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HORSE PROTECTION Association of Florida

For Starved, Neglected & Abandoned Horses
Rescue Rehab Adoption Since 1990



Winter 2019 Newsletter

501(c)3 Charitable Organization

Giving Thanks for all who made the Rescues Possible Holiday Matching Gift Challenge Donate now through December 31st and your donation will be matched up to \$10,000

Your gifts give horses a new chance in life. It is only because of you that Horse Protection's life-saving work can continue and a safe haven is available to horses in peril.

2020 Marks the Completion of 30 Years That Horse Protection Has Been Helping Horses.



Phoebe July 11, 2018

Thousands of horses' lives saved and changed for the better. We have made countless friends over the decades. Folks who started out as donors and became good friends. Horse Protection would not exist without you.

We can do the day-to-day care of the horses. Responding to pick horses up when we receive a call of a horse in need. Being there for a horse around the clock in the first critical days and weeks. Feeding them at the same times morning and evening. Spending time with them daily, teaching the horses to trust us—when humans have only been frightening creatures to them. Seeing them through illness and injuries. Sending them for training and making sure they are matched with the right partner. Accepting them back when their adopter's circumstances make it necessary. Being there for their final moment. Loving them and being strong enough to let them go.

Without you none of the deserving horses we have been privileged to care for could have been helped. Bless each and every one of you for making Horse Protection's work possible. We appreciate you.



Phoebe June 11, 2019

Save the Date! Come Join Us!
Open House, Tack Sale and Introduction to Natural Horsemanship
February 1st, 2020 10 am to 1pm

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A Special Thank You to those who made outstanding contributions since the last newsletter.

**Marilyn K. Hart, Richard Schechter,
Michael Nuzzo, Sheila Wickstrom,
Kern Family Foundation,
Florida Thoroughbred Farm Managers Foundation
Don Manuchia**
Quail Roost Foundation, Elly Mims, Gertrude Dickinson,
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Pine Ridge Equestrian Association, Gerald Wessner VMD,
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Jeffery La Freniere, Stacy Sherman, Kim Sibille, Steven Schaefer,
John Hoffman and Mary Ellen Morbeck, Marilyn Weaver

Volunteers & Long-Term Foster Homes Needed

Volunteers needed daily at Micanopy Farm
8-10am to groom and turn out the horses
8-11:30am for cleaning paddocks, stalls, buckets

Long term Foster Homes
for horses needed
Please call Morgan 352-466-4366

Your gifts give horses a new chance in life.



Shop on Amazon? Did you know you can shop AmazonSmile and raise money for Horse Protection? All you need to do is sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.

Shop for the Holidays! Please sign up with iGive.com for Horse Protection Association of Florida as your charity of choice. You Shop. Your Charity gets money. iGive.com is the first online shopping mall where a portion of each purchase is donated to your favorite cause. Established in 1997 for one purpose: to turn everyday online shopping into donations for worthy causes, at no cost to shoppers or the causes they support.

Success Story: Chino

In 2010 the Hillsborough County Sheriff's office contacted Horse Protection to ask if we could take 7 horses seized in cruelty cases. We said yes. **Chino**, a 2-year-old stallion; Hope and her newborn filly Zania; Hope's yearling filly Abbey;



Lola a yearling filly; all Paso Fino's along with Baby Doll and Suzy Q were picked up in Tampa and began their healing.

Abbey and Lola were feral, terrified of people. Kathy Anderson took them in and did a superb job of teaching them to trust people before they went to the Horse Protection farm. Hope recovered easily—she and Zania thrived. Chino also thrived and in 2011 was part of the Martin Black Colt Starting. Chino was now looking for a forever home.

Roz Lenox picks up the story:

When I was ready to get another partner 4 years ago, I decided that I would do a good deed and go through a rescue organization. When I rode Chino, I could tell he had some emotional issues, but overall I really liked him and thought I

could fix him. I had no idea how my journey with Chino would fix my emotional issues!

Chino would go from being shut down and frozen in place, to being a runaway where everything I did meant go faster. Through the help of Ashley Dudas, 3-star Parelli Professional, I learned how to be the leader he needs me to be so that he can be calm, confident, and connected to me all the time.

In order to do this I had to stop being a perfectionist, and be in the moment. I had to go as slow as he needed me to go, and as firm as necessary without being mad or frustrated. I had to let go of my agenda and put our relationship first.

It's taken a couple years, but now I have the partner I dreamed of—and I am a different person! I hope these pictures by Chance Mayfield show what it's like to have a happy, confident, trusting partner!

Thank you so much for bringing Chino into my life and for all the wonderful work you do!



In 2010 Horse Protection received a report of an emaciated young horse in Bronson. Arriving we found Precious, the most pitiful creature we had ever seen. She and a stud pony stood near the tattered fence



behind a sign reading, “Do Not Feed the Horses!”

The sheriff’s office responded, and we entered the property. The house was uninhabited and as the deputy at

tempted to locate an owner, a man arrived. He said the owner had won the lottery and moved up North leaving a man as caretaker on the property to feed the pony and the filly.

The Cremello filly and the pony had been given to this man and he said he would care for them. When asked if he knew how to feed an emaciated horse, he replied that he did, and all was fine. He then gave the two of them a gallon of sweet feed—enough to kill the filly quickly and the pony slowly.

After much discussion and encouragement by the deputy, Precious was surrendered. Horse Protection offered to have the pony castrated so he would be safer for the man’s children and in the meantime, they could find a suitable place to keep the pony. The owner agreed and the two were picked up and brought to Horse Protection.

Precious’ survival was touch and go. She had no appetite—which in a horse is a serious symptom. Our vet at the time knew that no appetite was a symptom of ulcers. Precious was started on Ranitidine and at last she wanted to eat. She gained weight readily and grew into a playful youngster.

Kim Benson continues the story: Precious. Oh my beautiful Precious. Beautiful she surely is, 16 hands of pure equine delight. Now a ten-year-old, whiter than white with pink eyes which sometimes turn blue depending on the light. A beautiful



pink muzzle, which I just love to kiss, and white flowing mane and tail. Everyone just adores Precious, me obviously included.

I got her 7 or 8 years ago from Horse Protection. She had been like so many others almost starved to death, rescued by Morgan and returned to health. The day I adopted her I knew I would have to protect her from the sun, but that’s the only issue I have ever had with her.

She is stalled during the day in summer and out at night. In the cooler months with a UV fly mask with a muzzle cover. I just adore her, she has always been curious, forward going, and for a mare very kind and forgiving.

Her character is one of pure cheekiness, she is very clever at playing dumb, and that is only when it suits her by the way. She makes me smile all the time, and we have such fun together. I will never be able to thank Morgan and Horse Protection for the sheer joy that Precious has brought to my life.

I truly believe that Precious would say the same, we are a team, best friends, and partners on the trails. I believe that horses that have been rescued really appreciate the second chance of a good life with a kind owner. They are smarter than we perhaps give them credit for. All I know is that:
I Love My Precious Girl.
I just love her, period.

Hannah was part of the infamous Dixie County case in 2006. 30 horses in varying states of starvation and neglect were found. The horses in the worst condition came to Horse Protection. Three did not survive. Hannah was one of the youngsters, about one year old. She, Pilgrim, Cleo and Gulliver quickly gained weight and became happy, playful kids.



When she was ready, Hannah was started under saddle. She blossomed into a beautiful filly ready for a home. Hannah was adopted and her adopter enjoyed trail riding in Florida and North Carolina. Then her adopter became ill and Hannah was returned. Once again Hannah needed a home of her own. Then she met Amanda.

Amanda Staten continues:

Let me start by saying that God is a strategic planner. You'll get what I'm saying toward the end of this story. Growing up, I'd always wanted a horse of my own. It was just not possible for me to have a horse. And over the years I rode friends' horses.

My good friend Debbie was doing some cleaning out around her house, and she gave me a bunch of horse magazines. I saw an article on "A Home for Every Horse," and went to look at the website. I started looking at the horses in the nearby area, and I saw a beautiful thoroughbred named Athena who was located in Micanopy, Florida at a place called Horse Protection Association of Florida. I called to see if this gorgeous mare was still available for adoption. She was, so I set up an appointment to go see her.

Morgan explained how they work with the horses to make them adoptable, including handling them in a way that makes them easy to catch. She explained to us about how the horses asked to "hook on" to their humans, demonstrating this while getting Athena up for me to groom. They also teach the horses to bend their head around to the person putting the halter on or taking the halter off of them. It was very neat. Morgan then proceeded to showcase some of Hannah's skills. She is a very well-trained, intelligent horse. We got a good laugh when Morgan told us that they had to move some tires from a particular area because Hannah would always try to side-pass over them when someone was working her in that area. Morgan continued working with Hannah and putting on a great demonstration. I was thinking, "This is great, but this is

not the horse that I came to see. I want to work with Athena." Evidently God had something else in mind...We tacked up the horses and Morgan took Athena over to the mounting platform. I got on for a very short ride. She is a very sweet horse, but as it turned out, she was just not a good match for me. She then took Athena back to the barn and brought Hannah over for me to ride.

She was very sweet and quiet. I rode her around for a little while and when I asked her to trot, she settled into this super smooth "floating trot" that was nothing like any other horse that I've ridden. It was unbelievable smooth and easy to ride. Morgan said that other people had come to look at Hannah, but that it had never been a good match. We finished the ride and untacked. Morgan told me to think about whether or not I wanted to adopt Hannah and to let her know.

After thinking it over and looking at what would be required in my budget to care for her to make sure that I hadn't missed anything in my planning, I decided to adopt Hannah.

Morgan had sent an email asking how everything went with getting Hannah home. I really like how Horse Protection follows up with the horses that they adopt out. It really shows how they are concerned for these horses for life, not just the time that they care for them there at the farm.

Hannah has been the most amazing horse to me. She is always willing to at least try what I ask of her, even if she isn't quite sure of the situation. She typically learns very quickly and gets used to new challenges quickly as well. We



typically take the horses to the beach once a year, and each year she has done better with all of the "scary" challenges of such a scene: high winds, crashing waves, and extremely loud vehicles (and people) driving on the beach.

Growing up, I always wanted a horse that was taught with natural horsemanship, including a horse that I could safely ride using just a halter instead of having to use a bit. She is that and much more. I do ride her in a bit from time to time, but for the most part, I use a rope halter with reins attached. As Debbie puts it, Hannah is the most "polite" horse we have ever met. We get compliments on her wherever we go, and we even had the farrier tell us that she has some of the best conformation that he's ever seen.

Hannah is my horse of a lifetime, and I'm so grateful to have found her. I am forever thankful to the Horse Protection Association of Florida for helping me find my dream horse.

In 2008 **Ranger** and Ruby were reported to the sheriff's office in Levy County. Deputy Robertson and Morgan arrived to find two skeletal horses that the owners readily surrendered. Ranger wore a quality leather halter with the name, "Wayne's Pick" on it. Ranger was a shell of a horse. No life left in his eyes. His emaciated body covered in scabs and rain rot. From his teeth we could tell that Ranger was just four years old.



Back at the farm Ranger slowly began to gain weight and his personality started to come out. A sweet, kind horse, Ranger was plagued by a sticking stifle so we didn't know if he would ever be rideable. Over the years the constant movement on the vast pastures along with treatment improved Ranger's stifles to the point that he could be started under saddle. A willing student who loved to play, Ranger excelled in his training and was ready for a home of his own.

Robin Brosmer shares her story:

I first met Morgan Silver years ago at the Horse Protection booth at a Parelli event in Jacksonville, Florida. I was amazed at her story, and how many horses she had helped. I decided to keep Horse Protection Association of Florida horses in mind when my mare was ready to retire. Fast forward—that day came. I started looking online at Horse Protection's

website to see what horses, specifically geldings (my mare only liked geldings) were now ready for homes. And who did I see? Ranger! His description was perfect for me, but he was a thoroughbred and I was not sure about his breed at all. So, I went through the application process thinking they have other horses too, so let's see what they think might be a good fit. Then Morgan called, she invited me to the farm. Would I like to come meet a couple of them? I was so excited!

I met the first horse, he was nice, but then the second horse was Ranger! When I met him, he was everything I was looking for! Before I arrived, I was letting my preconceived notions of what a thoroughbred was get in my way. If I had not waited for the horse presented to me in person, I would have really missed meeting a great life partner!

Ranger has been with me for seven years now and we have enjoyed practicing natural horsemanship together. We play in our arena, hack around our property and have attended a few clinics. I love the relationship that we have built.

Thank you Horse Protection for all you do for the rescued horses and for us humans blessed to be with them.



Success Story: Hollydonk

Born August 20, 2004, **Hollydonk** came to Horse Protection the day he was born along with his mother. His mother, Lilly Belle was a horribly neglected jenny found at an auction barn where Hollydonk was born and the two were rescued by Dave Ferguson and Horse Protection. As a yearling Hollydonk was adopted by Shirley Bussman in 2005 where he lived happily for 8 years. When Shirley, age 85 was unable to care for him any longer, he came back to Horse Protection.

Hollydonk meets Diane Bryant:

My mini, Toby needed a pasture mate. Jack his donkey friend passed away at 24 and I thought maybe another donkey



would be the answer. Where to look? Horse Protection was at the top of my list. I knew they had some donkeys from a visit to the farm last year, but I was not able to take on the training of a youngster. Morgan told me Hollydonk was available.

Hollydonk was just what I was looking for: gentle, loving and easy to handle. After some coaxing, he loaded up and headed for his new home. He settled in immediately. I bathe him, body clip him and load him in the trailer with no problem. What I love most is his big "voice", his donkey bray. I wish every rescued horse or donkey had a story with a happy ending like Hollydonk.

Luna a former race horse, was discovered emaciated and near death in November 2017. Her elderly owner had dementia and passed away soon after she and the horses were found. Through the diligent work of the



Horse Protection staff and veterinarian, Luna survived and within four months she was healthy and thriving.

Jo Harder picks up the story:

In July 2018, Horse Protection was experiencing some flooding, so I fostered Luna. I rode her at trainer Lauren Barwick's farm and knew we would get along. Little did I know that I would fall in love with her and adopt her several months later.

Luna quickly fit in with my three other mares, and I gave her a few weeks to acclimate to her new surroundings. She fell into the number three spot in the pecking order and seemed fine with that. In late August, I saddled her up and walked over to meet up with a friend to go trail riding. Luna was quite good during that first ride.

Over the next couple of months, we rode more and more, and her athleticism was evident. So I decided to take her to an endurance intro ride that was 10 miles in length. Luna was a bit nervous, but we camped next to a friend that has a "Steady Eddy" horse, and she took his lead both in camp and on the trail. Luna was quite the handful at first, but we successfully completed her first intro ride.

When we got home, she strutted her stuff when I let her out in the pasture. She knew she had done well, and I was quite proud of her. We continued to have a wonderful time riding, and after completing her first 25-mile endurance ride a couple of months later, she not only finished in the Top 10, but the vet gave her a perfect 10 score for her trot out. She looked amazing.

As far as endurance riding, I'm a completer, not a competitor; I just want to have fun and complete with a happy, healthy horse. Luna seemed to totally enjoy being out on the trail and chewing up the miles.

After she completed several more 25-mile rides, I asked one of the vets whether she was ready for a 50. It was not my plan to progress so quickly, but this horse appeared to be rock solid. To be certain, I had her blood tested, and the vet said that this horse scarcely seemed as if she'd just completed 25 miles. So, I registered for a 50-mile ride.

The photo you see is Luna on her first 50 at the Fun in the Sun endurance ride in March. We had a wonderful time riding, and as usual, she strutted her stuff when I let her out in the pasture at home.



I'm thankful to Horse Protection for all they did to rescue and rehabilitate Luna. I have been told that Luna was on the brink of death when Horse Protection rescued her and that they were uncertain from one day to the next whether she would live. Not only did she live—she has thrived.

In addition, my three other mares all came from Horse Protection, and all are wonderful horses. Chica is 25 years old and retired, but she still runs with the rest of them. Peaches is also a 50-mile endurance horse, and I'm totally synchronized with her after riding so many miles and years. She and I love to gallop through the woods. Mako is the perfect "husband horse." Even if she isn't ridden for a few months, anyone can get on her, and Mako will take care of her rider.

All of my horses had miserable pasts that included starvation and body scores of 1, but they were lucky enough to be taken in by Horse Protection. I'm deeply appreciative of Horse Protection.



Beauty & Kathi Bickas



Rosie & Deborah Evans



Sunny Girl & Joyce Carta



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About Legacy Society

Legacy Society members are generous, forward-thinking friends who made a commitment to the horses through a bequest. Their compassion and foresight have made countless miracles possible over the years.

With their generous bequests Legacy Society members have made it possible for Horse Protection to continue caring for the horses in need. We remember these friends and feel the love they shared with the horses.

**Carol Kiefer, Mary McDonald,
Nancy Holmes, Ora Evola,
Samual Furshpan, Patricia Smith,
Edgar Johnson, Sarah Luddle,
Majorie Brickell, Ann Keyser,
Juan Rodriguez, Izola Kruger,
Lucille Wilkinson, Theresa Rozano,
June Nielson, Marilyn Hart**

Thank you to Legacy Society members who have remembered Horse Protection and the horses in their estate planning.

**Barbara Henderson
Elizabeth Mittauer
Lou R Meuche
Maggie Kotuk
Jan Barbour
Sharon Champion
Doris and Bill Smith
Elly Mims
Marty Price**

Jim Hoffman from the Kern Family Fund, Douglas and Linda Balogh, John Hoffman and Mary Ellen Morbeck and Morgan Silver

Susan J. Edwards from all the horses and people at Horse Protection.

In memory of our dear friend and veterinarian **Dr Gerald Wessner** from Blair, Tracy, Kim and Scott Wessner, Annie Shank, Janis and Stephen Early, Lil Chalker and Morgan Silver, Claudia and Bill Parkhurst, Barbara Barnhill, Elizabeth Cumbess, Deborah Keller, Ilse Goodwin, Barbara and William Keller, Susan King, Richard And Mira Leggett, Tammy Larson, Squeak Larkin and Morgan Silver.

In Memory Of

June Nogle from Donna Nogle

John H. Schaefer from Carolyn Howd

Tenacious Jubilee from Carol Kubie

Bubbles from Leslie King

Diana De Vez from Lindsay Campbell

Sam and Sarah from Madelaine Lock

Black Hawk from Janice Clark

Blanche and Annie from Michele Schween

In Honor Of

Carlton Bahn 88th Birthday from Nancy Bahn
Celebrating Nancy & Carlton Bahn's
50th wedding anniversary

Thank You

Thanks to the Quail Roost Foundation for their grant award to Horse Protection. The Quail Roost Foundation has given grants to Horse Protection for many years. We are so grateful for their support!

In Memory Of Kristina Kay Steinfeldt



In memory of Kristina Kay Steinfeldt from her Family. Kristina Kay Steinfeldt died in an automobile accident January 30th, 2018 near her home in Alachua. She had just finished attending a friend's horse nearby. Kristina grew up in LaBelle, FL and was a graduate of LaBelle High School and the University of Florida. Her love for horses, needy Pit Bulls and all animals prompted her family to donate for the horses to honor Kristina's memory.

Kristina's life was marked by her generous and giving spirit. Many who knew her have described her as an angel walking in our midst with a quiet peacefulness. She truly was selfless with the biggest heart for animals and people. To her family she was a friend, confidant, a glass half full attitude, and always up for an adventure. She will always be our beautiful sister, daughter, and friend who put others before herself and had the precious gift of healing hands for all creatures great and small.

Sponsors

Michael Nuzzo of Miami sponsors *Polo and Legacy*

Rosemary Taylor of Brandon sponsors *Hope*

Beverley West of Miami sponsors *Hermoso*

Elly Mims of Miami sponsors *Fancy*

Karen Fischer of Ocala sponsors *Roxy*

Lauren and Jeff Miller of Gainesville sponsor *Mr. Scott*

Thank you to all of the foster home providers, we appreciate you!
Fern Rosenwasser for fostering Bruno
David and Julie Pittman for fostering Perry
Brenda Ladd for fostering Safiro
Kathy and Jack Lovett for fostering Polo and Baby Doll



Cordwin Tree Service, Inc. for their donation of tree trimming. The oak trees at the farm were in desperate need of trimming. Our old friends from Cordwin stepped in and donated tree trimming. We cannot thank Cordwin Tree Trimming enough for this incredibly generous donation! Check out their web site: www.cordwin.com



Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry continues to support the horses as they have for 17 years with donations of their life saving products, Perfect Hoofware and Silvetrosol. Thank you, KC LaPierre and Robyn Lord Ph.D., for your extremely generous support over the years! Check out their web site: www.equinepodiatry.com

Equiderma labels itself as the “World’s Greatest Horse Products” and it’s true! Since using Equiderma Skin Lotion for Horses and their Zinc Oxide Paste we have had tremendous results. The Skin Lotion for Horses is the best we have ever used for rain rot. It clears it up quickly and protects the skin from additional moisture as it heals. The treated areas repel water without being too greasy. We have given away all of our previous products for rain rot and cracked heels, we only need Equiderma. Check out their web site <https://www.equiderma.com>



Gainesville City College Veterinary Technician Classes utilize the horses at the farm for learning horse handling and vet tech requirements.

Thank you to Gainesville City College Veterinary Technician Classes and Dr Gordon Smok for the donation of blood draws for Coggins tests on the horses. Thanks to Dr Smok donating the blood draws and Professional Vet Lab for donating the lab work and processing of the Coggins tests, they save Horse Protection a great deal. Thank you!

Thank you to the horse’s guardian angel
Don Manuchia for once again sponsoring the newsletter.
The newsletter is possible because of Don
and we can never thank him enough!

Legacy came to Horse Protection in 2011 after her owner died leaving 26 horses. Most of the herd of Arabians were adopted out quickly. Legacy was the oldest, 26. She is one of the last remaining granddaughters of King P-234, the foundation sire of the Quarter Horse breed. Legacy was thin and depressed. She lived in a small enclosure of sand and trees with three other mares and was at the bottom of the pecking order. She followed us around looking for food and attention. We brought her back to the farm and she quickly fattened up and enjoyed her days grazing with the herd in the vast pastures.

Legacy is now 34 years old and except for losing most of her teeth, she is as strong and energetic as ever. Her three meals a day of Buckeye EQ8 Senior and Ultimate Finish 25 are soaked so she can chew them. Now she has her own personal herd, Destiny and Peggy who she keeps close by. She gets stressed if her friends are not turned out right after she is. Legacy stands at the gate whinnying for them until they are turned out with her.

At feeding time Legacy is always waiting at the gate, first in line for meals, whinnying at us to hurry up! Because of Horse Protection's compassionate donors, elderly horses like Legacy can live out their lives in comfort and peace. Meals always on time, living happily in herds, grazing and playing in the expansive pastures.



Legacy in 2011 at age 26



Legacy in 2019 at age 34

Wish List

- Foster Homes
- Large Washing Machine without Agitator
- Cowboy Magic Body Shine
- Equus Marigold Shampoo
- Equus Fly Spray
- Stamps
- Aluminum Wound Spray
- Desitin Extra Strength 40% zinc oxide
- A-5 Clippers, Blades and Body Clippers
- Kinetic Vet EquiShield SA Powder Supplement
- Kinetic Vet EquiShield SA IBH Salve and Spray
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- EGO Electric Weed Eater
- EGO Nexus Power Station Generator (2)
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- \$500
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