

From The Manure Pile

Fall is here, or maybe this is winter, or maybe it's not sure. All of the horses are totally enjoying the cooler weather, and back to play chasing, bucking, and racing around in wild abandon.

La Plata County Hay Bank received 200 bales of hay from Telluride Animal Foundation to help feed horses whose owners need a little help this winter, pass the word if you know someone that is having a hard time feeding their horses because of the economy.

Our beautiful Percheron Pearl has finally settled in with Betty, our Belgium, two totally different personalities. Betty, "leave me alone I'm doing barn time." Pearl, "Let's go explore, and by the way, scratch me while you're here".

Flicka (AKA Jet) was adopted, and his stall mate Moxie has a little window out her stall where she stands with Betty and they have lovely discussions throughout the day. Moxie goes out with Pearl and the two, one tiny and one huge are quite the odd couple, but both like to "cruise", and will go explore new things together. Quite the odd family ties we create.

Diane





Spring Creek Horse Rescue
Diane McCracken
39908 US HWY 160
Bayfield, CO 81122

Life Lesson of a Horse

by Becca

Tori, a beautiful four year-old mahogany bay mare learned to trust people this summer. Tori arrived at Spring Creek Horse Rescue in 2008 as a small, frightened baby along with 39 other frightened fillies and colts on a cool fall day.

Spring Creek had received a call that a truck load of babies was going to be shipped to Mexico; the moms had already been shipped. The rescue sprang into action and was able to save and transport the 40 babies back to Spring Creek. Rescued!

Tori was adopted out, but eventually was returned to Spring Creek. Always uncertain, Tori became fast friends with a corral mate, Jill, also a bay and one of the 40 rescued. Tori became the shadow of Jill. She always stood behind Jill, was very leery of humans and showed no interest in connecting with anyone.

Tori is a horse people look at and would say what a beauty. Not only does she have that beautiful, rich mahogany coat, she has a full, luscious curly black mane and tail reminiscent of the Spanish horse. In fact, Tori is part Paso Fino.

Tori, however, continued to be mistrustful of people. In my five years of volunteering at the rescue I could not feed a treat to Tori, could not groom her and could not touch her. In fact, a bite or a kick could be forthcoming if I persisted. Always in the shadow of Jill, not interested in human contact, Tori was nearly reclusive.

Then, one morning of this 2013 summer, Tori became lame in her front left leg. It was painful to see her move and try not to put weight on that leg. She was in a bad way. Diane said it was an abscess, but it was so dry this year all the horses feet were like concrete and there was not a way for the poison to escape. The vet was called and Tori's foot was opened up to drain. She received a poultice to draw out the poison, and after 10 days her foot needed to be soaked every day. That's when Tori's new journey began. Of course she resisted treatment but Diane persisted day after day after day.

After a short absence of volunteering at Spring Creek I returned and was anxious to know of Tori's fate, half expecting not to see her. But, there she was! She was moving much, much better and clearly on the mend. But, the big change was she did not have that familiar scared, uncertain look in her eyes. She had "kind eyes!" Now when we load hay for feeding, Tori is right there at the barn door along with Lightning and the others, pestering us, a new horse. I see a horse that trusts, shows confidence and seeks contact with people. When I look into Tori's big, dark eyes, I see love. This is what Spring Creek Horse Rescue does.

What I like about the Rescue

Stella Seashore Botha (10 years old)

I love spending time at Spring Creek Horse Rescue. Maybe you saw us in the Cowboy Poetry Gathering Parade. I volunteer every Wednesday doing chores and working with the horses. Some of the horses are shy at first, but after spending time with them they become friendly. When I first met Tori she was shy towards me, but after a few visits she seemed happy to see me. Bella was also shy at first, but after a few brushings she would follow me around, wanting more. Samuel on the other hand, is not shy at all!

Tori, Bella, and Samuel are only three of the many horses to love at Spring Creek Horse Rescue. Stop by and you will fall in love with the horses! And they will fall in love with you. Some are waiting to be adopted into a happy family.

