

THE SEASON OF CARING

Horses deserve care that honors who they are and nurtures thier potential.

Another amazing year is coming to a close, and once again, The Horse Shelter has grown to meet the increasing needs of rescue. In October, 14 horses were admitted to rescue and started their journey at THS in quarantine. Many are very underweight, have very long, overgrown hooves, bad coats and medical issues that need attention. Our staff, veterinarian and farrier are working to get them the best care possible, and their rehabilitation process has begun.

Caring is not just seasonal for us and thankfully it is also not seasonal for our supporters. Though the 'season of giving' has arrived and we hope you will consider us in your annual gifting plans, we exist because so many of you support us year-round by sponsoring one or more of our horses, giving to our store, attending our events and keeping our horses in your hearts.



Over 26 years, we have continued to grow and meet the needs of horses in NM because of you. Your help and belief in our mission make it possible for us to care for over 100 horses at any given time, with many more coming through our gates throughout the year.

Thank you for believing in us and for the love and care you extend to our horses.



Harley was originally rescued from a seizure case in 2022 and adopted in 2023. Due to unfortunate financial changes, she is back and heading into a refresher training course under saddle to prepare for her next home.



Picked up this summer as an unclaimed estray showing mild neglect, 12-year-old Jagger is thriving today with proper nutrition, veterinary care, and a lot of love at the shelter. Patience and care turns everything around!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Jennifer Rios,
Board President

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, we at the Shelter have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to. Our fundraising and friend-raising events this year were well attended and met with nothing but favorable reviews. The annual auction and fundraiser early in the summer was not only tons of fun for everyone, but served to bring in much-needed funds for our horses and operations. The fall open house, on a beautiful October day at the ranch, was another fantastic event. Huge compliments to our staff and volunteers who could not have made it a more seamless, educational, feel-good, perfect day if they had tried. The volunteers were amazing; the riding and presentations were educational and truly showed not only what we are capable of but what our rescued horses are capable of. Each year this event gets better and better and it was not possible to leave without feeling warm and fuzzy inside and proud to be associated with the Shelter. If you encountered even one of our amazing volunteers, it would make you want to join their ranks for life. They truly knocked it out of the park, thank you!

While there seem to always be more and more horses that need our help, we continually rise to the occasion, making space for New Mexico's most needy horses and helping them to turn around their situations and place them on the road to recovery and often adoption. Most recently, the rescues of New Mexico were faced with 20 horses that had been relinquished to the law and had to find places in rescues. While we have an internal capacity of 100 horses and were already at that number, we worked in coalition with the other rescues around the state to make room for these horses and we accepted five desperately needy horses and two minis. They will be with us until they are fully recovered and then made available for adoption along with the other 100!

Everyday, we are working with our residents to become good adoption candidate, equine citizens. Through addressing their medical and training needs, but also by meeting their emotional needs and teaching them to trust humans, we are helping to set them up for successful futures.

This is where you can help to play a part in their stories. If a horse needs to be with us for thirty days or thirty years, we are giving each and every horse that comes to our ranch the ability to recover, to grow and to live a quality life, either as an adopted animal or as a resident of the Shelter. This is a very expensive proposition and I don't have to tell you how those costs have just continued to escalate. I want to reinforce for you that every single dollar that is given to the Shelter is put to the benefit of the horses. I invite you to ask us questions, visit or volunteer at our ranch, shop in our resale store, include us in your estate planning, support us in any way that you can. And while you are doing that, you can rest assured we are wisely putting to use every dime you send our way to improve the lives of New Mexico's neediest horses.

From the board of the Horse Shelter to your family, wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the ranch or in our store soon!

In gratitude,
Jennifer Rios
President of the Board



LEGACY GIVING

A legacy gift to The Horse Shelter will help us expand our impact and mission. Your gift will save many lives and create futures for horses that otherwise have no recourse. Please consider including The Horse Shelter in your planned giving and estate. Besides the inclusion as beneficiaries in your will and testament, estate, living trust, life insurance, annuities or IRA—there are more options for you to explore with your estate planner.

CALL 505.471.6179, OR VISIT: THEHORSESHELTER.org/planned-giving

Board of Directors

Jennifer Rios 2005, President
mjrios526@gmail.com

Richard Hurdle 2022, Vice President
dhurdle@zha-architects.com

AJ O' Brien 2018, Treasurer
aj032456@gmail.com

Tara Earley 2012, Secretary
tara@earley-assoc.com

Berkley Chesen 2011, DVM
berkleychesen@gmail.com

Julia Peters 2024
julialpeters@yahoo.com

CONTACT THE HORSE SHELTER
505.471.6179
info@thehorseshelter.org

From Executive Director, Susan Hemmerle

EQUINE COLLABORATIONS

From advocating for critical state funding and legislative protection, to partnering on community vaccine clinics, our network is actively engaged in protecting New Mexico's horses. Together with statewide partners, law enforcement, and fellow rescues, we are building a safer future for equines across our state.

Our newsletters often focus on the horses, staff, and volunteers at the heart of The Horse Shelter. Beyond the ranch, partnerships also play an essential role in helping horses throughout New Mexico.

Since its founding in 2013, the New Mexico Equine Rescue Alliance (NMERA) has brought rescues together to give horses in need a stronger voice. As a member, The Horse Shelter works alongside other rescues to address shared challenges and improve equine welfare statewide.

Through collaboration with the New Mexico Livestock Board, rescues gained first right of refusal on stray equines and horses seized in cruelty cases. Previously, rescues faced bidding wars with potential kill buyers. Now, when space and resources are available, these horses can go directly into rescue, receive rehabilitation and training, and become available for adoption for nominal fees.

Work with Animal Protection of New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters has also helped advance legislation to protect horses. While legislative change takes time and persistence, it's essential to improving the future for horses.

One milestone was the establishment of the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund in 2013. The fund receives donations through New Mexico personal income tax returns and can receive state appropriations. Since its creation, however, it has received only four state appropriations.

For the upcoming legislative session, NMERA is seeking a $1 million appropriation to the fund, administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. This funding would help licensed rescues expand their capacity and strengthen smaller organizations, many of which depend entirely on volunteers. Together, these rescues provide a vital safety net for New Mexico's horses.

Closer to home, another collaboration began earlier this year with Española Humane, which agreed to host and help staff our first free equine vaccine clinic at its new facility in Ohkay Owingeh. Partnerships like this extend our reach beyond the ranch, helping horse owners access care and supporting the well-being of horses in our surrounding communities. We look forward to building on these relationships and welcoming new partners so that, together, we can help more horses in need.





On May 9th, The Horse Shelter and Española Humane held a free drive-through vaccination clinic at Española Humane's new clinic, and the turnout was wonderful. Horses and their humans trailered in from across the region for free vaccines covering Eastern & Western Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Tetanus, and Rabies. By the end of the day, an impressive 86 equine patients received vaccinations.

A CLOSER LOOK AT LIFE AT THE RANCH









Training demonstrations, horse stories, alumni reunions, and conversations with volunteers, our Open House brought the THS community together for a closer look at life at the ranch.

October 10th, THS Ranch welcomed the community for its Annual Open House. Under a big New Mexico sky, visitors met the horses, explored the ranch, and brought questions about horse care and rescue. Staff and volunteers shared what they know, giving guests a closer look at the work behind caring for and training 100 horses.

The Open House offered many ways to connect. Visitors could listen to presentations, take a ranch tour, or spend time at the horse stations, where volunteers introduced the horses in their care and shared their stories. The conversations gave guests a chance to learn about the horses as individuals and ask the people who know them best.

Throughout the day, demonstrations showed the patience and communication that go into training. Visitors watched Anna with Kyra, Bree with Natilla, and Becky with Gidget. Each demonstration offered a glimpse of the work that happens over time, one horse and one relationship at a time.

The joy of finding the right match was on full display when two THS alumni, Kelsey and Rita, returned with their adopters. Their reunion with the herd celebrated the deep connections formed through rescue and adoption.

Our hearts were full. Thank you to everyone who came, shared their curiosity, and made the ranch feel like a community. And to our staff and volunteers, thank you for opening the doors and making the day welcoming and informative.



A volunteer patiently works with Madalynn to build her trust level with humans.



CHUTE UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to our generous donors for recognzing how important this equipment is to our operation. We have raised $25,388 toward the $40,000 cost of our new medical squeeze chute! With $14,612 still needed to cover its cost, every contribution helps fund this monumental investment in safer care!

DONATE TODAY:
visit thehorseshelter.org/donate

Recognizing the People Who Make it All Possible

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Approximately 82 volunteers regularly pitch in with weekly mucking. While not glamorous, this essential work makes a real difference in our horses daily lives.

Volunteers learn that they are part of the horses' environment and that every interaction matters. Exploring some of the neuroscience behind horse behavior and learning, helps us look beyond a horse's immediate response, observe more carefully, and make thoughtful decisions that build trust and safer relationships. Volunteers apply these lessons during groundwork and grooming, further developing their horsemanship skills.

Our volunteers do an amazing job, and we see the progress in the horses they work with every day. Their interest, patience, and commitment help our horses become well-mannered "equine citizens," better prepared for adoption and life in a new home.

I am grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication our volunteers bring to the ranch. Their hard work, willingness to learn, and growing understanding of the horses make this program special. Its success reflects the shared commitment of The Horse Shelter's staff, leadership, board, and volunteers. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of the horses in our care.

Kevan Saunders
Volunteer Coordinator

"The volunteer horse class was the initial thing that drew me to volunteer at the Horse Shelter. In the two years that I have volunteered, I have been fortunate to have received great teaching and support in how to work with horses from very experienced teachers. Learning about the neuroscience behind the groundwork has been an additional fascinating aspect of the class, and I look forward to my time at the Shelter each week!" —Carla C.

THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT PLACES

From Groundwork to Equine Care Specialist



Becky's work has built a foundation of shared understanding with Gidget that goes beyond simple cues. When the connection is this deep, an embrace isn't just an action, but a conversation—and yes, sometimes they even like to dress alike.

Being stewards of 100-plus horses means more than feeding, watering and mucking. The health and maintenance needs of these wonderful creatures include veterinary care, farrier care, pain management, supplements, medication, wound care, nutritional and weight management and monitoring, rehabilitation, castration aftercare and so much more. With so many horses, this care becomes a job all its own.

We are pleased to have created the position of Equine Care Specialist, which has been expertly filled by our former Groundwork Trainer, Becky Clark. Becky has extensive experience with horse and wound care, is well organized and has a keen eye for weight fluctuations in our herd. These skills made her the perfect person to help ranch management take even better care of our horses than ever before.



Becky has developed an organized system for medication and supplement administration along with keeping logs of which horse gets what, how much, and at what time of day. As supplies or medications get low, she lets management know in a timely manner, so we don't run out. Though Becky administers most of the medication and supplements, her system makes it easy for trainers Anna and Bree to do that for her on her days off. Becky works closely with our veterinarian and our farriers to ensure health care and hoof care are timely and on schedule and assists management with keeping accurate logs of all services and procedures performed.

When horses seem to be losing weight or gaining too much weight, Becky makes recommendations for feed adjustments and works with our ranch hand team to ensure changes are smooth and orderly. She also maintains our bagged feed inventory and picks up thousands of pounds of bagged feed per month.

As herd dynamics in the paddocks change due to adoptions or intakes ready to join the herd after quarantine, Becky thoughtfully places horses in paddocks and moves them if it is not working out. Moving horses around the ranch is no easy task, but Becky's knowledge of our herd's personalities and behaviors after training for several years has made her particularly suited for the job!

Becky still has time to do groundwork training, helping move our horses closer to adoption. We are so pleased to be able to take our horse care to the next level. Thank you to our supporters and donors who allowed this important next step in providing the very best care for New Mexico's abandoned, neglected and abused horses. And a big thank you to Becky for stepping in to ensure that care is top-notch!

It takes a community to restore horses suffering from neglect.

SPONSOR OUR NEWEST ARRIVALS

Last month, 7 of the 12 horses arriving in rescue came to us in urgent need of proper nutrition and immediate physical care. Restoring a horse suffering from neglect isn't as simple as turning them out to pasture. For the "K" group, recovery means daily, specialized care:

Tailored Refeeding Protocols: Gradual, high-quality forage and supplements to safely rebuild depleted body condition.

Essential Medical & Farrier Work: Comprehensive intake exams, dental care, parasite management, and hoof rehabilitation.

Patience & Daily Hands-On Care: Gentle, consistent handling from our team to rebuild trust and prepare them for a secure future.

Will You Stand Behind Their Long-Term Care?

While our immediate priority is stabilizing their health, the true work lies in the months of rehabilitation ahead. Whether a horse eventually finds a new home or remains with us long-term, their daily care—feed, shelter, medical maintenance, and training—is made possible entirely by our community.

Become a Horse Sponsor

Becoming a Horse Sponsor is the most direct way to ensure horses like those in the "K" group have everything they need for the long haul. Your monthly sponsorship directly covers the ongoing cost of feed, care, and rehabilitation until they are fully whole again. Visit our website to learn more: www.TheHorseShelter.org



Showing the heavy physical toll of long-term neglect, **Koncho** faces a long road to full recovery. Rebuilding a horse in his severe condition takes tailored refeeding, careful oversight, and time.



Kim arrived in urgent need of sanctuary, proper nutrition, and immediate veterinary attention. Restoring her health requires months of dedicated rehabilitation, high-quality forage, and steady hands.



Kringle may be small, but his medical needs are significant. Arriving severely malnourished, this sweet miniature horse requires daily, specialized feeding and delicate farrier work to rebuild his strength.



Kolton is beginning his journey back to health. Depleted reserves mean his rehabilitation requires gentle, consistent handling and structured nutrition every single day.

The Horse Shelter

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SHOP A STORE THAT CARES FOR HORSES

The Horse Shelter's Resale Store is vital to the daily feeding, training and rehabilitation of as many as 100 horses in our care. Store proceeds provide 35% of the Shelter's annual funding, helping sustain the work these horses depend on.

You can be part of that support in two ways: donate quality items for the store, or stop by to shop. From charming tea towels and THS merchandise to horse tack and gear, cozy apparel, art, jewelry, and one-of-a-kind treasures, there's something for teachers, pet sitters, neighbors, and other special people in your life... including gift cards.

The 2027 Horse Shelter calendar makes another meaningful gift. Each month showcases breathtaking photos by Evalyn Bemis, a cherished sponsor, adopter, and volunteer, who donates her work to support our mission.



Get yours today!

Purchase at the Resale Store or online by following this QR code to TheHorseShelter.org

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