

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

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### QUOTABLES

Pops' article reminded me of your influence – in so many ways – on our granddaughter. She came equipped to flourish and your knowledge of equine psychology has had a continuing effect on her growth into the wonderful person she's becoming.

My love and thanks to you both. Your mission – and the way in which you pursue it, uncompromisingly whatever comes – is beyond belief. And the horses you've given new lives are testimony that it doesn't happen without love."

*CMVHR donor since 2003, and the grandmother of a young woman who has been volunteering with us since she was 6 years old (she is now 15)*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. had another amazing year of meaningful work, thanks to the support of friends like you. We take your investment in our work very seriously, and as an accredited humane organization that is 100% volunteer, your gift has direct impact. Here are some recent highlights.

After more than two years and our appearance in court on seven occasions on behalf of Pops (the Belgian draft seized by police and brought to the rescue with a gunshot wound and suffering from starvation), Pops' former owner was found guilty of animal cruelty. In July, he was given a precedent setting sentence for our area and Pops was officially awarded to live out his days with us at CMVHR.

But Pops' story doesn't end there – a new chapter is just beginning. The legacy that Pops is leaving will save countless lives, both horse and human, through the newly formed Essex County Animal Cru-



Hita in her new home in Lee, New Hampshire.

elty Task Group we spearheaded and on which we will serve. The reason we include human lives in that statement is because this group will not only focus on animal cruelty issues, but on the documented link between animal cruelty and domestic violence. (see page 2)

Cassandra, our 2011 intern, graduated from college and was instantly hired as a certified veterinary technician. We helped with her final school project and are not only proud of her, we are honored to have been able to provide the practical, hands-on experience she needed to complete her degree. She comes back to visit regularly and

has become like a daughter to us.

Hita, a rare breed of Colonial Spanish Mustang – the first horse of the Americas with only 3200 left in the world – found a wonderful, forever home. Because of her petite size and nervousness she was tough to place, but as always, it was worth the wait for just the right people to come along.

This is a small sample of what your gift makes possible for horses and people. We hope you are as pleased with our accomplishments as we are appreciative of your support. *Eddie Mrozik*

## POPS' LEGACY

For more than two years, we have cared for a horse suffering from a gunshot wound and starved to nearly 60% of his body weight. Since May 2010 when the police confiscated the horse we now call Pops and placed him with us, we appeared in court on seven separate occasions to testify on behalf of the true victim – Pops – including 2 ½ hours on the witness stand during the final appearance. In February 2012, his former owner was found guilty of animal cruelty under New York State Article 26 Animal Cruelty Laws. In July he was sentenced. The severity of his sentence set a precedent for our area and will likely deter others from committing similar crimes, thereby saving more equine lives.



Pops with Deb, who adopted Tuffy from CMVHR 8 years ago. Deb drives about two hours to volunteer whenever she can.

The duration of Pops' cruelty case, and the media attention it received in the newspapers and on television, sparked a group of concerned citizens to contact CMVHR to discuss how they can move from complainants to action. The result of the initial meetings, and subsequent meetings with the Sheriff's and District Attorney's offices, was the recent formation of a county-wide Animal Cruelty Task Group, on which we will serve, to combat animal cruelty and to raise awareness for the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence. With full backing and support by the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney's and Sheriff's offices, the goals of this Task Group include training of law enforcement, animal control officers, district attorneys, and justices on how to investigate animal cruelty, education and outreach to raise public awareness, standardized job descriptions for local Animal Control Officers, and the recommendation and adoption of local laws to provide stronger and more clear language regarding animal abuse for effective enforcement and prosecution.

The legacy Pops is leaving through the equine and human lives that will be saved because of his strength and will to live, and our commitment to see justice done for him, is moving. Pops' legacy, and the impact our work has on horses and on humans is only possible with the support of friends like you.

### "The Link"

- Animal cruelty goes beyond animal welfare. There is a strong connection between animal cruelty, domestic violence, and child abuse. This connection is known as "The Link".
- According to the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, domestic violence abusers frequently abuse pets as a tactic of power and control, attempting to instill fear in victims.
- A history of pet abuse is one of the four most significant indicators that someone will become a domestic batterer.
- Animal cruelty investigators are often the first point of intervention for social services for a family in trouble
- 71% of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters report abuse of their pets by their batterers.
- 33% of abused women report that their children have hurt or killed animals.
- In New Jersey, 90% of homes with family violence also reported animal abuse.

## OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

No, he's not a horse, but he was a fixture of the farm that many came to know and love. He was the mascot of the Town and greeted school groups, visitors, and friends with a warm face, an endearing look, and a moo for every occasion.

For those who have visited the farm and met Maximus, our 3,000 pound gentle giant, we wanted to let you know we lost our boy and his little friend Mini-moo this summer. When the weatherman says take cover from the danger of *deadly* cloud to ground lightning, heed that warning. Max and Mini-moo were struck in a freak storm and killed instantly.



For those who don't know his story, Maximus' mother died just after his birth from complications caused by his size. He was 62 pounds when we brought him home in the back seat of our small pickup truck some five years ago. For months, he lived in a stall we built on our front porch attached to the house. We bottle raised him and he came to know us as the only parents he ever had.

As an adult, he tipped the scales at 3,000 pounds, one of the largest steer many have seen. He stood over 6 feet at his back. Nancy had to stand on the fence or on tippy toes to brush him, and often used a plastic

pitchfork to scratch his back — at his command. He had a moo for every need: "I want more hay", "the water's too warm", "bug spray pleeeez", and the famous; "Mom, I have an itch I can't reach. Come here and I'll show you."

The paddock is empty and though our hearts have a hole in them left by the loss of our gentle soul, they are filled with the love and memories he left behind. We love you, Max.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." *Thomas Campbell*



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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.”*

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94 cents of every dollar  
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care of the animals.

*A copy of the latest Financial  
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Bureau, 120 Broadway, New  
York, NY 10271.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Edward Mrozik, Jr.—President  
Nancy Van Wie—Vice President  
Susan Kastan—Secretary

## FUNDRAISERS WANTED

CMVHR is still running strong after a decade of mission-driven work, but the economy is tugging on us through increased feed costs and an increase in demand for our services to help horses in need. You can help. We have had amazing volunteers and donors of all ages hold bake sales, jewelry sales, lemonade stands, musical concerts, walk-a-thons, benefit trail rides, birthday parties with gifts made to CMVHR in lieu of presents, and more.

If you are interested in hosting an event or program, let us know by contacting Nancy at horses@cmvhr.org or calling 518-962-8512. We have guidelines to assist and would be happy to help with publicity for your event.

***Your support makes a world of difference!***

*As a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we are guided by regulations regarding fundraising and how and when our name and logos may be used. It's not complicated, but it is important that we adhere to them to maintain our charitable status. As members of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, we take pride in following the fundraising code of ethics. It's not just about rules, it's about integrity.*

## ASPCA GRANT UPDATE

In our Spring/Summer Issue of *The Horse's Voice*, we announced the amazing grant we received from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to repair and construct quarantine paddock fencing.



The deadline to complete the project was August 22.

Eddie worked sunup to sundown since the frost line broke to get the project done, saving labor costs through his dedication as a volunteer. In between the day-to-day responsibilities of horse care, tree removal (we had one big tree come down in a storm), various plumbing and water emergencies, court appearances for Pops, farm tours, kindergarten graduation at the farm, and more, he drilled over 200 post holes with a hand-held power auger, set over 600 rails totally level, stapled 14 gauge wire to all the rails and posts, water-proof stained everything, and hung the gates — all with Pops continuously stealing his tools for a laugh. (Pops was laughing, not Eddie.)

We are deeply grateful to the ASPCA for its generous support of this critical project to provide the added security and space required to save more horses in need.