

THE HORSE'S VOICE

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INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self-esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls — they give us hope!

Toni Robinson



Horses can educate through first hand, subjective, personal experiences, unlike human tutors, teachers and professors can ever do. Horses can build character, not merely urge one to improve on it. Horses forge the mind, the character, the emotions and inner lives of humans...in partnership with a horse, one is seldom lacking for thought, emotion and inspiration.

Charles de Kunffy

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue wishes you a happy holiday season. Thanks to our loyal supporters — like you — Pops, a draft horse seized by the police in May as part of an animal cruelty investigation and brought to CMVHR to recover from starvation, neglect and a gunshot wound, is getting to enjoy some holiday cheer. Without intervention, Pops would have succumbed to his injuries and dire condition.

Pops is nicknamed in honor of Pop's Bill, the mock bill for Congress written by four inspirational young women as part of their Participation in Government Class in high school. Their bill advocates to make cruelty to animals, especially horses, a felony. The five minute video they created using photos we provided is up on our website — www.cmvhr.org. Warning: have tissues handy.....

This issue of the *Horse's Voice* will track Pops' road to recovery, with photos of his amazing transforma-



Draft horse suffering from a gunshot wound and neglect.

tion from ragged and ribby to regal and rotund. In addition, we will briefly cover the bittersweet side of our work — the loss of Nellie to cancer, and the loving home found for Blackie.

As always, our work is more than hands-on horse care. Education and outreach are an important part of our mission. This year, we hosted Westport Kindergarten graduation for the fifth year in a row, took one of our youth volunteers to horse camp with one of our rescued horses, spoke at Kiwanis Club, led farm tours, were interviewed by a college student for his entrepreneurial class,

worked with boy scouts, welcomed visits from the local ARC, and greeted some 200 people from our booth at Adirondack Habitat Awareness Day in Wilmington, New York.

Our work is only possible because of the support of friends like you who inspire us every day with your generosity and kindness.

We hope you will consider a gift to CMVHR this holiday season — a gift in honor of a loved one makes a great present, too! Thank you.

Eddie Mrozik

SHOT AND STARVED—AND HE SURVIVED

On May 21, we were contacted by the local police, animal cruelty investigator, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and several concerned citizens to assist with a case involving a horse who was shot at close range with a high powered rifle and starved to 60% of his body weight.

The horse, whom we affectionately call Pops, scored a two on the Henneke scale of one to nine — one being “walking bones dead” according to officials. In addition to his starved condition, Pops was infested with parasites including ticks and worms. His hooves were too long and his teeth had not been floated (filed) in so long they were growing and cutting into his cheeks.



Gunshot entrance wound draining from the infection after being left untreated for weeks. (The little black dots above him are flies.)

The gunshot wound was two to four weeks old and had not been medically treated. This was evident by the infection, the horrific smell, and the presence of maggots and maggot casings inside the wound. The life cycle of a fly is two weeks, so the presence of maggot casings confirmed the wound was at least two weeks old when he was found. The results of his blood work and severity of the infection suggested the wound was left untreated for longer than that. Most healthy horses would not have survived the gunshot. The dire condition Pops was in, coupled with the length of time he went without medical attention, significantly reduced his odds of survival. Don't tell him that though. Pops has the strongest will and biggest heart.



Entrance wound of the gunshot—May 21, 2010.

Within minutes of Pops' arrival at the farm, our vet was running a culture on puss draining from the wound. He was immediately started on antibiotics to fight the infection. The next morning was the full veterinary work up, including physical exam, x-rays, blood work, dental work, and the first round of inoculations. In Pops' compromised state, we had to be careful about doing too much at once, including resisting the temptation to feed him “steak and eggs.” Horses that have been starved like Pops was, are much like people released from concentration camp. It's important to start slowly with the feeding regimen and build them up gradually. Too much too fast can be fatal.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

The x-ray revealed a hole in a vertebrae of the dorsal process the size of a 223 full metal jacket bullet. Miraculously, there were no bullet or bone fragments, meaning surgery was not required.

The protocol for treatment was this: intramuscular antibiotics and wound flush with saline, betadine and peroxide twice daily, ointment applied to skin and hair where the wound was draining to prevent burning and irritation of the skin, fly and maggot sprays as needed, beet pulp soaked in water for eight hours mixed with small increments of grain rations three times daily, tick removal and an aggressive de-worming schedule.



providing proper sustenance or medical care, but was not charged with shooting him. This is still an open animal cruelty investigation and Pops is currently property of the state (state evidence). That said, the state is not footing the bills. We are.



Unlike small animal SPCAs, horse rescue operations are not contracted by municipalities and do not receive funding for animals we take in at the request of authorities. As of October 1, the cost of Pops' care exceeded \$9,000. The ability to save this amazing boy with a heart of gold and an unbreakable will to live: priceless.

Pops gained 20 pounds the first week and was ready to participate in his first education and outreach program. He is seen in the top photo with Westport Kindergarten students. He helped teach about kindness, compassion, respect, and responsibility that day.

In just four months, Pops packed on some 400 pounds (*photo below taken September 21*).

Hoof care was next on the list for Pops. This was tough for him given the nature of his injuries. The gunshot wound made it hard for him to hold up his feet, but with patience and care, we were successful and he's had his hooves trimmed twice since he arrived.



The man who owned Pops was arrested for not

CRANE MOUNTAIN
VALLEY HORSE
RESCUE, INC.

7556 NYS Route 9N
Westport, New York 12993

Phone: 518-962-8512
Email: horses@cmvhr.org
www.cmvhr.org



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
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OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE



Miss Enchanted Nellie

After a courageous and valiant battle with squamous cell carcinoma, Miss Enchanted Nellie went over the rainbow bridge. You may remember Nellie's story from earlier newsletters. Over a two year period, she underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatments for the cancerous tumor on her eyelid (*photo*). This summer, the tumor exploded, spreading to her facial bones and sinuses. After consulting two surgeons and an ophthalmologist, we made the very difficult decision to have Nellie humanely euthanized and laid to rest on the farm. “To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die.” *Thomas Campbell*. We miss you Nellie with the belly.

FOUND A FOREVER HOME



Blackie, now known
as Hawkeye

Another bittersweet side of our work is having to say “goodbye” to one of the horses we've cared for and loved like our own. The sweet part is in the new friends we make in adoptive parents and knowing that our babies are going “home.” This spring, we delivered Blackie to his new digs in Putnam Valley, NY. Though sad to let him go, we are thrilled that he found a forever, loving home with wonderful people we're honored to call friends.