



*Spring Creek Horse Rescue*

*2888 County Road 234*

*Durango, CO 81301*

*(970) 884-4425*

*Summer Newsletter, 2017*

## *~FROM THE MANURE PILE~*

### *An update from Diane*

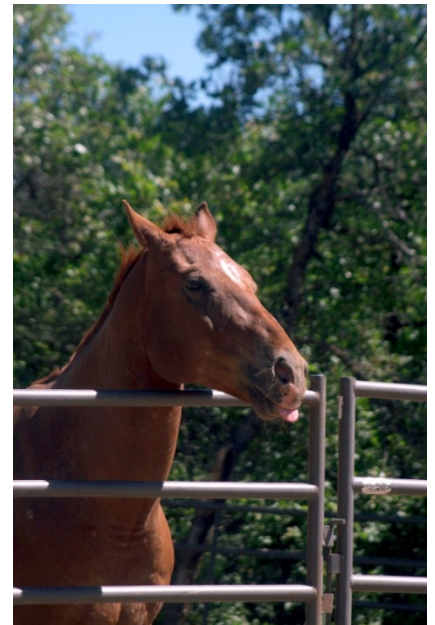
No rain in 2 months, temps in the high 90's. Hard to keep the masses happy and cool. Betty HATES the heat, Pearl could care less. Colton waits his turn to go out, but doesn't last long, Woodrow & Jack follow his lead, but running and playing are not near as much fun in the heat.

All the horses are doing fine, Ridge is coming back slowly and has a very social, loving personality. He and Keester have become good buddies and rear and run like they were young again. And then there is always our little circus horse Bonus, keeping us entertained.

We put some young Murray Grey cows on the high pasture to eat up the alfalfa until the heat came in. Best entertainment EVER for the horses (they look like little bears in a variety of colors).

Hard to keep up with the chores when your melting by noon, and still so many extra things to get done before winter. I guess we are moving along on the new property, but there's much left to do to make it fully functional.

*~ Diane*



*Colton patiently waiting for pasture time*



*Cute cows!*



*Bonus doing some yoga*



## DEDICATION

This isn't a story about one horse that came to Spring Creek Rescue, in bad shape, was rehabilitated and found a forever loving home; although it could be, many times over. This is a story about dedication.

Dedication to caring for the horses brought, given, & impounded to the Rescue. It is about getting up every day, in the dark, feeding every horse, and in the cold of winter, breaking ice in water tanks. Not once, but many times a day on the coldest days. It is about making sure every horse, with his/her corral



mates gets out in a pasture for exercise. And in the summer, time to munch grass all the while when corrals are mucked, waters freshened or changed, every day. It is about checking for health issues, calling the vet, calling the Ferrier, trimming hooves, giving medications, mixing special diets. It is about grooming, giving carrots, giving some love to the horses. Every day. It is about people who give \$20 a month and people who give \$600. It is about businesses that furnish supplies on credit while the Rescue finds a way to meet expenses that are always paid, volunteers who shop and deliver supplies. It's about foundations that know a difference is made at the Rescue and award grants. It is about volunteers who mend fences, fix leaks, unload hay, paint, and give items for garage sales. It is about the Executive Director, Diane, who has given her heart and soul to Spring Creek Horse Rescue for 41 years.



Activities at the rescue update. Our annual open house and garage sale was a success. We gave more tours of the Rescue this year and brought in over \$600 from the sale. Thank you for the donations. Also, one Saturday in June we had a group of 9 volunteers from the Durango community, Love Out Loud. Painting of the horse sheds, weeding of noxious plants, cutting down trees, mucking and much more was accomplished. Kudos to these volunteers. The Rescue also helps our community. During the

Lightner Creek fire, the Rescue horse trailer that holds 4, was standing at the ready to help with evacuations. Ongoing, we maintain a hay bank to help horse owners through a tough time. Also, horse owners stop by to discuss "horse issues" and learn about options to address these issues.

*~Becca*





## *Handyman Extraordinaire*

Volunteering at the horse rescue for me has been a great learning experience. I show up the first day to meet Diane and after our hello she is immediately headed to the barn scooping up food, mixing medications, and special food for some of the horses, telling me which horse gets what and away we go.



*Ridge and Keester on pasture*

I can see the anticipation of the horses already when we show up. They are very familiar with the daily routine. There are 22 horses and as we make the rounds dispersing food they are ready for us. By the time we get to the last of the group it is back to the start where we now let the first three out of their pens. Snip is free to roam the grounds, Ridge and Keester will go to the lower pasture and the poop scooping begins as we clean out their pens. This routine will be the norm until at least 2:00 PM as each horse gets a trip to the pasture.

It does not take long to understand that horses are very social creatures. When I take Ridge down to the pasture he has to stop and say hello to all the girls along the way and sometimes it takes a little extra coaxing to get him to move on down the hill. They are very good natured animals and most of all really enjoy personal attention and CARROTS!!

Last week we had the experience of giving a horse a bath. It took 3 of us to accomplish this task as Tambara wasn't so sure she liked the idea. But we persevered with the help of CARROTS!!

A horse ranch is also a place in need of constant repairs. I being a carpenter/handyman by trade seems to make Diane happy because she finds plenty of opportunities to use my skills. There are holes kicked in shelters, pens that have been damaged by extra playful

horses, irrigation repairs, sheds that need attention, gates that don't work, and the list goes on. We even made tennis shoes (1" dense foam and duct tape) for Ridge because his front feet were very ouchie after trimming.



*If you so much as whisper "carrots" Tambara will give you this look.*

Helping out at the horse rescue is great fun and getting to know each horse is a different experience.

*~Ralph*



## *Magic*



*Beautiful Chloe*

I recently had the opportunity to accompany my son, Kevin (who volunteers at the ranch), to Spring Creek Horse Rescue. I was not prepared for the amazing experience I had! Magic truly happens here and Diane is the Magician, a true healer!

Diane spent time telling me the history of each horse she has rescued, horses other people would not bother with. The abuse and neglect these horses have suffered is horrendous, yet there are treated like royalty by Diane! It is magic to watch her interact with each horse, she has a personal relationship with them. The horses display a calm happiness in her presence.

I have never been around these majestic animals before. Ok, I was terrified to be around them, but under Diane's guidance I was grooming them within one day! I even called my husband to tell him I wanted to bring Ridge home with me!

I got to have a very wonderful exchange with Chloe, a horse so badly abused she will not allow anyone, not even Diane to touch her. She took a carrot from my hands and we had a 20 minute conversation. It was truly a spiritual moment. I have come away from this experience as a changed person and a horse lover!

Count yourself truly blessed if you get the opportunity to visit Spring Creek! I plan to visit many times in the future.

*~Kathleen*

