

Berry- Just One of the Thousands of Beautiful
Souls Rescued By Horse Protection.

HORSE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER



TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH!

SUMMER 2025



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



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THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!*

Chi Chi



Biscuit



Miss Red



Tiger



Gypsy Gold

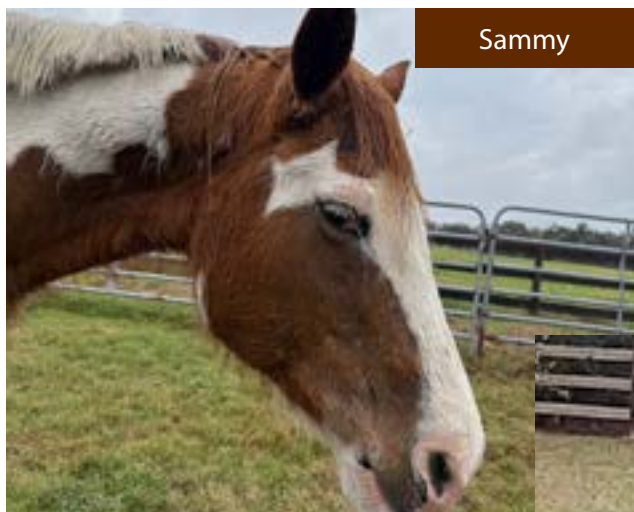


Hannah



Divia

THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!* CONTINUED



Sammy



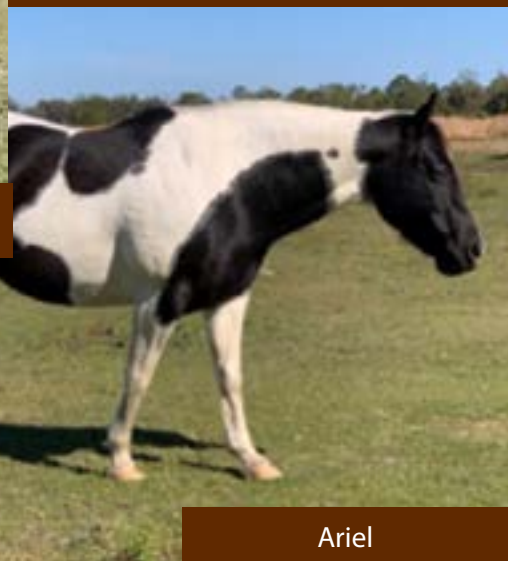
Little Joe



Wyatt



Daisy



Ariel



Tinkerbelle



Gypsy Brown



Bella

THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!* CONTINUED



Top left to right: Calvin,
Blakely, Maren, Ethel,
Lucy
Bottom left to right:
Athena, Gumdrops
Buttons

Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall - we get the calls.

Whether it's hot or cold, rainy or dry - our farm and its precious residents rely on us for their feed, medical care and training.

Your monthly commitment of \$30 or more is the foundation that gives us the confidence to say YES when a call comes in to save another life.

Partner with us on a monthly basis. The horses thank you and we are encouraged by your willingness to make this special kind of pledge!

As a token of our appreciation and a symbol of your support that spans the seasons, we will give you one of our **STEADFAST THROUGH THE SEASONS** insulated tumblers - whether it is hot or cold, it's there for you, just like you are for the horses of HPAF.



STEADFAST



IT'S EASIER TO LOOK AWAY, BUT THE HORSES NEED YOU

by Christine Massinger

Human nature is a funny thing. We sometimes convince ourselves that everything is going to be alright and that things are not as bad as they seem. Certainly, there is a self-protective mechanism to this. In fact, I used to be the same way. When I would see animals in need, my self-protective mechanism would come into play. I would try to convince myself that the animal was going to be alright and that I did not have to get involved to help the animal even though I was, through and through, an animal lover. I also convinced myself that others would step up to the plate for that animal, others who were more courageous and braver than I to face what that animal was facing. This worked for me for decades until I became the President and Executive Director of Horse Protection. Then, everything changed.

After four years of proudly serving this organization, I now know that nothing gets done when people look away! There is simply too much need, and the need is constant.

We receive calls on a weekly basis of horses in need.

- Horses who have been abandoned.
- Horses who have been starved.
- Horses who have been abused and horses who have been neglected.
- We also receive calls from people who are ill and can no longer care for their horse. They have no where to turn for help and the horse will suffer tragically if we do not step in.

It sounds like just numbers, but we incur operational expenses on average of \$45,000 a month. Recently a three-month veterinarian bill came to \$37,000 for several horses who needed medical care.

We do not receive funds from the state. We only receive donations from private individuals and occasionally from grants. To do the job that the horses need us to do, the monthly operational expense will not change. If anything, the number will increase as we move into the fall and winter months when we have to buy hay.



**Eleven-Year-Old
Cracker Jack-
Rescued by Horse
Protection and
Searching For his
Forever Home**

Please as you read this, know that the horses depend on you! The only way that these special souls can be helped is if EVERYONE commits to doing their part; whatever is the most comfortable way to help. Whether it be through a monthly donation or one-time donation, whether it be through volunteering, adoption or naming Horse Protection in a will or a trust.

The horses are depending on ALL of us. Instead of looking away, please look into the beautiful eyes of Cracker Jack (above) and into the eyes of the 55 other horses currently in our care and tell these special souls, "I will help you".

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

and before our press date of May 1!

Amy Sperling

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

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

**We and the horses (and donkeys)
can never thank him enough!**

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"IT'S MY WORST NIGHTMARE!"

These are the words we hear from horse lovers who wonder what would happen to their beloved horse(s) if something were to happen to them. We at Horse Protection see the tragedy that takes place when plans are not in place to protect horses.

Just recently a long-time supporter of Horse Protection's passed away. She was not aware of our Peace of Mind Plan and entrusted her "friend" with the care of her horses. Within three months of her passing, Horse Protection had to rescue her horses from starvation and neglect from the "friend"!!! The "friend" did not even know the names of the decedent's horses. She was not caring for them the way that they needed to be cared for. They were covered in sores and were a body score of 2.5 even though they had been healthy when entrusted to her.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a plan in place. We have recently expanded our mission statement to provide sanctuary for horses whose care givers have become ill, pass away or become disabled.

None of us like to think of our demise. But to think of the possibility of our demise and to create a safe plan for your beloved horses is prudent and necessary.

Horses are sold for slaughter much more often than we would like to think. Horses are abandoned and neglected. Horses are starved as was the case with these two horses who were entrusted to a "friend."

Unlike this "friend", sometimes people have the best of intentions when they take on a responsibility such as this and then they realize that it is much too much for them.

The horse then is sold or given away. The horse is now on a "give away" chain. We see this frequently where someone trusted one person. That person cannot fulfill their promise, and they give the horse away to someone who cannot be trusted. The result is often times tragic for the horse.

Please, please, please have a plan in place for your horses! They are depending on you, not just for now, but for the rest of their lives.

For more information on our Peace of Mind Plan contact our President/Executive Director Christine Massinger at christine@hpaf.org or call **352-207-3079**.



Pedrito and Cano, loved by their owner, now in sanctuary with Horse Protection through our Peace of Mind Program.

WE NEED SOME HORSEPOWER - THE KIND WITH WHEELS!



Horse Protection needs a UTV. Our UTV that was donated to us several years ago is no longer operable. Since the horses are on 148 acres, it is very challenging for our staff to get to them on foot and we cannot easily access all areas of the property in our truck especially during the wet season. If you have a UTV that you can donate, we would be so appreciative. Please reach out to our President and Executive Director, Christine Massinger at christine@hpaf.org. The horses thank you!

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.

- 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

WOULD YOU PLEASE BE MY SPONSOR?

My name is Peggy and I am a beautiful 11-year-old Thoroughbred. When I was just one years old, a trainer was not kind to me during training and put too much pressure on me. I ended up flipping over while being trained and injured my back and hips. Because of my injury, I can never be ridden. But I will be the best friend you will ever have!

Since I am young and since I cannot be ridden, many people do not want to adopt me. I may spend the rest of my life at Horse Protection. I am searching for a very kind person to be my sponsor. Could that be you?

Love ♥ Peggy.

To learn how you can sponsor please email us at christine@hpaf.org.



The Most Heart Warming Story Ever Told *and YOU Can Be a Part of It!*



Plan to Join Us for our Third Annual Giddy Up Gala on November 8th!

College of Central Florida's Vintage Farm. 5:00 PM-9:00 PM

BEFORE, AFTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Amy Sperling adopted Calvin and Blakely.



Jeannie Gonzalez and Marty Mahone adopted Miss Red, Diva and Hannah.



Barbara and Joe Baris adopted Maren.



Donna McNeal adopted Gumdrop Buttons.



Kristin Weibley adopted Ariel



Michael Daloia adopted Amari.

BEFORE, AFTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Becky Myers adopted Biscuit



Becky Wolf adopted Tiger.



Liz and Lee Ponders
adopted Jackie, Trinity,
and Berry.



Ariane Jackson adopted Clyde.



Kathleen Williams adopted Little Joe.

BEFORE, AFTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Jorgia Wooten adopted Leia.



Susan McBride adopted Gypsy Brown and Wyatt.

Joette Young adopted Bella.



**Looking for Your Own Happily
Ever After?**

Visit our Adoption page:
<https://hpaf.org/adoptable-horses/>

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

**Big Lick
GIVES**

Shoo-fly



**BERRETTINI
FEED SPECIALISTS**



IN THE ARMS OF THE ANGELS

Star (left) and Misty (right).



IN LOVING MEMORY OF STAR

2005 -2025

Although we are all devastated and heartbroken, we celebrate the life of Star. We rescued Star just seven months ago. Star quickly became one of the most popular horses at the farm. He enjoyed going from herd to herd and socializing with all the horses. Star was Mr. Curiosity and always eager to be a part of everything. Star liked to follow everyone around like a puppy dog no matter if it were a human or a horse. His favorite horse was Misty. They were the best of friends and were boyfriend and girlfriend. Star was so proud of himself to have a girlfriend to call his own. Many of you caringly donated to help Star when he was recently sent to Peterson and Smith because of a cecum motility disorder which caused him to colic. Star bravely battled two illnesses at the same time. The other illness Star battled was laminitis. The two illnesses took their toll on Star and our veterinarians told us that to euthanize him was the most humane thing we could do as he was in so much pain. Our entire equine care team was present to

let Star know that he was loved on his final day on this earth. Although Star was with us for such a short time, Star has left such an impression on all our hearts. We love you Star, and we will miss you.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MISTY

1996 -2025

We celebrate the life of Misty, a gentle, kind, and sweet girl. Misty was a beautiful Thoroughbred who we rescued years ago from neglect. She had many friends at the farm, both horse and human. Misty's favorite friend was Star. Star and she became quite the romantic couple and were never seen without each other. They enjoyed eating together, walking through the farm together and sleeping next to each other every night. Misty was courageous and brave through her illness. Misty taught all of us at Horse Protection resiliency and strength. She taught us to cherish each moment that we are given on this earth and to enjoy each day. We love you, Misty and we will miss you. Until we meet again in heaven, your great spirit will bring us strength.

THANK YOU!



www.southernperformancevet.com

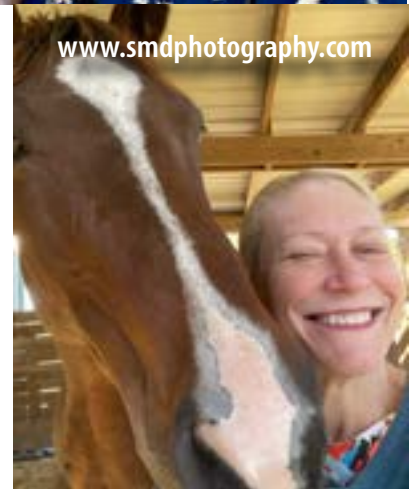
Thank you to Dr. Sarah Garcia from Southern Performance Veterinary Acupuncture and Wellness for her amazing work. She generously donates her time for the Horse Protection horses!



Thank you to Sarah Drew, one of our five professional trainers, who significantly discounts her services to help the horses.



Thank you to Kathleen Gruber and Giovanni Gallottini for volunteering to help with the Spirit Walks and Tack Sale.



www.smdphotography.com

Thank you to Tammy Flagg-Dowie and Sean Dowie for volunteering, and to Sean for his fantastic photos of the horses.



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christine@hpaf.org

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