



Spring Creek Horse Rescue  
2888 County Road 234  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 884-4425

Spring Newsletter, 2017

## ~FROM THE MANURE PILE~

Meet "Ridge" the newest Spring Creek addition



Ridge, a 13 year old sorrel, TB gelding has an unknown history (like so many others) the family that sent him to the rescue said they were scared of him because he reared when you tried to lead him ( yup, he does). They got him from her sister in Arizona ( with no paper work) who got him from someone else who took him when their elderly owners passed. He has just been hanging out in a very poor environment, no grooming, no foot care, no love. Don't know if he's ever been broke, we know he doesn't load in a trailer! We are working on getting some weight on him, then on to seeing what he knows. What we see is a very misunderstood horse who's big and intimidating and has gotten his way. I see nothing but kindness and confusion in his eyes.

~ Diane

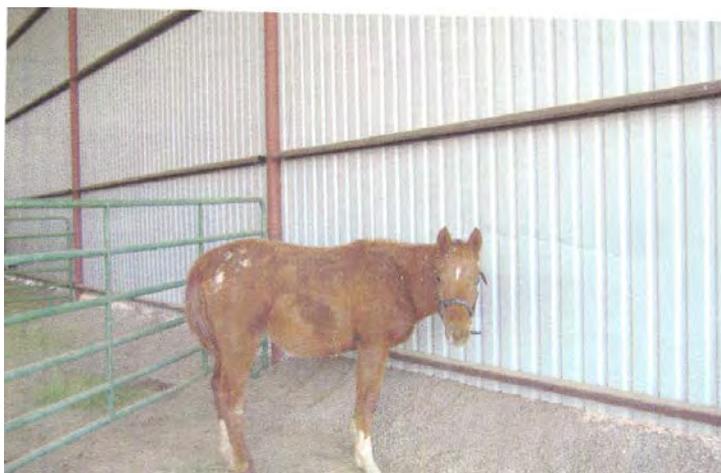


*We rely on the generosity and benevolence of donations to be able to take in and care for horses like Ridge. Donations are a crucial part of our ongoing effort to help and heal horses in need. Thanks to all our donators!!*

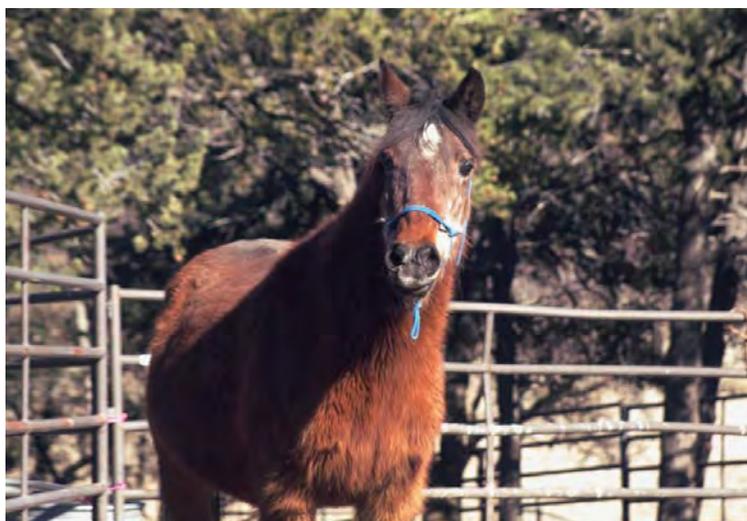
## *Frequently Asked Question about Spring Creek Horse Rescue*

During conversations with the community about Spring Creek Horse Rescue, I frequently am asked, "how do you get the horses?". Thinking on this, I came up with four categories.

1. County confiscations. Horses found to be abused, neglected, abandoned or at a point of starvation are directed to Spring Creek. Colton is an example. At the Rescue longer than I have volunteered for (10 years) Colton Came to the Rescue as a baby. He was chased through a fence by dogs. Colton's legs were torn up and all these years later are scarred. The court system deemed Colton to have been neglected along with abuse (with 24 others) by the owner. Today Colton is a beautiful 14 year old Appaloosa gelding.



Unfortunately because of his traumatic experience's he will not be adopted, even though he now behaves (most of the time) as a perfect gentleman.



2. Owners can no longer care for them. Sometime, because of owner illness or hardship, the owner contacts the rescue for a solution. Tambara, a very cute and smart Arabian mare, was given to the rescue because of financial hardship faced by her owners. Tambara was being fed corn for feed before the very hard decision

by her owners to give her up. She had lost most of her body weight. Today, Tambara pines for her corral neighbor, Colton, and receives plenty of good hay, carrots, and senior grain. She is skilled at being used for riding lessons for children. Because of health issues, and now being blind she will remain at the Rescue.

3. Owners lose interest. We do adopt many of these out. Although, sometimes the most difficult, as at times after Spring Creek receives them, it is found that the horse has major issues. Marshmallow was a beautiful Welsh Cob. Her name describes her. However, after we made her a home at the Rescue, we found she had cancer. We cared for her with a warm, dry stall and corral and lots of treats. It is, of course, always heartbreaking to lose one of our charges, but is it part of what the Rescue does; honor all the hoses we receive. RIP Marshmallow



4. People rescue a promising horse at a "kill pen" and contact Spring Creek to, well, rescue it. Woodrow is a striking quarter horse paint gelding, 10 years old. He is now a handsome one and someone found him at a kill pen, rescued him and notified the Rescue. Our main purpose is to save and rehabilitate horses and adopt them out to good homes. We have done this many, many times over. Woodrow came to us in poor shape, but as you know, with loving care at the Rescue he has thrived in the two years under our care. He is a great horse for an experienced horse person, but has

colitis ( an easy fix- 1 scoop of meds everyday- wala!) He has developed into a trusting gent with a large personality.

- *Becca*



## *What is Volunteering Like?*

When I first started volunteering at Spring Creek, I had no idea what to expect. I had never been around horses before, and I had very little experience volunteering. I remember Diane greeted me, and then handed me rake and we went to work. Eventually she





handed me a brush and introduced me to one of the draft horses, Pearl, and told me to groom her. For someone who's never been around horses before, they are BIG animals, especially draft horses, so it was a little intimidating. I learned quickly though that the two draft horses, Pearl and Betty, truly are gentle giants. After the first day of volunteer work I knew I would be back. I began volunteering at the rescue weekly. My first few days of volunteer work consisted of meeting the horses learning to groom them, mucking their stalls/pens, and putting a fence post in. Eventually I began to learn my way around the Rescue and learned how to behave around horses. I finally started feeling like Diane didn't have to 'babysit' me as much.

In the few months that I've volunteered at Spring Creek I've learned a ton and gained lots of invaluable experience. It's been an eye opening adventure for me. Volunteering at a Rescue means you're exposed to the more nasty side of the equestrian world. It's one thing to see a picture of a neglected horse, but it's another thing to actually meet that horse in person. Despite some of these horses dark histories, they spend every day at the rescue in joy. Working with these horses has been quite uplifting and gratifying. It's an experience that I wouldn't want to trade for anything.

- *Kevin*



*Nabisco*

Nabisco has a long story, unfortunately I only know the last 3 or 4 months of it. My life with Nabisco started Jan 30th, 2017. I belong to a website called Oklahoma Caring and Sharing. I like to every now and again donate toward pulling horses out of the kill pen. This group works with the pen in Perkins, OK that ships lots of horses straight to the Mexican border. If you are a horse, Mexico is a really brutal place to spend your last days. Horse welfare is tossed aside and their methods of processing livestock and horses are for another story.

Jan. 29th I noticed the group had posted a 2 to 3 year old Appaloosa leopard gelding to their page. He was stunning, very well put together and they noted very scared. What drew me to him, besides being an Appaloosa, was the photo shot of his head. His eye just looked so kind and gentle. Me, being a sucker for spots, saved the screenshot with his posting. I wanted to make



sure this boy did not get pushed onto the truck that was coming in 2 days. I thought for sure someone would pick this boy up, what a looker he was! Someone would surely snap him up by tomorrow and I would see safe and sold on his posting by tomorrow morning.

Jan. 30th, I flipped on my computer as I usually do while I am having coffee getting ready for work. Geez, the Appy gelding was not sold yet. No one had bailed him into the safe pen. He did have 80 dollars toward his move into the safe pen, not enough to get pulled. It was then I knew I had to do the right thing and help this guy.

If anyone knows me I do not buy a horse sight unseen. That is what crazy people do. There can be such issues with these horse that you suddenly find that you are in way over your head. Combined with the fact that kill pen horses can be really ill from being exposed to so many sick lot horses. Also the stress they experience just being there at the lot illness can be tricky to deal with. These thoughts were going through my head as well as the logistics of getting him to SW Colorado, a 900 mile trip. Was I ready for this? You bet your life, I made the call to the contact listed on the kill pen website and did a PayPal transfer. It was 9:38 pm. The next morning the truck to Mexico pulled up to the lot, Nabisco was in the safe pen, no trip to Mexico for my boy!



## Chapter 2

I am now the owner of a horse I am not familiar with who is 900 miles away. I contact a couple of my horsey friends in OK to see if they have a round pen or corral that is available to stash a horse in for a week or so until I can arrange transport here to Colorado. Strike one. No one had an isolated corral to loan me for quarantine. Kill lot horses have to be isolated for a minimum of 30 days, it is not safe for other animals to even be touching noses with a potentially ill horse. I was getting a little worried, no, a lot worried that I would not have a

place to keep him. Another long distance phone call to Cie S. a gal that works with pulling kill pen horses out of that lot. For 50 bucks I could have him transported to a farm in Ponca City and held in a corral there. The farm owner, Steve Kroll, held and transports Perkins lot horses and is familiar with their needs. I quickly agreed that Steve could load him up ASAP and get him out of the kill pen lot. The trip from the lot to safety is nicknamed the freedom ride. Out of the 50 plus horses there that week, Nabisco, a little pony and a bay mare were the only ones lucky enough to be pulled and loaded into the trailer going North up I-35. The ones going South were not so lucky.

Chapter 3 - Stay tuned, find out how Nabisco ends up at Spring Creek and begins the journey to his forever home.

~ Julie



*Our annual open house horse adoption and garage sale will be held this year on*

*Friday & Saturday, June 23rd & 24th from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm*

*Location: 2888 CR 234 Durango, CO 81301*

*Taking donations of clean saleable items at this time (no electronics)*