



FROM THE MANURE PILE

Spring Creek Horse Rescue

Thank you donors

2022 was a challenging year.

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to our regular donors who keep the horses happy with grain and hay (you know who you are!)

And thank you to our new donors who joined us during Colorado Gives, too.

Because of the cold, we have been feeding more grain and hay to keep the horses healthy.

Please consider making regular donations or an extra donation through our website.

You can see your generosity in action in horses like George(!) who is fat and sassy this winter.



The fillies, April & Ashley, say "hello"!

Diane's note

Spring? Still spitting snow on an almost daily basis, BUT- the horses are starting to shed & their bodies know best.

This has been the worst winter in 8-10 years, so much snow, and then more, & more, & again. Tessa's middle shed row roof came down from the snow load, scared them & us, & it took days to tear it apart & now we start again to rebuild.

But good things are happening too--George has been scared of all the other horses since he's been here (I'm sure with good reason, by the kicks & bites he displayed on his body when he arrived.) He gets turned out almost every day (sometimes it's just too slick) & makes a WIDE berth away from other horses, UNTIL now. 2 years, & a total change, he feels & looks good, & now has discovered there are other horses he can play with. We are so happy he is Interacting now- sometimes it takes a long time to feel safe!



Jane

Happily Ever After: Jane!

"Jane is doing amazingly well. Her training has been pretty quick and smooth. Been really healthy. She gets along great with our friesian and is very much 'top dog' of the two even though she is smaller."

Ryan



Diane's note (cont.)

Chelsey and Cali



April & Ashley Have grown so much they are hard to tell apart from Beau (16-1HH) they are going to be beautiful.

We also added another Aussie "Chelsey" whose mom went into a nursing home. She is slowly learning how to be a country girl after being used to much different, but not used to living with other dogs, so it has been a challenge (to say the least) pretty sure if the snow ever leaves & she can explore more she will love being a country girl.

Pray spring is really here, so we can do something besides shovel & plow! --Diane



George visiting Ridge and Trimble



Beau

For adoption: Beau

Dutch Warmblood Cross, 16.1 H, 11 year old gelding.

He is big, silly, handsome, energetic, and love-able... and beautiful moving out!

Originally rescued from an Amish kill lot in PA, he has been at the rescue for a year and needs a forever home.

Beau needs a re-start. He is smart, learns fast and wants to please. He just needs an experienced trainer.

To learn more about this great guy, contact us via email.



A Volunteer Story

I have a confession to make.

I volunteer at SCHR for totally selfish reasons. And it's not about the horses! First, I don't have to pay for a gym membership. Between lifting bales and raking pens, my arms and back have never been so toned and strong. Not to mention the 20K steps a day! Also, I have home-body tendencies, and being outside in the fresh air—hot, cold, dry or snowy—makes me stop and hear the birds, look at the scenery, and feel connected.

And Diane has taught me so much about giving a horse a chance to be healthy, happy and to find who they really are. Just the other day, for the first time, George (shy, skeptical and a sweetheart) decided to go down the lane to visit all the other horses in their pens. Everyone (including the horses) we're surprised by his visit! The confidence he showed was amazing! And to watch the fillies grow and become friends with them has been such a privilege.

It seems like every week I have a new favorite horse or donkey or mule, with his or her own personality. I never expected to have so many new friends! OK, I'll admit, it might be about the horses after all.

I've also learned how much work and dedication this rescue needs to be successful. Diane makes this place run amazingly, but volunteers are essential. If you can't contribute your time, funding is a never-ending challenge. Any way you can help is greatly appreciated! It's such a worthy cause.

Cathy

George and his new buddy Pacino





Watchman and George

10 tips for caring for rescued equines:

We asked our volunteers about what they learned caring for rescued horses, and these are some of the tips they shared:

1. To gain trust, keep your hands and voice low, and avoid sudden movements. Always talk to them.
2. Watch how horses approach and interact with each other—take lessons from them.
3. Take cues from the horse about what they're ready for, using gentle pressure (vocal or physical). Release that pressure when they respond the way you want.
4. Use the horse's name a lot! Especially when giving them treats or special attention, so hearing their name makes them feel good.
5. Touch gently and teach them how to pick up their feet so you can keep hooves picked out, etc.
6. Once you are able to touch them, gently touch them all over with a rope—before moving to a halter.
7. Feed a small amount senior grain several times a day to carefully stimulate weight gain in a malnourished horse.
8. Don't groom horses when they are wet.
9. Interact multiple times daily to build a relationship and check health (like lameness/wounds.) For minor wounds, use silver honey.
10. Feed 2 flakes of Brohme hay (not Timothy or Alfalfa) 2 times daily to maintain weight. Feed flakes far apart to avoid conflicts that could result in injury.

ATTENTION: English Riders

A generous donor gave us an entire showroom of beautiful tack and riding boots.

Check our website to see what is for sale. (We have western saddles and tack, as well.)

Email springcreekhorsescue@yahoo.com to find out more.

2022 Volunteer of the Year: Lynette!

If you haven't heard, Lynette was our volunteer of the year last year.

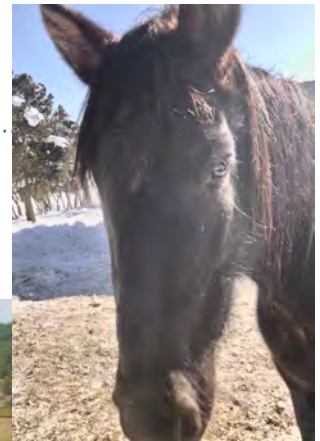
She is dedicated, generous, caring, thoughtful and hard working. She always has a funny story to tell -- and Peanut LOVES her!



Lyn and Nut

Permanent Resident Feature: meet Mouse!

Mouse is a 7-year-old, 14 H Rocky Mountain/Tennessee Walker.



Mouse

Mouse was surrendered to the rescue because her owner couldn't keep her. She has a caring forever home here.

She is brave, delicate, and love-able and has gained so much confidence in the last year with the move to the new pen. She was the first to explore the pasture during turnout, leading Raven and Ruby. We love her sweet disposition.

Sadly, Mouse lost her right eye due to an accident in which her head was stuck between a gate and the post it was hung on--so her skull was slightly crushed. Her accident also caused severe esophagus and tooth problems.

She can only have very little "Mouse" carrots because of her problems, but other than that she is doing perfect!

FAQ: You get free stuff and government money because you are a 501c3 rescue, right?

Nope, we pay regular retail prices (skyrocketing at this time...) for horse feed and veterinary care, etc.

We do not receive any government assistance. Our efforts are entirely funded through your donations.

FAQ: How many horses do you adopt out to new homes?

We had 6 adoptions last year! To see who was adopted (and just a few of the horses who found homes in over our 47 years) visit our site's "Adopted Horses" page.

Lady



We put Lady to rest on February 8, after she lost the fight against her disease. She found dignity, confidence and happiness (thanks to the fillies) in her final year. RIP -- we all miss you.

Donor Story

Not long after I moved to Durango 18 years ago I found out about Spring Creek Horse Rescue. Taking my ignorance with me I went to check out this rescue not sure what I would find but excited to know there was such a wonderful person who was willing to do a very hard and, too frequently, a very ugly job.

I met Diane. A strong, determined and selfless individual like I have never come across before. Her rescues were/are everything to her and that doesn't stop at her front gate. She takes in horses, donkeys, mules and minis whose owners can't, or won't, continue taking care of them.

She and her volunteers work to heal the extremely injured, neglected, starved and brutalized. They also train for adoption and teach children the joy of riding and taking care of these magnificent animals. They work day and night maintaining the property, the fencing, the buildings, the health and well-being of those they've made a promise to.

This is an extremely expensive venture and to keep their promise they need donations. Flat out, they need donations.

I don't have the strength (mentally or physically) to help Diane and her crew but I do put together a little bit of money each month to give. It's not only a tax write-off, it's knowledge that I'm doing even just a little bit to help an organization who is willing to do what I am not.

The feeding, vet and farrier bills, rent, water and electricity bills. EVERYTHING goes to the care, feeding, rehabilitation and finding loving homes for the horses. She also keeps her lifers—those who cannot be adopted—but she refuses to let go of them because they deserve to live out their golden years in peace and safety.

There isn't a more worthy place I can think of to donate to. My income is minimal so I am very particular about where I am going to send what little I can. If sharing this even slightly encourages others to do the same...then bonus!

Jay, DGO