

Montana



HORSE SANCTUARY

November 2021

Happy Holidays Horse Friends!

We hope all of you and your beloved families have weathered the storms of life and can celebrate the upcoming holidays joyfully. The past two years have been an interesting time for everyone, including the Sanctuary.

We are delighted to say our programs are strong and we are helping horses throughout the state. As we reported in 2019, the Sanctuary's mission now is to help Montana's in-crisis and abused horses by providing financial and educational support to rescuers, horse owners and animal control agencies.

We provide grants, workshops and hands-on support. Read on to learn how we are doing.

Our grants helped 178 horses in one year!

We gave a veterinary grant to a horse owner and later received a lovely thank you note from her. Her beloved young horse had developed a serious colic (life-threatening digestive upset) and the vet bills were beyond her ability to pay entirely.

"I am happy to report that (my colt) is doing very well with recovery and that I get to go pick him up tomorrow. He still has a long recovery road ahead of him, but I have high hopes that he will be just fine and have a happy healthy life ahead of him. I'm so excited to see him and bring him home!! Thank you all again for your kindness! It's nice to know there are still nice, caring and thoughtful people in the world amidst all of the craziness that our country is going through."

The profit from the sale of the ranch will help horses for many, many years to come, as long as the money is carefully spent. But the need is still beyond our financial ability and we need your support.

As of November 2021, we have given all the grants we can afford until 2022. But we still have a stack of grant applications in our office. Hay prices shot through the roof from \$180/ton in 2020 up to more than \$800/ton in some parts of the state this year. Many horse owners and rescuers are in dire straits. You can contribute directly to our grant programs and make a big impact with any size donation.

Since autumn 2020, after the sale of the ranch, we have spent a total of \$21,218.69 helping 178 Montana horses.

Grants have paid for veterinary, hay, supplements and hoof care and have been distributed across the state to:

- 31 horses living with 6 horse owners in financial need = \$3,185.99
- 103 horses living at or associated with 4 nonprofit organizations = \$2,923.52
- 23 horses living in 6 private rescues = \$10,459.18
- 25 horses seized during abuse investigations by Flathead and Missoula Counties = \$4,650.00

RANCH SOLD IN SEPTEMBER 2020 AND WE MOVED TO STEVENSVILLE

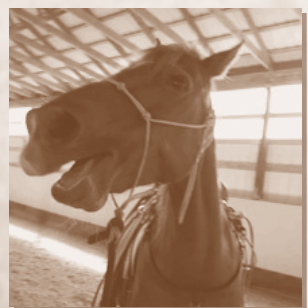
We sold the ranch near Simms in September 2020. It was difficult and sad for the staff and volunteers who worked to make it home to many horses over the years. We moved the Sanctuary's office to the Stevensville area.

While we no longer accept horses, we still honor adopt-back agreements. Last year we accepted a donkey named Ruth back into the sanctuary when her adopter could no longer care for her. We found a fabulous new home for Ruth with the same family who adopted donkeys Russell and Bunny. She is delighted to be reunited with donkeys she knew years ago. All three were originally part of the 2010 Hot Springs herd of 108 horses and donkeys we rescued and rehomed.

GRACE FINDS HER FOREVER HOME, AT LAST!

In 2015 Grace came to us from an abuse case in Billings. She was afraid of humans and in poor health. We brought her back to physical health. Then Spencer Dominick of Wilsall trained Grace and rehabilitated her traumatized spirit. She became bolder and softer, though definitely still somewhat skeptical of humans. She was clearly the right horse for a very specific kind of adopter — someone who could appreciate the abuse she had endured and help her through her occasional difficult days.

This past spring, one of our adopters wrote and asked, "What happened to Grace? Did she ever find a home?" The adopter had recently lost her saddle horse and was beginning the search for a new mount. She said she had always felt drawn to Grace but also knew she had as many horses as she could care for. The adoption was successful and we are delighted to report that Grace and her woman are a great match — heartwise and on the trails! Sometimes finding the right home for a horse takes years but it's worth the wait. That's what Grace tells us.



TEAMWORK WORKS

Last summer we received a request from Army Reserve veterinarian Dr. Emilee Alms who is tasked with assisting animals on the Fort Belknap Reservation. While the Army Reserve funds dog and cat spay/neuter, vaccinations and wellness exams, they don't have funding for horses, yet many people on the reservation have beloved horses. We teamed up with RezQ Dogs of Dodson who was coordinating the event. Our grant of \$1056.52 helped 15 horses get dewormed, 20 vaccinated and 1 gelded.

In 2020 we received a call from Arizona's Equine Voices Horse Rescue. One of their horses had been adopted by a woman near Missoula and because of a major life change, the woman had to return the horse to them. Karen Pomroy of Equine Voices asked us to visit the horse and help them decide how to proceed with their adopt-back. Equine Voices was concerned the mare might be a little elderly to make the long trip back to Arizona but they were willing to transport her if a new home couldn't be found in Montana. We contacted United In Light Draft Horse Sanctuary in Livingston to find out if perhaps they had an opening for the mare and they did! She now lives happily with a herd of fellow draft horses for the rest of her life at United in Light.

Western Montana Equine Rescue and Rehab of Corvallis reached out to us about a horse abuse situation in Missoula late last winter. They were helping with foster care of the horses and wondered if we might also want to help. We have collaborated with WMERR and Missoula County to help care for the horses seized in the investigation. We have spent a total of \$4450.00 this year and hope the case will be resolved soon so the horses can find forever homes.

Flathead County recently seized 17 horses during an abuse investigation. Because we never know how quickly the weather might change we collected and delivered a load of winter blankets at the request of animal control officer Paul Charbonneau of Kalispell. We thank the many donors over the years who have given gently used, clean horse blankets. After the county is done with them, the blankets will be returned to us and we can use them again and again.

JESS HOLLOWAY WORKSHOP IN STEVENSVILLE A HIT

Jess Holloway of Bozeman is a horse trainer and riding coach. He has taught numerous clinics for the Sanctuary and also trained many of our horses over the years. His workshops are always informative and fun. He taught a two-day clinic in Stevensville this year. Our education program was in pause mode all of 2020 and most of 2021 due to COVID. We hope 2022 will be a healthier year and we can hold more clinics and educational programs.



WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY SEASON

Your contributions, no matter the size, make a huge difference. Please consider that our grant program helped 178 horses at an average cost of \$119 per horse! Now that's an impact! Our grants help horses stay safe, healthy and happily at home.

We hope that all of you have a joyous holiday season. As the song says, "May your days be merry and bright!"

Happy Holidays

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