



New Year, New Family, New Fun

By Julie Kaufman

Happy New Year from The Horse Protection HPL is also excited to welcome new League! We hope that your time over the past holiday season was spent with those you hold dearest!

members to serve on the Board of Directors. The individuals are identified in the column to the right. Thank you in



The HPL family had a very active and successful 2016! We had 15 new horses and a mini-mule added as residents throughout the year, with 10 adoptions to forever homes, and one safehome placement. 2017 looks to be another busy and exciting year for our ranch as we have just rescued two mares who appear to be in foal. See page 6 for their story. It has been a long time since HPL has experienced a birth on the ranch, so we are anxiously awaiting to see if we will have new baby arrivals in 2017. For updates, visit our website at thehorseprotectionleague.org, or join us on Facebook.



advance for your service to the organization, and we look forward to continuing the success and prosperity of HPL under your leadership!

Finally, we can never print an issue of our newsletter without a big shout-out to our volunteers. HPL would not survive without the tireless dedication of our volunteers who feed, muck, build, groom and care for our beloved equines. There is always an atmosphere of fun and family with our volunteers who make HPL tick!

Thank you and we look forward to another exciting year of fun and adventure as we continue to live our mission of dedicating ourselves to the "welfare of equines, and to empowering people and horses to help each other."

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2017 Board of Directors

President—Tammy Donaldson Vice President - Cindy Melvin Treasurer—Richard Rudy Secretary—Chris Kirby Asst. Secretary—Carol Molnia

Directors

Melloney Millward -Volunteer Coordinator Dave DeCecco, Larry Lami, Janet Anderson, Pam Brier, Carol Miyagishima, Bill Polzin, Mike Reeder

The Board meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Ranch House. Meetings are open to the public. Feel free to attend and hear about happenings around the ranch!

Identification Statement

The Horse Protection League Tales from the Ranch **Published Quarterly**

> Churches Ranch 17999 W. 60th Avenue Arvada, CO 80403

Congratulations on Our Recent Adoptions!

Josie (JoJo) adopted by April Olsen





Rudy adopted by Lark Birdsong

Photo courtesy of Esther Lidstrom

HORSES ARE JOY!

The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit, and fire.

~Sharon Ralls Lemon



Ranger adopted by Pam Brier

Rideable Horses Available for Adoption Now



Photo courtesy of Esther Lidstrom

Walter

is friendly and personable, and

Adoption Fee: \$300

This handsome bay gelding is friendly and personable, and very, very gentle. Halter, saddle, trot, lope— Walter does it all! This level-minded gentleman is in his mid-twenties.

Oreo Adoption Fee: \$300

1992 Appaloosa gelding that is 15hh. He can walk, trot, and lope. Oreo is friendly and easy to handle. He is excellent for a beginner or for a confident young rider!



Boo

Adoption Fee: \$300



Boo is a Pony of America gelding that is approximately 20 years old and stands 14hh. He is extremely friendly and very gentle. He is suitable for light riding or for leading small children around. Stop by and meet this charming boy!

Navajo Ponies, In Training, Ready for Adoption Now



This 2015 gelding is extremely friendly and attentive. He is halter broke and progressing very quickly with more work. He loads, leads, ties, and absolutely loves people. This HPL favorite won't stay available long! Adoption Fee: \$250



Available for adoption! This 2015 filly is halter broke and willing. She's athletic and intelligent with a lovely build. Come see Nina and how she is progressing!

Adoption Fee: \$250

Newer Arrivals!



Dash

Adoption Fee: TBD

Dash arrived at HPL on September 26, 2016, through the Colorado Horse Rescue Network. Foaled in 2004, Dash is a spunky little Shetland pony at 10.3hh. He is still very shy but is getting more friendly each day. Right now he can be caught and led as well as groomed. Dash loves spending time with his best friend, Boo. Say hello to this zippy little pony!



Striker

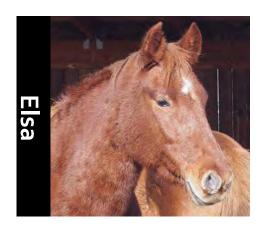
Adoption Fee: \$800

Available for adoption! Born in 2008 on the 3 Strikes Ranch, Striker was rescued and rehabilitated. Although unbranded, he is an American Mustang by blood. He was started under saddle years ago and has been ridden, but is in need of refresher courses. He is now in training at HPL.

All adoptions require a contract, approval, and fee. To see a horse, contact HPL at (303) 216-0141.

Arrivals from ISPMB (see story on pg. 6)

These two mares arrived at HPL on November 30, 2016, from the emergency situation at the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros in South Dakota. Both of these youngsters were rescued during a blizzard. We are currently working on getting them gentled. Both are believed to be in foal. We plan to give them and their possible foals a better future. **Adoption Fees to be determined.**





Our Loveable, Beautiful Horses Who Want A Forever Home—Companion Only



Lyla is a beautiful 16-year-old OTTB (off-the-track-thoroughbred). She stands 16hh and is very gentle. She can be caught, groomed and led. We believe she was also started as a barrel horse, but a knee injury now means she is companion only. Take the time to come meet this darling girl. Adoption Fee: TBD



Photo courtesy of Esther Lidstrom

General 1996 Grade gelding. He arrived with arthritis and ringbone, but is receiving extensive work and shoeing to help ease his discomfort. He will be available as companion only, once his conditions are under control.

Adoption Fee - \$250



Jackie came to us through
Jefferson County Animal Control
very underweight and in overall
poor health. She has trust issues
and needs a calm but confident
handler who provides reassurance
and love. She stands to be
haltered, brushed, and has very
nice ground manners. Born 1993,
Arabian mare. Jackie is Gracie's
mother. Adoption Fee – \$200



Romeo came to HPL in 2003 from an owner who could no longer care for him. He is a handsome and proud Arabian. Romeo was shown in Level 2 Dressage. Even though he is no longer rideable, he loves groundwork and has good ground manners. An ideal home for Romeo would be one with other companions and a lot of love. 22 years old, gelding, 14:1 hh.

Adoption Fee - \$200



Raja came to us from an owner who could no longer keep him. Raja has good ground manners, is playful, and requires consistent farrier work. He is beautiful and easy to love. Born 1994, registered black Arabian gelding.

Adoption Fee - \$200



Gracie, an Arabian mare, came to us through Jefferson County Animal Control very underweight and in overall poor health. She stands to be haltered, brushed, and has very nice ground manners. Companion only. Born 2004, Gracie is Jackie's daughter. Adoption Fee – \$200

Our HPL Mascots



Princess, a 14-year-old miniature horse mare, is one of the smallest equines at HPL. She is only 9:2 hands in height, but she is very big in personality! She represents HPL at events and parades and sometimes wears a tiara, to the delight of the onlookers. She loves the attention and is used in educational programs at the ranch, for both children and adults.

Millie is 6 years old and came from Long Hopes Donkey Rescue in Colorado. She loves to bray ("talk") and is easy to handle. Both donkeys are jennets (female donkeys) and are used in many of HPL's educational programs.



Daisy is 5 years old and was the first burro (donkey) to arrive at HPL. She was rescued at Canyon City through the Bureau of Land Management adoption program. She loves to be groomed.



When the call came into The Horse Protection League (HPL) alerting us of horses in distress and living in terrible conditions, there was only one option: to hitch a trailer to the truck and drive 600+ miles to save them. And that's exactly what our Barn Manager, Margaret Blaha, did. Only a few days after Thanksgiving 2016, she dropped everything and set out into unknown conditions to rescue four horses.

What she found when she arrived was shocking. More than 800 horses were living on only 600 acres on an overcrowded, under-resourced mustang sanctuary in South Dakota. Most of them had not been vaccinated, were malnourished and many were showing signs of health problems. Nothing had been done to control the population size or monitor their well-being. The facility had run out of hay and was in financial shambles; thus many vendors and suppliers were unwilling to provide service to the facility. Also, the acreage on which the horses were living was completely overrun and ruined. The effects of this neglect were causing problems with neighboring land owners. Thankfully, due to dedication and initiative of a concerned employee, conditions were documented and reported to authorities. Through this, HPL (and other rescue organizations from across the nation) were made aware of the situation.

Even though help was on its way, the situation created urgency to take ownership of the horses and prepare them to be rehomed. Unlike household pets

that are found in such conditions, horses are considered livestock and, by law, must be immediately rehomed or put up for auction. Sadly, in many cases, horses in such poor condition that go to auction are often slaughtered.

Margaret would have nothing of the sort.
Unfortunately, she was allowed to rescue only two mares, not four as originally planned. So, to have the greatest impact, instead of choosing the most attractive, flashy horses, she chose two horses that would most likely not be adopted due to their understated beauty. Margaret's trip took several days, which included the adoption process, the brand inspection, delays because of blizzard conditions, and hours upon hours of driving with a stock trailer.

Anna and Elsa, our two new rescue horses (pictured on page 4), are now adjusting nicely to their new home at HPL in Arvada, CO. Both have allowed volunteers to touch and handle them. Anna has even allowed our handlers to put a halter on her! They're being well fed and are making great progress. With the proper attention, they will be wonderful horses ready for their forever homes. It will take time, though. Until then, they will require lots of patience, training, and resources, so we are seeking sponsorship and volunteers to help them grow and develop. If you're interested, please contact Margaret at (303) 216-0414.



to our veterinarians for providing such dedicated medical services to HPL!

You go above and beyond for our horses.

- Golden Animal Hospital: incl. Gary Pallaoro, DVM, & Donna Johnson, DVM (303) 279-6601
- The Eye Clinic (Veterinary): Todd Hammond, DVM (303) 422-7444
- Steve Long, DVM: 303-278-4619
- Littleton Equine Medical Center: Jessica Dunbar, DVM (303) 794-6359

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events



January 7th - January 22nd

Come Visit the HPL Booth...or better yet, come tell people about HPL!

We are still looking for volunteers to work at the HPL booth during the dates and times below. We will provide training and admission for volunteering; parking is free for volunteers. Contact Mattie Vadas at mattie28@hotmail.com if you want to help spread the word about HPL and enjoy the Stock Show.

Sat., Jan 14th: 5 pm – 9 pm Wed., Jan 18th: 5 pm – 9 pm, Thurs., Jan 19th: 8:45 am – 1pm Fri., Jan 20th: 5 pm – 9 pm Sat., Jan 21st: 1 pm – 5 pm

CASINO NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION APRIL 28, 2017



The Casino Night & Silent Auction event is fast approaching. This year, the event will again be held at Table Mountain Inn, on Friday, April 28th. Please consider donating an item to raise funds for the equines at HPL.

Donations for the auction will be accepted until Friday, April 21st. Any item donated must be new and should have a base value of \$30 or more. When donating an item, please put your name and phone number on the item, and include a brief description and the value of the item. Items should be turned in to the ranch house. If the item does not sell at auction, it will be retained by HPL and put into the next silent auction unless you specify otherwise.

Some items offered in the past that were popular with bidders were: original works of art, new coffee table books, jewelry, pottery, wearable art, and gift certificates. If you donate art, please make sure it is matted or framed. Baskets filled with items of a theme are also appreciated.

If you have questions about donating an item, please contact either Co-Chair of the event for assistance:

Kim Luzeckyj kluzeckyj@gmail.com

or

Stacy Smith j.spurgin22@gmail.com

Let's make this a fun evening as well as a great opportunity for supporting our equines.

THE HORSES AND DONKEYS THANK YOU!

Fundraising, Grants, and Projects

Fundraising

Holiday Activity Basket & Craft Fair



Holiday activity baskets arrive at Children's Hospital

Thank you to the volunteers and to the friends of The Horse Protection League who participated in the "Holiday Activity Basket" project, and the Holiday Craft Faire. Fifty-four baskets were delivered to Children's Hospital and the basket project proceeds were \$3,100. The Holiday Craft Faire proceeds were \$2,222. Your generosity in donations and purchases totaled \$5,322 for HPL! Thank you for supporting these fundraisers. It is all "for the love of horses."

Sincerely,
Jill Whidden & Trudy Younger
HPL volunteers



Holiday Craft Faire

Grants

In June 2016, The Horse Protection League was awarded \$5,000 as a winner in the ASPCA "Help A Horse Day Contest." There were 107 contest entries and only 11 awards.

How did HPL spend these hard-won funds?

- Basic gentling and ground training for our three wild mustangs (Nina, Geronimo, and Wyatt [before he was adopted])
- Purchase three adoptable horses (Oreo, Walter, General) to save from auction
- As part of national rescue effort, our travel expenses to South Dakota location where hundreds of neglected horses need rehoming (brought home Anna & Elsa)
- Expanding reach of HPL through new fundraising products and marketing tools.

We are grateful to the ASPCA for this award, which helps to support HPL's mission!



The Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance (CUHA) supports HPL in 2016-2017 through a grant for general operating expenses and horse training costs.

We are very grateful for this assistance which furthers the mission of HPL, and honored to partner with CUHA for another year.

Projects

Phase 1 Shed Update

Sheds 1 & 2 are nearing completion as the mild

temperatures during the holidays have enabled our volunteer construction team to make huge progress on the project. The right side, the back and the roof are all complete and hopefully another couple of days will see Phase 1 and these sheds complete. Thanks to George Millward and Richard Rudy (pictured on the left), and Tom Urban (pictured on the right) for making this project a reality! **Phase 2** is scheduled for early Spring - with 2 more new sheds.



George Millward and Richard Rudy

Tom Urban



Inspiration and Education

By Tammy Donaldson, PhD, CAAB

Inspiration from HPL's President

By Tammy Donaldson

of change, some sad losses and a number of new beginnings for The Horse Protection League (HPL): new (and renewed) members, new horses, new employees, new partnerships with rescues and new board members. In 2017, with the help of our new board of thirteen and our members, I resolve to not only maintain the wonderful community at HPL but also to enhance our role within the larger horse rescue community. By promoting and fundraising for HPL, and collaborating with other rescues and organizations, we can continue to work to end neglect and keep horses from going to slaughter. We can make a difference if only for a few out of the many horses in large-scale abuse cases such as the one in South Dakota where 800 horses are being starved and neglected. We helped two mares, Anna and Elsa, from that situation. It may not seem like much but it means everything to the two that now have a chance at a good life. There's also Lyla, who came to us through a partner rescue, a sweet-hearted mare that was injured barrel racing and left for dead. She was grossly underweight and terribly lame but now is in beautiful condition and jubilantly runs through our pasture while she awaits her forever home. We also continue to serve our community by helping local horse owners in need of help. To accomplish these resolutions we need help in vital areas such as fundraising, marketing, advertising

and web design in order to promote our horses and increase HPL's visibility. We will always be a quaint, historic rescue, but with your help, we can accomplish

The New Year is a time in which we are encouraged to reflect on the past year and make resolutions for a brighter year ahead. Last year was a year

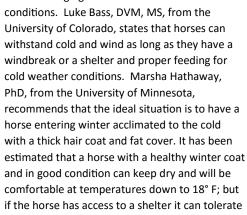
Winter Conditions and our HPL Horses

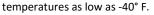
We have experienced some chilly days out at the HPL ranch and it has raised many questions about how horses cope with winter weather. There are many philosophies among horse

enthusiasts on how to best help horses in cold conditions but the following are the leading recommendations from experts.

great things in 2017!

According to animal scientists, horses have an innate ability to handle changing weather







Blanketing:

Blanketing will give added warmth but will decrease the horse's natural ability to withstand cold temperatures. Blankets prevent the formation of a thick hair coat.

Dr. Bass explains, "Blankets also tend to compress a coat's layers, which compromises their insulating properties. Horses that do not live in extremely cold environments – meaning routinely colder than 10°F – will do well without a blanket, provided they have access to a protective shelter." If horses are shivering, they

may need extra warmth. Older horses or medically compromised horses may need the added warmth of a blanket on very cold days. "Unless you are showing your horse, blanketing is a personal decision. The blanket will give your horse added warmth, but in return will decrease your horse's natural winter hair growth," says Dr. Bass. If you decide to use a blanket, use one that is most appropriate for the horse's needs and weather conditions. Remember that sweating in a blanket can be more detrimental to your horse than not wearing a blanket.

Winter Nutrition:

A horse's best defense against the cold is access to a high-quality diet. The process of digestion creates heat for the horse. Dr. Hathaway explains,

Many people believe that feeding more concentrates [grains] (because they are energy dense), will help keep the horse warmer. However, there isn't as much heat produced as a byproduct of digestion, absorption and utilization of grains as there is from the microbial fermentation of forages. Consequently increasing the amount of forage in the diet will help meet the increasing energy needs and will result in an increase in microbial fermentation, which will help keep the horse warm. For example, if a 1000 lb. horse needed 16 lbs. of good-quality hay each day when the temperature was 18° F, its requirement could be expected to increase by approximately 2 - 2.5 lbs. to 18 -18.5 lbs. if the temperature dropped to 0° F. The increased dietary energy requirement would be even greater if the horse didn't have access to shelter.

Feeding high quality forage such as grass hay is the best way to help horses contend with cold temperatures. At HPL, we provide additional feedings of hay mid-day to help horses stay warm. However, you should be careful of overfeeding or hay wastage.

Water:

Horses require about 13 gallons of water a day to cope with the demands of winter conditions. Frozen stock tanks are one of the most difficult problems that we face on our ranch. We have tank heaters to use in most of our tanks but even those cannot keep up with the high demands of the dropping temps. There are a few things that we are doing at HPL to help address this issue. 1) Submerged bottles of salt water to prevent the surface from freezing. 2) Leaving ice in the tank but creating a hole for drinking. This insulates the tank and keeps the water below from freezing and prevents dangerous slip hazards caused by removing tank ice. We are limited by our current electrical supply but we are searching for innovative ways of keeping tanks from freezing. Please be assured that our managers and volunteers are vigilant and will assure that all horses have access to water.

To summarize, the best preparation for horses in winter is a thick hair coat and a good body condition. What is best for our horses is to allow the formation of a good thick coat by blanketing only when necessary so that they



can use their natural defenses against the cold. Many horses do not require blanketing at all if they have access to shelter and good quality forage. Winter-weather feeding may require additional feeding of good quality hay but be mindful of overfeeding and hay wastage. Horses need access to water; making sure that water tanks do not fully freeze over by keeping a hole for drinking and not removing tank ice assures access and prevents dangerous slip hazards.

Sources: Bass, L. 2016. "To Blanket or Not to Blanket? That's a Good Cold-Weather Question." College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University 2016. Web. Jan. 5 2017. http://csu-cvmbs.colostate.edu/vth/Pages/horse-blanketing.aspx

Hathaway, M. 2017. "Feeding Your Horse in Winter." University of Minnesota Extension, University of Minnesota 2017. Web. Jan. 5 2017. http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/nutrition/feeding-your-horse-in-winter/

COME AND SAY HELLO!

Volunteer Hours:

Wednesdays & Saturdays 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at all times.



17999 W. GOTH AVE.

303-216-0141

HPL received \$984 from this program in 2016!





The Shelter Animal Reiki Association (SARA) supports the health of animals in rescues, sanctuaries, and shelters worldwide. As a SARA member, the HPL hosts a Monthly Reiki Share (the first Sunday of each month) from 1-4 p.m. Certified Animal Reiki Practitioners utilize Reiki as a complementary health approach to activate the natural healing processes of the body to restore physical and emotional wellbeing. Questions please contact:

Kari Arvisais, cell: 720-232-1482 or email: healingspaces@hotmail.com

Thanks to all of you who participated in Colorado Gives
Day. Your generous donations contributed over \$13,350 to HPL on this single day!



"Thank You" to Our Horse Sponsors

| * | ANNA & ELSA | ANN FELTEAU | * | NINA & | BOZENA NOWICKA |
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| * | ВОО | TERRI MELANDER | | GERONIMO | |
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| * | MILLIE | SALLY MINELLI | | | LAURA CRUZ |
| | | | | | |

In Memory Of...

- A HORSE AT A RISING STAR from JOHN, BEV AND GINGER (former HPL mare) RIVES.
- LUCY (HPL MARE ADOPTED BY ANNIE ODEN) AND JOSH (DRAFT HORSE OWNED BY MATTIE VADAS) from CAROL MOLNIA.
- COLORADO (A MARE OWNED BY MARCIA IMSE) from NANCY TAYLOR MASON.
- GATOR AND LUCY from LINDA PIERREL.
- NANCY MCCARTHY from ESTHER LIDSTROM.
- ◆ FLICKA from KIMBERLEY COLLINS.
- JONATHON STRIDE from JULIE MARBLE-WHITE.
- ESTHER EMERSON from HER DAUGHTERS STAR, MARY AND MILLIE.
- HIS DEPARTED HORSES from ROBERT KINNE.

In Honor Of...

- DAN & ROBIN YOUNGER AND TED YOUNGER, JR. from TED AND JAN YOUNGER.
- WILLIAM AND JACKIE SULLVAN from CLEO SULLIVAN.
- ◆ THE SULLIVAN FAMILY from BARBARA SULLIVAN.
- MEGAN BENJAMIN from THE BENJAMIN FAMILY.
- ◆ EMIE O'NEILL from JILL AND CHARLES RICHARDSON.
- KRIS PRATT from THE SCHIFFBAUER FAMILY.
- LARK BIRDSONG from THE RAMROOP FAMILY.
- LARK BIRDSONG AND JULIE BRISSON from SARAH, REESE AND SKYLAR WHITE.



P.O. Box 741089 Arvada, CO 80006-1089

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Dedicated to the rescue, care, and welfare of equines and to empowering people and horses to help each other.

We're on the Web & Facebook thehorseprotectionleague.org

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Zip:

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Address:

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