

Montana HORSE SANCTUARY



NOVEMBER 2016

Happy Holidays Horse Friends!

Again this year, horse lovers like you improved the lives of all the horses at Montana Horse Sanctuary and many horses throughout the state. We are profoundly grateful for your support. Read on to learn about some of the 2016 accomplishments made possible by the generosity of such lovely people.

GRACE'S JOURNEY

Grace arrived in early 2015, a terribly abused and unhealthy horse with a deep fear of humans. She was recovering from a serious tooth abscess as the result of a halter that was much too tight and that she had been forced to wear continuously for years. It had actually caused the bones of her face to change shape, leading to problems with tooth growth, a painfully abscessed molar, and chronic sinus infection. Her body hurt everywhere.

Throughout 2015 we provided her with consistent handling and love, targeted nutrition and veterinary care. After improving her health, we sent her to professional trainer, Spencer Dominick of Wilsall. Her training was a long process because of her fear and mistrust of humans. Spencer's kind and patient methods made a huge difference. By springtime Spencer was riding her in the hills and across snowy creeks. She loves adventure and has great physical energy and willingness. She still needs more training to help her become safe for a wider range of potential adopters.

While her training has lasted longer than most Sanctuary horses, it will pay off over the course of her lifetime. She is only 8 years old and could easily live another 20 years. Good training is key to a horse's lifetime welfare.



GRACE GREETES A VISITOR

REHAB IS A DAILY PROJECT

Like Grace, all of the Sanctuary horses receive supplements specific to their needs every day as well as nutritious hay. Each year the Sanctuary buys high-quality hay and harvests two cuttings of hay from its own pasture. The horses also receive supplements and pasture grazing time.

Each horse receives veterinary care including dental care, necessary prescription medications, chiropractic care and deworming. The horses receive hoof trims every 6 to 8 weeks depending on the rate of their hoof growth. They love their farrier, Josh Bidlack of Power, who is kind and well-educated in farriery. Josh's patience helps each horse gain confidence and trust. Additionally, Josh finds ways to help our physically challenged horses like Sundance be comfortable and balanced while holding a foot up to be trimmed.



THE SANCTUARY TRACTOR IS OLD AND WANTS TO RETIRE

THE SANCTUARY NEEDS TO REPLACE ITS TRACTOR - SOON!

The Sanctuary relies heavily on its 54-year-old John Deere tractor. We purchased it 11 years ago and it has been a real "workhorse." It pulls the large manure spreader, the mowers, the road grader and the landscape rake. It cleans corrals and digs post holes. It moves earth and helps with dozens of other tasks. Simply put, we couldn't function without a reliable tractor. But 54 years have taken their toll and the transmission is about to wear out. Our trusty mechanic tells us he won't be able to find replacement parts this time. We need your help buying a newer, used tractor to take its place. So, we have started a special "Newer Tractor" fund. We are selling used tack to raise money but we will likely need to raise about \$20,000. If you can help the horses buy a new tractor, please do.

THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM CONTINUES

This year we were able to help more riders improve their horsemanship skills. Instructor Jess Holloway of Bozeman helped riders solve problems with their horses. The group gathered at Walkers On Water Arena near Great Falls to learn a variety of new skills. By the end of the workshop, frowns and consternation had turned to relaxation and smiles. Participants said they were delighted with the progress they and their horses made. Well-trained horses are safer and far more likely to remain in one home their entire lives. Sanctuary workshops are priced affordably and partially subsidized by donations. Your donation helps more horses stay in their homes for a lifetime.



JESSIE BIDLACK AND HER MARE NEGOTIATE A FAUX BRIDGE DURING A WORKSHOP

ROXANNE AND MADISON FIND THEIR FOREVER HOMES

Roxanne lived at the Sanctuary from the time she was a starved and scared filly until this summer when she left here as a healthy, well-trained adult. She is now enjoying a full life with a loving family in eastern Montana. She is going out on trail rides and helping her owner teach 4-H members better horsemanship skills. Roxanne is a lovely, sweet mare who enjoys meeting new friends. One of her new friends is Leonard, also a Sanctuary adoptee. He was part of the herd rescued near Browning 8 years ago.

Madison came to the Sanctuary 8 years ago. She previously had been a brood mare who had produced many highly-bred Quarter Horse foals. When she arrived, she was in poor health and had a reproductive tract infection. She had delivered her last foal stillborn only a few weeks before arriving at the Sanctuary. Though she had received only basic care and little handling in her life, she was a fundamentally gentle and sweet mare who loves humans. Madison helped us raised young Roxanne and also helped Simone and other horses grow into gentle adult horses. This past spring she was adopted by a kind and generous woman who is a veterinarian. This same woman had adopted Penny from us two years ago. Madison and Penny had been great friends at the Sanctuary and reestablished their relationship immediately. Madison is now enjoying full retirement in her new home and loving every minute of it. She even kept her beloved farrier, Josh, who helps keep her deformed hind foot comfortable.



ROXANNE AND HER ADOPTER ENJOY A QUIET MOMENT ON A TRAIL RIDE

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

The horses send their thanks and love to all of you who have helped them so generously. If you haven't yet become a donor, please consider helping the horses this year. Donations of ALL sizes matter and make a difference. You can donate by check or you can donate online at the Sanctuary's secure DonateNow page. The Sanctuary gift shop on our website is now fully functioning and full of great t-shirts, caps, notecards, art and other fun items. It's retail therapy with a purpose! When you license your Montana vehicle, please consider purchasing a Sanctuary license plate. You can even help the horses when you shop on Amazon by clicking Amazon Smile and choosing the Sanctuary. Amazon donates a portion of every Smile purchase to nonprofit organizations. If you can't afford to donate but want to help, please pass this letter and donation envelope to a friend and spread the word. We hope each and every one of you has a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

Sincerely,


Jane Heath
President


Brenda K. York
Vice President


Shanna Bulik-Chism
Secretary