reaching out to her at every opportunity to start to show her that humans could be friendly and interesting. She offered grooming, attention, and the occasional delicious snack to overcome Ruby’s initial wariness.



Grass is a great reward!

Then, CJ and Matt, who started out working with Sedona and Greta (Ruby’s older and younger pasture mates), also took advantage of Ruby’s growing desire to participate by accustoming her to the touch of the rope and the halter on her face, neck, and back. CJ’s work gradually removing Ruby’s fear of the halter allowed us to move forward to the next step.

Eventually, Leigh assisted in the first strides toward teaching Ruby to stand still long enough that we could actually put the halter on.

Finally, Diane, Vicki, and CJ held, distracted, and entertained Sedona and Greta for far longer than babies can usually be entertained while Ruby finally (finally!) decided to let me put that halter and lead on for the first time! Hooray!

Our first leading session was short, and ended with a lot of praise, grooming, and grain. Since then, Ruby has become increasingly easier to catch and has decided that the halter isn’t such a bad deal after all, as long as it means she can finally go out to graze with her buddies.

It’s always fun to get to participate in one of those “big transformation” moments, but it’s equally important to realize that every transformation - in horse and human - is a gradual process, influenced by many, many people over time. The “moment” you see is a culmination of a hundred smaller moments, of daily effort by dedicated people. It’s that attitude of dedication that encapsulates what Spring Creek does for its horses. As Diane often says, “We don’t give up.” “We,” meaning that all of us contribute whatever strengths and

abilities we have for the betterment of the horses and people around us, and “don’t give up,” meaning that however long it takes, whether it be days, months, or even years, we’ll keep giving that horse a chance to trust, a chance to change, and a chance to move forward.



She’s gorgeous groomed - and getting MUCH bigger!

We're all elated that Ruby has decided to move forward in trust and in training, and we're very excited to see what she will learn from volunteers, both old and new, in the future. Go team!

- Jenni



Excited about what Spring Creek is doing?

There are many ways to support us!

- Donate to our **Panel Challenge**: \$132.36 buys a panel, \$66.18 buys a 1/2 panel!
- **Angel a Horse**: Pick a horse from our website and send a monthly sponsorship donation! Donations of any amount will help to provide feed, veterinary care, hoof care, and bedding for that horse. Full and half sponsors (\$400 and \$200 a month) get regular updates on their sponsored horse!
- Make an **In Kind Donation**: We are always in need of Purina Equine Senior Feed, alfalfa **pellets**, (our horses won't eat the cubes!), fly spray (or gallons of Dawn, apple cider vinegar, and Pine Sol to make our own barn spray!) fencing materials (no barbed wire or hot wire; sorry), gasoline and diesel fuel for the Gator and tractor, etc. We also need a **large** pasture drag!
- **Volunteer**: We offer regular volunteer training opportunities for new volunteers. Currently, we are particularly in need of skilled workers (**welders**, carpenters, tree cutters, and others who can help build fences and shelters, clear new areas for pens, etc.). We also welcome people with **gentle** horse training skills, and we are happy to train those who don't have horse knowledge but want to help out!
- **Donate** to our **General Fund**: Spring Creek is an all-volunteer, entirely grant- and donation-dependent 501(c)3 nonprofit. Many of the grants we receive help with specific projects or purchases - like our new stall mats!, but we have many general operating expenses that are not covered by grants. That's where the generosity of our individual donors really helps us out!

All donations, great and small, are gratefully accepted. You can donate via **PayPal** on our website (springcreekhorserescue.org) or by check (mailed to **2888 CR 234, Durango, CO 81301**).

Thank you!!! 