

THE HORSE'S VOICE

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OUR COMMITMENT

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue's commitment is to horses. Our goal is to place adoptable horses in new homes, but what's most important is to find just the right match for each horse. This means some horses will live out their days at Crane Mountain. Others will stay as long as they need to until the right match is found. Their length of stay with us can range from a few months to several years. We also help other horse owners care for their horses, including injury repair and nutritional needs.

All of the horses in our program are treated as if they are our own. Each receives regular veterinary, dental and hoof care, proper nutrition for their individual needs, exercise, fresh water all day, clean stalls or run-in sheds for shelter, hands-on care and "gentling" by experienced horse people 24/7, 365 days a year.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. would like to thank our loyal supporters (insert) for making it possible for us to save horses, touch peoples' lives through our work, and to do our small part to make this world a better place. We deeply appreciate the letters that accompany your gifts, as your kind words and friendship give us strength and inspire us to do what we do. We couldn't do it without you.

Every successful enterprise takes time to reflect on its accomplishments and its vision for the future, to make important changes that will enhance the impact of its work. Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue is no exception, and is proud to unveil our revised mission statement, followed by the reasons behind the new words that guide our work.

"Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. is dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse."

As promised....the reasons behind this change. We were saving horses one-at-a-time for decades, established the rescue in 2002, then moved to a bigger farm in 2004, to increase the number of horses we could save.

With 100,000 horses commercially slaughtered each year in the US for export to foreign countries for human consump-

tion (it's illegal to eat horses in the US), and thousands more dying from abuse and neglect, we knew we had our work cut out for us, but never expected the plight of the horse to be as grave as we've since discovered.

Every week we get calls and e-mails with complaints of abuse, neglect, and cruelty — the stories and the photos would bring you to tears — it makes us sick. We also get dozens of calls every month from people who want us to take their "problem" horse. In most cases, the horse is sound and healthy. Here are the common "problems" we hear; "we don't click," "too much horse," "can't control him/her," "doesn't like me," "crazy," "mean," "not the same horse I bought."

The "problem horse" complaint is as sad for us as the abuse complaint because 99% of the time, there's not a problem with the horse — the problem is usually the people. A recent New York Times Editorial said it best: "You'd be hard pressed to find a mean or an evil horse. If you do come across one, it's because of the company it keeps with humans."

It raises the questions: When did humans lose respect for the heritage of the horse and the partnership that carried us in hunt and battle, gave us transportation, tilled our fields, or deliv-

ered our mail? In the days of the cavalry, the horses drank first and many were buried with their soldiers. Native Americans call the horse a "sacred dog."

When did true horsemanship die? True horsemanship, like any relationship, is based on mutual trust and respect — working together to communicate and become one. We spend more time rehabilitating broken hearts and broken spirits — those of horses people have given up on — who, when treated with respect and natural horsemanship principles, learn to trust again (see Popeye's story-page 2).

And humane treatment? In our opinion, it seems to be a concept more than the law. Though it is illegal to eat horses in the US, according to the laws that govern their care and treatment, horses are livestock. The laws are too weak and enforcing them is impossible.

To truly save the horse, we must reach beyond one life at a time, and work to restore what has been lost — horsemanship, heritage and the humane treatment of the horse. We are not changing our business principles, we are simply making it more clear to the world what we must do to save the most amazing and beautiful animal on earth — the horse.

Eddie Mrozik

HORSE OF THE YEAR



MY MAN POPEYE

Hi, my name is Popeye. This picture is of me when I arrived at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue in July 2004. In this picture, you can tell that I was too skinny from being neglected, but what you can't see is my fear of humans. I became afraid because people hit me. I guess they thought if I feared them, they could dominate me and I'd do what they wanted. All I wanted to do was get away from them, as far away and as fast as I could.

You see, I'm an appaloosa and we're very sensitive by nature. Native Americans loved us because we bond with our humans, really close, and when it came time for hunt and battle, that's what the Indians wanted — a horse they could trust to keep them safe and who knew just what to do. They'd think it, and we'd do it. It's true. We're really smart. But, it takes a mutual trust and respect for us — for any horse, or human for that matter — to be a true partner.

For months after arriving at Crane Mountain, even though everyone was really nice to me and very patient, I still ducked and closed my eyes when someone moved fast near me. I was so used to being hit, that I just couldn't help it. Nancy and Eddie would spend hours just sitting in my stall while I ate, gently touching my face, rubbing my back and my legs, to help me understand that humans can be kind.

Everyone has a hero in life. I have several: Eddie and Nancy and people like you who made it possible for them to outbid the meat buyers at the auction and save my life. I would have been crammed into an overcrowded, filthy stock trailer to be taken to a slaughter house where I would have been hit by a bolt gun then hung by my back legs and butchered while I was still alive (eeehhh, that makes me shiver in my horseshoes).

My other really special hero is Mary Garcia at 4-M Farms, who believed in me and saw through my scraggy bones and the fearful look in my eyes at who I am inside. At Crane Mountain, they named me Popeye. Mary calls me "My Man Popeye" because all of the horses at her farm have a name that starts with "M." I like that name because it makes me proud that Mary loves me so much she calls me "My Man."

Well, I could go on and on, but I'll wrap it up here and let the pictures of me from last Fall tell the rest.

I got a new start and a second chance at life at Crane Mountain. Eddie and Nancy helped me learn it was okay to let go of my fears and to trust again. And Mary and the kids at 4-M Farms have given me love, confidence, and happiness beyond words. I get all choked up just thinking about what could have been, and what I have now. I am so lucky. Thank you to all of you who helped me.



Oh boy, a hug and a kiss before the show to wish us luck. Isn't that the coolest? It feels so good to be loved.



For a boy who was so afraid of people, now I can stand proud in front of crowds. Here I am on Halloween dressed as a stick of gum with the "Doublemint Twins"!

PURE TRUTH—THE LANGUAGE OF THE HORSE

This is a story about the language of the horse. Poncho (palomino yearling—below left) and Pelham (17 year old former event horse—below far right) are the subjects of this story, and their language – the language of the horse – is pure truth. Horses never lie.

Horses have a language all their own and they communicate with one another, and with us humans, every day. The principle of natural horsemanship is based on learning the language of the horse and not expecting them to understand our parlance. For this story, we will be “The Horse’s Voice” with photos to back the tale. Our ability to translate comes from years of experience living among them.



This photo (above) was taken on Poncho’s first day away from his mom, seen here possibly putting himself at risk by visiting unfamiliar horses on the other side of the fence. (Pelham will correct that...you’ll see.) A little background...

When a foal is six months old, we turn him and his mom out with other mothers to learn about the herd. Other mothers understand what it’s like to be a new mom, and they help in rearing the foal by teaching him gently but firmly, about socializing and staying safe. We wait until foals are a year old to wean them from their mom because there’s nothing better than a mother’s milk for strong bones and good health. We’ve also learned that after a year of nursing, mom is ready to let him go because she trusts us to watch over him like we watch over her, and she knows that she and his surrogate moms have given him the tools and confidence to make the journey.

Pelham Bay, who came to our farm after his owner was diagnosed with a terminal illness, is our weaning partner. Pelham is a permanent resident of our farm. He is great with kids (a hit with our kids programs) and he’s the best mentor for babies or horses who’ve experienced emotional trauma from people charged with their care. We introduce all new horses to Pelham first to learn the ropes. Just when a foal thinks he got away from his mom, he meets the “godfather.” We call Pelham that because of his amazingly passionate presence and beauty, because he’s raised several babies on our farm and because

when one baby (Two Socks) needed a platelet transfusion to increase his potentially weakened immune system caused by his mom’s unwillingness to nurse during his first 2 hours of life (he didn’t get enough colostrum), it was Pelham who willingly donated 7 pints of blood.



Pelham is a passive leader. He is consistent in his actions, means what he says and says what he means. He is a protector, but not domineering. If he thinks another horse is in trouble, Pelham will first make a face to show disapproval, and if ignored, will move the other horse off with his body language to let him know he put himself in danger as he is doing with Poncho in the above photo. He’s protecting the baby because he knows Poncho doesn’t have the experience.

To reward Poncho for listening, Pelham welcomes him to the watering hole for a drink, forging an unbreakable bond based on trust and respect. That’s the bond we strive to create between horse and horse and horse and human, through all that we practice, and all that we teach.

We’ll end this true tale with a quote by singer and songwriter Willie Nelson: “ The most superhuman thing about horses is the contrast between their unearthly strength and inherent gentleness. Humans abuse their power while horses use theirs only for good. I'd rather be a horse.”



**CRANE MOUNTAIN
VALLEY HORSE
RESCUE, INC.**

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Gail Guenther

“Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. is dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse.”

Contribute with Confidence

94 cents of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to the care of the animals

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at the above address and phone or by contacting the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

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WE FOUND A HOME — TOGETHER!

Hi, I'm Cali and my friend in the photo below is April. My people moved to Florida and left me behind in the winter with no food, water or shelter. It was 20 degrees below zero for a whole week! I got really hungry and cold so I escaped from my yard and wandered around town in search of something to eat.

Then, Eddie and Nancy came to get me and took me to a really great farm (Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue) with tons of food and water, and a warm place to sleep with lots of fresh bedding. That's where I met April. We're both only 14 years old.



April lived at the farm for 3 years because no one wanted her — she's healthy, but she's afraid of saddles. Eddie rescued April from slaughter. Her people had given up on her — “no longer useful” they said because they couldn't ride her. Eddie and Nancy never gave up on April. She is the sweetest girl and loves kids, a good brushing and is like a big puppy dog.



In March, our new mom adopted us both to live on her 60-acre farm. Even though I don't mind a saddle, April and I get to just eat, play and be loved for the rest of our lives. Did we win the lottery or something?

YOU DON'T THROW A LIFE AWAY

Just up the road from my house is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God placed in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse helping others to see.

Author unknown

WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR 2006 SUPPORTERS

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CRANE MOUNTAIN VALLEY HORSE RESCUE, INC. 2007 EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc.

518-962-8512

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June 23, 2007: Open House, Tack Sale and Horsemanship Demonstration—at our farm in Westport, New York. We have tons of new and used tack for sale. Tour the farm, meet the horses and the dedicated volunteers who care for them, watch a horsemanship demonstration, kids games and activities, and tons of fun. \$10 per person* \$20 per family*



September 2007: 3rd Annual Benefit Trail Ride (watch our website or call for date and location to be announced)—We are deeply grateful to Sandy Hayes for organizing this event for the past two years. This is a bring-your-own-horse trail ride in the Adirondack Park. If you're not a rider, that's ok too, because there will be plenty to do for the whole family. We'll have a family-style barbeque, horse-drawn carriage rides, raffles and door prizes. This is a "don't miss" event for horse enthusiasts and people looking for fun events for the whole family.

October 13, 2007: Hoof Care Clinic and Tack Sale—at our farm in Westport, New York. Back by popular demand, Tim Felton will give a hoof-care clinic and demonstration. Tim grew up shoeing horses with his father, Jamie. Tim is one of the best farriers in the north country, shoeing rodeo, race, event and pleasure horses. Tim excels at corrective shoeing and special needs and does educational seminars on proper hoof care. He is at our farm faithfully every six weeks to care for our horses and their hoof-care needs. \$20 per person and \$30 per family*. No charge if you just come for the tack sale.



* All proceeds benefit the rescue horses. Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue's popular collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and more will be available for sale at all events.