



newsletter

SPRING 2026

We rescue abused, abandoned, and neglected horses throughout New Mexico.

The Year of the Fire Horse, and We're Off and Running



In Chinese tradition, the Fire Horse appears once every sixty years. It inspires a spirit defined by speed and an indomitable inner fire that cannot be extinguished by hardship. It is a symbol of resilience, of transformation, of a life that burns brighter after surviving the dark. We could not have asked for a more fitting energy to represent the abandoned and neglected horses we have the honor of rehabilitating.

Take a look at Arya and Arwen.

These two thoroughbred mares arrived at the Shelter in the early weeks of 2026, seized from a surrogate operation that had reduced them to their utility. Thoroughbreds are built for motion, dynamic, sensitive, alive in every nerve. Yet their lives had been stripped of that freedom entirely. What endured was something quieter and harder to name: the kind of spirit that waits.

They are safe now. On our pastures, that waiting is giving way to something new. Arya and Arwen are discovering, slowly and on their own terms, what it means to simply be. That is the Fire Horse's truest power, not the running, but the becoming. This is their year.



Arya (L) and Arwen (R), thoroughbred mares, get a second chance at THS.



Ignite Hope in the Year of the Fire Horse

Every horse that arrives at The Horse Shelter carries the Fire Horse's spirit inside them, tested by neglect or hardship, but not broken. With your support, that inner fire has a chance to burn freely again.

YOUR GIFT PROVIDES

- Emergency and ongoing medical care
- Nutritious feed and safe shelter
- Rehabilitation and gentle training
- A second chance at a full life

GIVE TODAY

theHorseShelter.org/donate

*Every dollar fuels the journey
from rescue to renewal.*

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is the Year of the Fire Horse, and The Horse Shelter is forging ahead with strength and momentum. In Chinese astrology, this year combines the horse's qualities of freedom, strength, movement, and loyalty with the fire element's passion, intensity, transformation, and bold action—an especially fitting reflection of the work we do every day.

Our first quarter has been exceptionally busy. By the end of March, we have already admitted 19 horses and successfully adopted out 13. These numbers highlight not only the ongoing need for rescue in New Mexico, but also the positive impact of our training program on adoption success. With the addition of a new onsite trainer and an increase in partnerships with independent contract trainers, we are seeing a steady rise in adoptions. This is encouraging news—it shows that the interest in adopting these horses is strong when they are given the training they need to succeed.

There are many other exciting developments underway at THS. We are enhancing our volunteer program by implementing new scheduling software, allowing volunteers to sign up for shifts more easily and freeing up

valuable administrative time for hands-on work with the horses. With 70–80 active volunteers currently supporting the ranch, we have also just hired a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator who will help grow the program, develop specialized trainings, and deepen engagement with our volunteer community.

Our Board of Directors began a strategic planning process last year and, by engaging with stakeholders, is exploring new ways for THS to serve more horses across New Mexico. This includes expanding education, outreach, and programs aimed at helping horses remain safely in their homes whenever possible.

We continue to make ongoing improvements to the ranch and our facilities, ensuring the best possible care for the horses.

As the year moves forward, we are excited to host our annual Fundraising Auction and Luncheon on May 31. We hope you will join us, share your passion for horses, and help make this important event a success.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,
Susan Hemmerle
Executive Director

Your Legacy

By including The Horse Shelter in your estate or planned giving, you create a powerful impact that lives on. Your gift could provide safe shelter for horses who have nowhere else to turn.

LEARN MORE AT
THEHORSEHELTER.org

Board of Directors

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**Richard Hurdle 2022,
Vice President**
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CONTACT THE HORSE SHELTER
505.471.6179
info@thehorshelter.org

23RD ANNUAL AUCTION + LUNCHEON • SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

THE EVENT THAT MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE



This year's afternoon promises everything the event has become known for. Restaurant Martin returns to cater a lunch that reliably outshines what anyone expects from a fundraiser. Cowboy Artist Roark Griffin provides the kind of music that fits perfectly between the high desert landscape and the joyful mood of people who love horses. And auctioneer Mark Johnson takes the stage for a live auction that has, over the years,

become something of a performance in its own right.

The silent auction runs alongside, offering fine art, jewelry, and one-of-a-kind experiences contributed by a community that has shown up for this event, without fail, for more than two decades. That consistency is not incidental. It is the whole story.

It began in 2001 as a small gathering in a hay barn. Nobody would recognize it now. Each spring, The Horse Shelter's annual Auction & Luncheon transforms the ranch in Cerrillos into something between a celebration and a reunion — 320 guests under an 8,000-square-foot tent, surrounded by the very animals their generosity makes possible.

Seeking Great Stuff

Santa Fe, you make it happen!

We are looking for quality donations – art, jewelry and other special items – for our live and silent auctions as well as gift certificates.

If you have a donation for our auction, please contact us.

- 505.471.6179
- info@TheHorseShelter.org

Or drop off your items at our Resale Store:

821 W. San Mateo Rd. #A

- Mon-Sat, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Please mention they are auction donations.

WHEN

Sunday, May 31, 2026
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHERE

The Horse Shelter Ranch
100AB Old Cash Road
Los Cerrillos, NM 87010

TICKETS

\$90 per ticket
(\$50 is tax deductible)
TheHorseShelter.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING



At the end of 2023 and into early 2024, we admitted 38 unhandled horses from the State of New Mexico. These horses require significantly more time, skill, and consistency to prepare for adoption. Their training process begins with socialization—helping them learn to trust and approach people—then progresses through halter training, groundwork, and, when appropriate, saddle training. This process can take a year or more. Because horses can live well beyond 30 years, this investment is not only justified but essential, giving these young horses the opportunity for safe, productive lives.

To expand our training capacity, we partnered with three outside trainers and welcomed a new onsite trainer, Anna Foy, who joined us in December 2025 and is already making remarkable progress. Training these horses is not only about preparing them for adoption as riding horses it is also a critical safety issue. Horses that are not approachable cannot be safely vetted or properly cared for. Teaching

them to accept a halter, lead well, stand for the veterinarian and farrier, and load into a trailer is vital for both their well-being and the safety of our staff.

The time - intensive nature of this work impacted our adoption numbers in 2024, when only 13 horses were adopted. In 2025, after increasing our training efforts, we saw progress with 20 adoptions and 31 intakes.

In the first quarter of 2026, we have already adopted 12 horses and admitted 19. As we continue advancing the training of horses admitted in prior years, adoption rates are rising — demonstrating strong public interest in well-trained, well-prepared horses.

Because horses are large, powerful animals, the services we provide are essential to ensuring their safety and long-term success. By creating well-trained equine citizens, we not only improve their chances of finding lasting homes but also help protect the safety of everyone who will handle them in the future.



Our mission goes beyond rescue; we focus on creating good equine citizens. Addressing the rise in feral arrivals requires immense patience and specialized training. By prioritizing these skills, we help fearful horses develop into domestic partners, ensuring they are prepared for the bond and love of a forever home.

Our New Onsite Trainer, Anna Foy

We are very pleased to introduce you to Anna Foy who started as our full time, onsite colt starter in December of 2025.

Anna is a dedicated professional with a unique blend of military logistics expertise, veterinary support, and equine training experience, specializing in the humane management and conservation of wild horses. She has proven success in wild horse trapping, PZP darting, adoption processing, and low-stress handling methods, paired with over 900 hours of training and gentling wild horses while working for the USDA Forest Service in NM. She is passionate about protecting rangelands, improving herd sustainability, and ensuring the safe, ethical care of horses through hands-on expertise and community engagement.

Anna also has experience as Head Trainer, Veterinary Technician, Barn Manager, and Horse Manager. After relocating to our ranch with her dog Otter and horse Rio. She started working on some of our unhandled horses and has made great progress in the time she has been with us.

Anna has started four horses for us so far, three of them from not halter trained all the way to under saddle. Kyra, Opal, Chef and Zuma are doing very well under her tutelage. We are so fortunate to have Anna as part of our THS family!

Welcome to the Horse Shelter Team Anna, Otter and Rio!



Anna's dedication as a professional trainer, along with her experience in starting unhandled horses are a great addition to our training program.

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS HAPPEN WHEN HORSES ARE TRAINED

Our hearts swell watching Velvet (*top photo*) settle into her new home alongside two THS alumni. It feels like a little bit of magic. Vinny (*bottom photo*) has headed off to be a companion to another gelding, and we're rooting for him as he finds his footing in his new place.

These moments are only possible because we invest in our horses — in their training, their groundwork, and the slow, steady work of building trust. Our trainers put in the time so that when the right home comes along, our horses are ready.

Every adoption is our mission made real. Not every match is instant, and not every transition is easy. That's just the reality of horses. But we stay committed, and moments like these remind us exactly why.



Learn more about our adoption process at:
www.TheHorseShelter.org/adopt-a-horse/

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

7,600 Hours of Love: Growing Our Volunteer Family in 2026

Our volunteer program has always been the heart of The Horse Shelter, and we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible dedication each volunteer brings.

This remarkable group of individuals quietly powers our mission forward every single day. In 2025 alone, our volunteers have contributed an extraordinary 7,600 hours of service—and behind every one of those hours is a story of compassion, commitment, and a deep love for horses.

As our program continues to grow—now consistently reaching 70–80 active volunteers—we are excited to share an important update. To better support both our volunteers and our horses, we are welcoming a new team member who will serve as Volunteer Coordinator, dedicated to overseeing and expanding the program. This role will allow us to provide more structured training in horse handling, ensure volunteers feel confident and safe in their work, and offer consistent guidance whenever questions arise.

This transition is all about honoring the commitment our volunteers have already shown. By investing more time in training and support, we can strengthen the experience for every volunteer while continuing to enhance the quality of care we provide. There is tremendous opportunity to grow, and we look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place.

Thank you to all of our volunteers—past and present—for being such an essential part of our mission. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you, and excited for what we will accomplish together. We look forward to the positive changes this year will bring to the program and to the continued impact we can make, together, for the horses in our care.



A HUGE SHOUT OUT!



A heartfelt thank you to **Back Road Pizza** for generously underwriting our "**Volunteer of the Month**" program again this year! Your support means the world to us. What better way to honor our incredible volunteers than with gift cards for the best pizza in Santa Fe?

WELCOME OUR NEWEST INTAKES



AERYN

Meet Aeryn, one of four Thoroughbred mares who recently arrived after a difficult journey. Despite a past marked by neglect, this resilient girl is a survivor. Now safe at the shelter, Aeryn is beginning her much-needed rehabilitation and receiving plenty of TLC as she settles into her new life.



AHSOKA

Please welcome Ahsoka! This Thoroughbred mare is part of a group of rescues that beat the odds to find safety with us. Once used as a recipient mare, Ahsoka is now focusing on her own health and recovery. We are dedicated to providing the patient care she deserves.



DELILAH

Hello Delilah! This beautiful bay mare recently arrived alongside a group of unhandled horses. As a feral rescue, she is currently settling in and learning to trust her new surroundings. We believe Delilah may be pregnant, and we are providing her with the specialized care she needs.



BASIL

Welcome, Basil! Rescued from San Miguel County after being found wandering near Mora, Basil arrived fearful and in need of hoof care. Though initially acting feral and unfamiliar with his halter, this new gelding is now safe with us. We look forward to watching his transformation and progress.



A YEAR OF RESCUE

Our 2025 Impact Report is available online.

We are proud to present our 2025 Impact Report, highlighting the milestones and stories that defined our work this past year. As we strive to protect New Mexico's abused and neglected horses, this report stands as a tribute to the donors and volunteers who make our mission possible.

View the 2025 IMPACT REPORT on our website:
www.THEHORSESHELTER.org/statements



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SADDLE UP

Our Resale Store is blooming with a fresh selection of treasures! Whether you're gearing up for trail rides or seeking the perfect seat, we are fully stocked with a huge selection of saddles, art & jewelry, home goods, and Gift Certificates (perfect for Mother's Day!).

Time for some spring cleaning? Our truck is ready to roll for large donation pick-ups. Call us at (505) 954-1375 to schedule a time.



821 W. San Mateo Rd. #A
OPEN
MON-SAT 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
SUNDAY 11:00 am - 4:00 pm