



Our Miracle Minis, Peace (left) and  
Courage (right)

# HORSE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

## NEWSLETTER



# TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH!

SUMMER 2023

A 501(c)3 organization located in Micanopy, Florida  
Providing **rescue, rehabilitation & rehoming** of equines since 1990

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Horse Protection  
20690 NW 130th Avenue  
Micanopy, FL 32667

Office: (352) 466-4366

Email: [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org)

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# THE LIVES YOU HAVE SAVED



Ace



Sunny



Pedrito and Cano came from a very loving home whose caregiver passed away.



# IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!*



Joker



Carly, loving owner could no longer care for her and her barn mate, Maddy (below)



Diamond



Maddy



Jacks



Valentino, abandoned on someone's property



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER THE WINTER NEWSLETTER

### Amy Sperling

*None of this would be possible without the kindness and generosity of Ms. Amy Sperling!*

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**Jacob Snowwhite** In memory of **Susan Snowwhite** and in honor of **Phillip Snowwhite** commemorating 50 years of marriage, reunited in Heaven

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## THE WILLISTON FOUR - A RESCUE TALE



In March of this year, Horse Protection received a call from the Levy County Sheriff's Office regarding four severely neglected horses. The horses had been left with very little food, were not being properly cared for and had not had their feet done in months. Levy County Sheriffs Office requested Horse Protection's assistance. Within a few hours, our staff arranged to meet the deputies with two horse trailers so that we could safely transport the four horses to Horse Protection.

The horse we have now lovingly renamed Jacks was the most severe case. He was a body score of 2. His feet were in terrible condition with chips and cracks. He could hardly walk from the pain.

The horse we have lovingly renamed Diamond was the second most severe case. She was a body score of 2.5 and her feet had been extremely neglected. The photos attached to this article show their condition. She was also in a great deal of pain from the condition of her feet.



Several deputy vehicles were on site as we arrived. Our staff worked hand in hand with the deputies to get the four horses out of harm's way. We loaded the horses into the two trailers and when they arrived to Horse Protection they enjoyed their first real meal in quite a while.



[Continued next page](#)

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## THE WILLISTON FOUR, continued from page 5



The third horse who we have lovingly renamed Ace had a large wound on his back. He was a body score of 3 and his skin and coat were in very poor condition from



Ace had a body score of 3 and his coat and feet were in very poor condition. Look at him now!



malnutrition. His feet were also in very poor condition, and he was also in pain as a result.

The fourth horse who we have lovingly renamed Joker (because he is just that!!) was thankfully not in as poor condition as the others as he had more recently joined that herd. The Levy County Sheriff's Office was wise in removing

him from the owner as his condition would have most certainly deteriorated if they had not.

Within just a brief month all four horses have significantly improved with Jacks gaining over 150 pounds, Diamond



gaining over 100 pounds, Ace gaining over 90 pounds and Joker gaining over 60 pounds. Horse Protection also employed a horse podiatrist from the Institute of Applied Equine

Podiatry to tend to their feet. Their feet are already showing improvement and the horses now walk without pain.

Additionally, our Executive Director, Christine Massinger who is a retired Judge from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a former prosecutor was instrumental in presenting evidence in the court case against the owner of the horses. As a result, the judge hearing the case, ruled that Horse Protection will retain possession of the horses and that the owner can no longer have horses in his possession.

Please know that **NONE OF THIS** would be possible if it were not for you, our donors. Every single thing that we did in the chronology of rescuing these horses, we could not have done without your financial and emotional support. From having the trailers, to hiring the staff, to buying the feed, to employing the podiatrist, **NONE OF THIS would be possible without you.** So, on behalf of Diamond, Jacks, Joker and Ace we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your caring and for your compassion.



# *We Had a Wonderful Season of Spirit Walks Here at Horse Protection!*

The Miracle Minis are on summer break until October. Take a look at the fun we had and the Faith, Love, Hope, Courage, Peace and Fortitude that so many enjoyed. Thanks to everyone who took a walk and donated to help us fill the food bank. Come and see us this Fall!

FABULOUS PHOTOS BY SUZANNE SUOR





# Do you worry about what would happen to your horse if something were to happen to you?

Do you find yourself asking...

## WHAT IF?

### DON'T LEAVE YOUR PRECIOUS HORSES **in Fate's Hands**

Horse Protection Association of Florida is proud to announce that we have **expanded our Mission** to include assisting horses whose caregivers have passed away, are terminally ill or are disabled.

We now offer a **Peace of Mind Plan, a personalized estate plan for you and your horses**. It will protect them if something were to happen to you.

Creating the Peace of Mind Plan is **easy and straightforward**. It will take about an hour to complete.

#### Together we will:

- Reserve your horse's spot in the Peace of Mind Plan.
- Discuss your horse's care needs including any special ways that your horse likes to be cared for (i.e., certain hoof care, certain supplements, certain behavioral tendencies).
- Create a plan to ensure that your horse will be well cared for in the event something was to happen to you.

**We at Horse Protection see the tragedies that occur to horses when caregivers do not properly plan to protect them.**

- 150,000 horses are slaughtered for food products every year in the United States even though consumption of horse meat is illegal in this Country.
- Too often we see family members who have been entrusted to care for horses who don't follow through either because they are not horse people, or their circumstances have changed.
- Not enough horse lovers create legally valid trusts that will ensure their horses remain safe if something were to happen to them.
- Wills cannot be trusted as horses are considered property and money cannot be willed to them directly. Wills also may be contested in court for very long periods of time leaving no funds to provide for horses during critical time frames.

Stop the worry and gain **PEACE OF MIND**.

Call Christine Massinger, Executive Director at **(352) 207-3079** or email [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org)



## PEACE OF MIND PLAN

**Would it surprise you to learn that several of the horses that we have recently rescued were horses whose caregivers have passed away?**

These horses were loved but were left in fate's hands as no plan was in place for them. If you do not have a solid plan in place to protect your horse if something were to happen to you, you are putting your horse at great risk. We at Horse Protection have seen tragic things happen in these circumstances where horses are put into the wrong hands, sold, given away, sent to slaughter. We, as horse people, don't want to imagine that this will be the case for our beloved horse(s). But the truth of the matter is that it is up to us to be proactive and plan so that our four-legged loved ones can remain safe if we are no longer able to care for them.

Horse Protection has recently expanded our mission statement to provide sanctuary for horses whose caregivers have passed away, have become terminally ill, or become disabled. Our Peace of Mind Plan is a very simple estate plan that will allow your horse to live on Horse Protection's property and be cared for by our knowledgeable staff. It is a customized plan that will allow your horse to receive all the comforts that he/she needs or is accustomed to whether that be: customized Ferrier care, special grooming needs, medications, supplements, assistance with training etc. We commit to taking care of your beloved horse(s) with the same attention that you do.

There are a limited number of slots still available for reservation for this plan so don't hesitate. **Contact our Executive Director, Christine Massinger, by email to receive a copy of this plan at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org) or by calling 352-207-3079.** Christine will be happy to arrange a time that is convenient for you to go over the plan via phone or in person and to discuss your needs.

**Together we will create a plan to ensure that your horse will be well cared for in the event something happens to you.**

Don't leave your precious horse in fate's hands. Gain Peace of Mind today.

**Christine, her husband Doug and three of their horses: Courage, Li'l Boon & Ave'.**





## TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH FOR A TRIO OF THOROUGHBREDS



*Jim and Athena Cody have welcomed Anna, Arnold and Gregory into their family.*

Athena and Jim Cody of Geneva, Florida recently adopted Anna, Gregory and Arnold – an adorable family of Thoroughbreds who came to Horse Protection when their owner became suddenly ill and passed away at the age of 60. Anna (21) is the mom, and her sons Gregory (14) and Arnold (12) came to Horse Protection healthy and clearly well-loved, but little was known about their history as riding horses. Since the boys were born, the family has always lived together. It was important to us that this bonded family be able to find a home where they could stay together if possible. Athena and Jim Cody were happy to make that a reality.



*Athena plays with Anna while Arnold and Gregory pose for the photographer.*

Athena and Jim are retired from the Air Force in 2017. Athena had horses as a child growing up on a dairy farm in Washington State. Jim rode as a child also. Horse ownership was a dream for them throughout their younger years, bringing up a family and serving our Country. Once retired, they determined to make that dream come true, and found a peaceful equestrian property in Geneva with a barn, fencing and pastures under a canopy of oaks.

Now, all that was missing was some equine residents. After joining the local riding club and asking around, Athena started to research in earnest for the right horses.

"We could have just gone out and bought some horses," said Athena, "We feel blessed in having this great home for animals and wanted to share it with some horses who need a home. I started researching the various rescues, and Horse Protection stood out as a solid organization. We liked the fact that Horse Protection makes the commitment to get good training for the horses, and the humans!"

Athena and Jim have horses for the first time as adults and are eagerly learning all that they can. Right now, Anna, Arnold and Gregory are in training with Horse Protection's Executive Director, Christine Massinger, who is an accomplished trainer and a Parelli instructor. Christine is helping the Codys to bond with the horses and learn a common language of communication on the ground. They are learning how to care for the horses and safely lead, load, and handle them.

From there, the horses will go into training with Bridging the Gap Horsemanship's Fabian Brandt for under saddle training. Athena and Jim will learn right along with the horses.

"When we learned that Anna, Gregory and Arnold were available, we weren't sure at first. Neither of us had any experience with Thoroughbreds, but when we met them and saw how sweet and beautiful they are, the decision was easy," Athena says. "We knew they needed training, but we are okay with that. It's part of the journey. I never had any formal training as a kid, so it is good for all of us."

Athena and Jim are looking forward to bringing the horses home to Geneva once they have completed their training. They hope to ride Gregory and Arnold, who make a spectacular matched pair. Their young grandchildren are both interested in horses, and they are hoping for many years of shared enjoyment of the horses with their grandkids on their farm.

Horse Protection's Farm Manager, Lisa Mandley, sums up this tragedy to triumph story beautifully when she says, "It's truly a miracle that this family and the Thoroughbreds came together. Couldn't have worked out any better."



## BEFORE, AFTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Nancy & Walter Rigling adopted Buzzy



Kathy Bowker adopted Otie



Sally Sanders adopted Amigo.  
Shown here with Sally's granddaughter.



Kathy & Jack Lovett adopted Amber & Polo



Athena & Jim Cody adopted Anna, Gregory & Arnold

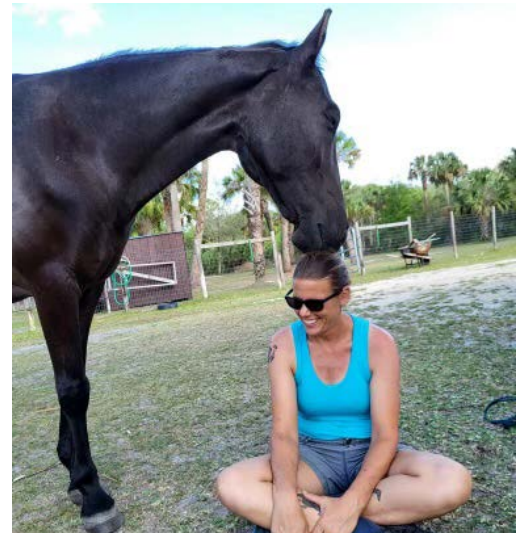


Ellen Noto fosters Sammy

**CURIOUS ABOUT  
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check out our  
Adoption FAQ:

[https://hpaf.org/horses/  
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Lauren Hinson adopted Hermoso



## THE HORSES LOVE THEIR SPONSORS



TOMMY



Thomas Idziak and  
Terri Ross with Sunny



LOLA

Helen Wuest sponsors Lola  
Rosemary Taylor and Eugene Rodriguez sponsor Tommy  
Pat Kilby of Gainesville sponsors Cupido  
Carol Baileys of The Villages and Penny Parks sponsor Rhett  
Thomas Idziak sponsors Sunny and Sunday  
Karen Pando of Altoona and Penny Parks sponsor Madame  
Cristina Serralta of Miami sponsors Abby

## WOULD YOU PLEASE BE MY SPONSOR?

My name is Joker.

I am a seven year old Thoroughbred/Cross and I am one handsome fellow!

I am also very, very sweet and I love to give kisses and hugs. I am looking for a kind human to sponsor me so that I can go into training. The better trained I am the more chance I have to get adopted.

Will you please be my sponsor? To learn how you can sponsor please email us at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org)





## DO YOU HAVE A SUNNY SPOT IN YOUR PASTURE?



We know that ALL horses are special but this guy is ultra special and he is up for adoption. His name is Sunny and he is a four year old Thoroughbred, 16HH who has been doing **incredibly well** in training at Bridging the Gap Horsemanship. He has been the pony horse for other horses, he loves obstacles, he has even been ridden while the rider was twiddling with an umbrella overhead! This horse is special and he is looking for his special person to love him forever. Is that you?

See Sunny's profile with videos of him in training at [www.hpaf.org/horses/sunny](http://www.hpaf.org/horses/sunny).

## MAY FLOWERS



We are happy to provide an update on our four Flower Girl Mustangs who we rescued from a severe neglect case in Williston, Florida. The Flower Girls known as Lily, Rose, Iris and Petunia are all doing incredibly well. They came to us untouchable and fearful of any human interaction. We are now able to groom them, pick their feet, halter and lead them. We have also begun to train them as well. Thank you to all who made this possible including: Pat Parelli, Ryan Rose and one of Horse Protection's own trainers, Sarah Drew and Farm Manager, Lisa Mandley. Thank you to our donors and supporters as well. Without each of you none of this would be possible. It takes a village! PHOTO BY SUZANNE SUOR.



## CORPORATE SPONSORS

These organizations support us. We appreciate them greatly. Please support them!

# Big Lick GIVES



*Florida Thoroughbred Farm Managers', Inc.*

## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

Your love and compassion for all God's creatures and most especially the beautiful horses and donkeys at Horse Protection makes you the caring and special person that you are! Thank you for being a part of our Mission to help rescue, rehabilitate, rehome, and rejuvenate these beautiful horses. Help us continue to turn tragedy into triumph! Join the compassionate people who have included Horse Protection in their estate planning through our [Legacy Society](#). By doing so, you will make countless miracles happen for years to come!

**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,  
William Albert Fabry &  
Dorthey Eleanor Fabry

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

Barbara Henderson,  
Elizabeth Mittauer  
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Jan Barbour,  
Sharon Champion,  
Doris & Bill Smith,  
Elly Mims,  
Marty Price



**Thank you to the horses' guardian angel, Don Manuchia,  
for once again sponsoring the newsletter.**

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**This beautiful newsletter is possible because of the generosity of Don.  
We and the horses can never thank Don enough!**

## **MANY THANKS!**



**Thank you to Dr. Sarah Garcia from Southern Performance Veterinary Acupuncture and Wellness for her amazing work. She generously donates her time for the Horse Protection horses!**

[www.southernperformancevet.com](http://www.southernperformancevet.com)



**Kat Miller, seen here with Horse Protection's Carly, who volunteers her time at Horse Protection.**

**Dr. Marilyn Sokolof and Gisela Rhodes (center) for the wonderful workshop they offered to the staff at Horse Protection on Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Learning.**



## **IN THE ARMS OF THE ANGELS**



**Frank N Boots**

**Thank you to all the caring people who rallied around Frank N Boots to try to help him. In the end he knew he was loved.**



HORSE PROTECTION  
ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA



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**PLEASE REMEMBER THE HORSES IN YOUR WILL. YOUR LEGACY WILL HELP THEM FOR YEARS TO COME.**