



newsletter

FALL | WINTER 2023

Rescuing Abused, Abandoned & Neglected Horses throughout New Mexico

HORSES & HORSE LOVERS

OUR THIRD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH WAS A CELEBRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR HERD AND OUR COMMUNITY.



LEFT: THS Trainer, Cori Hoody, demonstrates the patience taken in starting Levi under saddle.
RIGHT: Visitors enjoy serene moments petting rescued horses.

Horses and people who love them gathered on September 16th for our 3rd annual Open House at The Horse Shelter's Ranch in Cerrillos, New Mexico. We appreciate the warm outpouring of support and the time our visitors invested in learning about our horse rescue and rehabilitation programs.

Volunteers were on hand not only to greet our guests but to demonstrate their groundwork skills and commitment to mucking, caring for, and training horses – especially the work and rewards that come with patiently building trust. What does it take to be a volunteer at The Horse Shelter? Volunteers

shared their experiences with visitors.

Trainers exhibited their techniques for communicating with these animals, showing the enthralled crowd the myriad of ways that, through training, we cultivate a mutual understanding between horse and human. We learned that we are always training, patiently building trust, and relaxing our human need to control.

Thank you to all who came, participated, engaged, petted, and showed up. It was great fun, and we loved seeing all the faces, new and old, at THS Ranch!

FROM OUR BOARD



As I begin to write this, I am all too aware of it being November 1st and how quickly time marches on. 2023 was a challenging year for me personally with the loss of my horse of 25 years. Nieto was a stunning chestnut and white paint mare, full of personality, affection and a willingness to try what was asked of her. So many of us know how gut-wrenching it is to lose a horse and how it just rips your heart out as you face the loss and empty days ahead. Never again to sit in the saddle on her back and move as one, hear her nickers as I drive up, feel her muzzle on my head and neck and her warm breath from an unexpected kiss. An empty stall and a heavy heart. Saying good-bye to an era of life.

I share this because our staff and volunteers deal in magnitude with their emotions of every horse brought into The Horse Shelter and every horse that leaves—whether it be to a new home and a new life or one passing from this world to the next. They see broken spirits, broken bodies, starvation, neglect and abuse, but they also see a path forward—and they help these horses to be healthier, to learn to trust, to know what a decent life can be and to have a meaningful horse and human relationship.

It's an enormous responsibility, a physical dedication and an emotional commitment each and every day. Each new intake has a story to tell and our folks listen and help. When a new foal arrives, it brings innocence, joy and a fresh start. We are so proud of what we are able to do and continuously strive to reach new milestones. One of the most heartfelt accomplishments this year was the formation of the Horse Shelter Memorial Committee with the mission to remember and honor the horses whose lives ended at The Horse Shelter. The Memorial site was chosen for its serenity, spectacular view of the Ortiz Mountains and created from materials found on THS grounds. It honors the 40 horses who had a voice and passed at THS since 2015. It's a place where anyone can come to find peace and to recall memories of a special horse, a special connection and do so with love—whether from the Shelter or not.

As we approach the end of 2023 and with all sincerity, we are grateful for all the horses we were able to touch; grateful for you—our generous supporters that make this possible; and grateful for an incredible staff and dedicated volunteers that go above and beyond every single day.

With the highest number of intakes and adoptions ever (54 intakes and 38 adoptions) and new challenges to face, The Horse Shelter Board is poised to write a new chapter in our 23-year history. We look forward to the journey together.

Tara Earley,
Board Secretary
The Horse Shelter



David Rentfrow retired from our board in August. He served for five years making time in his very busy life, to help further our cause. We are filled with gratitude for all he has contributed to our operations and for his commitment to our horses. David is an avid horseman and he and his wife Susan also adopted one of our horses, Zia, to add to their herd. Thank you, David, for your service to our rescue and your many contributions during the years that have helped facilitate our growth and further our mission.

Board of Directors

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LEGACY GIVING



Have you thought about leaving a legacy for New Mexico's horses? You can help in many different ways. Leaving a legacy gift to The Horse Shelter will allow for horses to be helped far into the future, helping us expand our impact and mission. Your gift will save many lives and create futures for disenfranchised horses that otherwise have no recourse. Please consider including The Horse Shelter in your planned giving and estate. Besides the obvious inclusion as beneficiaries in your will and testament, estate, living trust, life insurance, annuities or IRA there are other potential options for you to explore with your estate planner. For more information please visit: www.TheHorseShelter.org/planned-giving, or call our office at 505.471.6179.

HORSE SENSE

EXPERT ADVICE

Keeping Your Horse Hydrated in Winter

Winter can be an extremely challenging season for many horse owners. It is important that a horse receives adequate water in the winter to stay hydrated and lessen its chance of developing medical complications. The risk of horses suffering from impaction colic is significantly higher in the winter months than in the summer. Horses, if drinking less water, may not have enough moisture in their bodies to digest food

properly after eating. Make sure a horse has ample water during meals, a horse will drink the most water within 1-3 hours after finishing its grain or hay. Encourage horses to drink during the winter by adding electrolytes to a horse's diet. Similar to how electrolytes are given on hot summer days or during heavy work, electrolytes in the winter stimulate thirst and replenish the electrolytes the horse has lost during the day. Electrolyte supplements can be sprinkled over the feed or added to a horse's water bucket.

HORSES & HORSE LOVERS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR BELIEF IN OUR MISSION.



Let's keep the momentum going! With your help, The Horse Shelter has helped more horses this year than ever before! By the end of October 2023, we have already taken in 54 horses, compared to 35 in all of 2022, and we still have 2 months to go! The same is true of our adoptions by the end of October 2023, we have already adopted 38 horses, compared to 26 in 2022.

We have upped our maximum capacity from 80 to 100 horses onsite and are working hard to meet the needs of NM's abused, abandoned, and neglected horses. With this kind of turnover during the year, our needs have also increased: farrier, veterinarian, ranch hands, trainers, supplies, and feed have all increased to match the needs of more horses moving through our rescue.

We are blessed to have an incredible staff working hard to support our horses. Our ranch manager, Rhoda Rein, is working diligently with trainers on getting our horses ready for adoption and with the adopters on making suitable and lasting matches, as well as ensuring proper vet care for the herd. Our assistant ranch manager and volunteer coordinator, Traci Kipnes, who "shuffles" the horse around to

find amicable paddock buddies, socializes and groundworks our horses, and leads and oversees our incredible volunteer program. She trains our volunteers and horses in groundwork and manners. Our incredible 50-60 committed volunteers at the ranch help muck, groom, and work our horses. Our ranch hands and maintenance crew work in rain, snow, or heat to feed, water, clean, weed, fix gates, and more. Our trainers, especially Cori Hoody, who works onsite and has 12 horses under saddle. Cori's expertise and commitment to our rescue horses have surely facilitated the adoption number increase. Our offsite trainers who take horses in to start them under saddle. Our store manager and staff, all work hard to create profit for our horses, from your generous in-kind donations to our store. And all of you, our loyal supporters, who believe in and support our mission!

It indeed does "take a village" to create lasting change, and we are deeply grateful to have a community of like-minded and caring people in our lives and organization.

Susan Hemmerle
Executive Director

Compassionate & Compatible Contributor



"We are thrilled to find a high-quality, unregistered horse that was in need, rather than buying a finished, well-bred, show-ready horse."

– Eric Otte, Instructor + Trainer

LEFT: Otte with Sloan (formerly Two-Step) at The Horse Shelter's Open House, September 16, 2023.

In July, Michele Cook of Santa Fe, NM, adopted a four-year-old gelding from The Horse Shelter. "I am an admirer of the organization and have made several contributions over the years," said Cook.

"Since last spring I have been on the brink of buying another horse," said Cook, who had just returned from a horse shopping trip to elite barns in Scottsdale, AZ, when she came to view "Two Step" at THS. Cook has ridden with instructor Eric Otte for six years and he too thought to shop at the shelter. The duo viewed videos and descriptions of Two Step on the website and then called to set up a site visit.

The solid sorrel-grade gelding was born and raised on the ranch. His dam, Tango, had arrived in a feral group of horses and was in foal. After six months Two Step was weaned and moved into a group of other young horses, where he was able to grow up enjoying play and horsing around with

his friends. He was halter trained, then gelded as a yearling, and started his under-saddle training last September as a three-year-old. With ten months of training, Two Step shows his ability to move well and learn, both Cook and Otte ride him regularly.

"We ride our horses for pleasure, but we also believe in riding goals, train five days a week, and have competed in events in Albuquerque and HIPICO," said Cook. "We are thrilled to find a high-quality, unregistered horse that was in need, rather than buying a finished, well-bred, show-ready horse."

Otte rode the gelding now affectionately known as Sloan, at The Horse Shelter Open House on Saturday, 9/16. "We are thrilled to attract high-skill level trainers to promote our horses in need," said Rhoda Rein, ranch manager. "We offer honesty and transparency in our adoption process, hoping to create long-lasting friendships and care for the horses that we love."

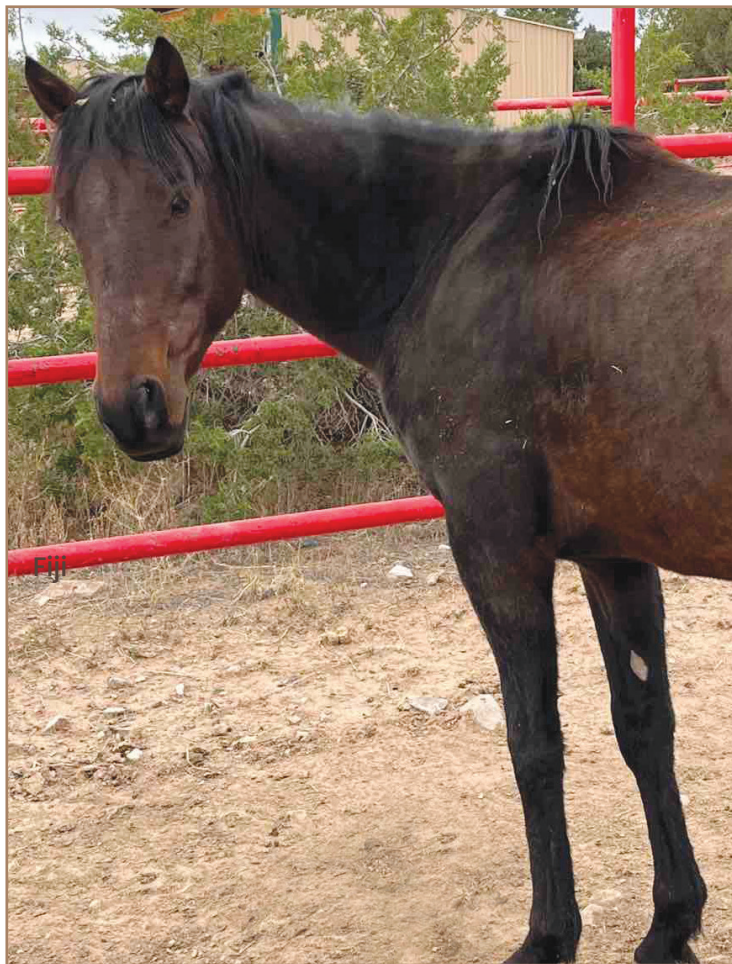


Michele with Sloan (formerly Two-Step).



Two-Step as a newborn.

Because of your generosity, we're helping more horses BRINGING HOPE TO THE HERD



Fiji, our new bay gelding, was found alone in the desert. His age is unknown as of yet, but he is gentle and halter broke. He needs some groceries and dental care. Poor little Fiji. You always wonder what their story is.... But, he's got a home and a herd now!

Consider becoming a sponsor and supporting Fiji in his rehabilitation.

Sponsors are vital to our continued success. Many of the horses arriving at THS have not been handled before. They are young and well deserving of the investment of time, energy, training and money that will allow them to find homes and have security in their futures. Most of these young horses are 1-3 years old and will probably be at THS several years, until they have learned enough to be safe around humans. Turning these horses into good equine citizens adds value and is the only way we know to ensure successful adoptions and future lives for our horses.

SPONSOR THE HORSE YOU WISH TO HELP.



Chef is a young bay stallion that arrived in September. As a 3 year old he's ready for ground training to ensure he is growing and maturing toward adoption success.



Cheese is a young cherry sorrel stallion that also joined us in September. With a small star marking on his head, his journey with THS is just beginning. A sponsor will help Cheese become a valued addition to a herd.



Chowder with a flashy flaxen mane and tail, is another young stallion who deserves the best care and training we have to give. Become a sponsor, and Chowder will receive the training and opportunity to reach his full potential.



THANK YOU TO...

The hundreds of generous donors who support our cause:

- By the end of October, we've seen a **10% increase** in donor contributions compared to last year.

Our phenomenal volunteers:

- Dedicated volunteers contribute over **6,000 hours** of their time annually.
- Our volunteer program continues to grow and volunteers are recognized nationally and supported by Plan4Progress and Forever Foundation.

Our compassionate adopters:

- By end of October already **38 beautiful horses** found loving forever homes.



Our consistent monthly donors who sponsor horses:

- This year **60 horses** have benefited from our sponsorship program.
- By end of October our sponsors have given **over \$50,000** to support individual horses.

Serving New Mexico's horses:

By end of October we have welcomed **54 new horses** into our shelter.

None of this would be possible without you as part of our amazing community.

We are grateful for your unwavering support in our mission to help horses in need.

THE PERFECT GIFT

GIFTING FOR HORSES IS THE BEST GIVING!

The perfect gift is meaningful, loving and impactful. And that is just what Gifting for Horses is all about. Sponsor a horse in your friend's or family's name, and they will receive a card from the horse. Your donation goes directly to the feed and care of the horse you choose to sponsor. The honor of this gift goes to your loved one. And the beauty of giving and receiving lights up the world.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

—MARGARET MEAD





The Horse Shelter

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WHERE TO SHOP FOR ALL OF THE HOLIDAYS

When you shop at The Horse Shelter's resale store, you're not just finding unique treasures—like horse gear, tack, art, jewelry, home goods, and gift certificates for your friends; you're actively contributing to efforts to rescue and rehabilitate these forgotten animals. Your purchase is a compassionate act of kindness that echoes in the whinnies of gratitude from the horses whose lives you're helping to transform.



821 W. San Mateo Rd. #A
OPEN

MON-SAT 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed: Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Day, New Year's Day