

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

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"You guys have taught me to be patient, curious, kind, loving, and how to be aware of my surroundings. Thank you!"

*Youth volunteer*

"You inspired me and showed me that I can be the person I want to be."

*YAP participant*

"You two are amazing. Despite an impossibly busy schedule, competently doing more than any other two people could be expected to do, you graciously cope with all manner of challenges — from broken tractors and fields of poop to roofs needing replacement ASAP to mentoring young people. Thank you, once again, for the quality time with you both, and for your unconditional acceptance and welcome and your experienced mentoring."

*Irene Harbison*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The kindness and support of our generous donors, like you, helps change lives for the better — for horses and for people of all ages and abilities. Your gift helps heal broken bodies and broken souls.

This issue of *The Horse's Voice* shares stories of healing, recovery, and the positive, lasting impact made possible by your financial backing.

The healing of horses can be physical like a broken bone in Rebel's hoof (page 4). It can be emotional healing like helping Apollo overcome his fear of a blacksmith's file and men (page 2). And for some of the recovery that takes place on the farm, it is too private to share, like our work with children and adults who come to find self-confidence, self-esteem, hope, inspiration, and wellness.

For many of the outreach programs we host, honoring confidentiality is a critical component we respect and take very seriously.



Spartacus brings smiles to kid's faces.

Photo credit: Alvin Reiner

For example, in the left sidebar, we quote a teen from the Youth Advocate Program (YAP) with permission, but without a name. YAP is a program for at-risk youth. One segment of YAP's mission is to provide youth with "positive people, places and activities within their community to develop their natural potential and live full, productive lives". We are proud to have been chosen by YAP to help advance its mission.

This fall, we welcomed two young men through the Youth Advocate Program. These men brought as much happiness and peace to the horses as the horses did to them. It was really magic to watch their interactions and true joy in each other's com-

pany. Because we can't include photos, we can only ask you to imagine this: teenage arms wrapped around horse's necks with horses hugging back, young faces buried in long winter coats and furry manes — sharing secrets only a horse can keep — and warm smiles all around.

Sometimes rescues work in both directions. To be the vehicle and to bear witness to humans healing horses and horses healing humans is truly magical. Our loyal donors make it possible. It is you who make lives breathe easier because you have lived, and because you give. Thank you.

*Edward Mrozik*

## HEALING A BROKEN SOUL

These photos may look like they are of a happy, calm horse, but they are not. They are photos of a terrified horse with a broken soul, a fear of men, and of blacksmiths and the tools they use — fears created at the hands of a violent man.

Apollo is one of seven horses awarded to us by judicial court order in 2014 after his owner shot his wife and then himself. Research shows that with many domestic violence situations, animal cruelty is part of the continuum where abusers harm animals to exert dominance and power over their victims. Apollo is one of those statistics. He has a permanent facial scar from being struck with a sharp, metal file his owner used to trim his hooves, and he has a fear of men that renders him tactile defensive in their presence.



Katia, one of our amazing youth volunteers, letting Apollo smell her hands to associate her scent with gentle kindness.

He will push, bully, and use his weight to drive men away in horrific fear without ever striking, kicking or biting – just fear. With women Apollo is different, almost empathetic, as if the abuse he suffered at his owner's hands was something he witnessed his male owner inflicting on his wife; a sad reality we have learned to be truth.

Recognizing the difference in Apollo's response to women versus men, we made a few modifications to help with his recovery by having women do his hands-on care. We are grateful to have a local, female farrier with a heart of gold and a compassionate soul. Having his hooves trimmed correctly is critical for Apollo's physical health.



Autumn Crandall (farrier) helping Apollo understand that people with blacksmith tools in their hands can be calm and compassionate.

But even more, having positive experiences rooted in kindness, compassion and reward is what Apollo needs most for his emotional recovery.

For the past year, we've been working to build Apollo's trust and confidence in himself and in the human race, while widening the circle of people who treat him with kindness. One kind gesture can change a life. Apollo is making great strides, including allowing gentle men back into his space and back into his heart. Healing a broken soul can take time, yet it's worth every second we give to see the recovery unfold, and a life turnaround.

"I admire how hard you work to understand the horses and to find what works for their emotional and physical recovery, because none of them come to you with an instruction manual". *Autumn Crandall*



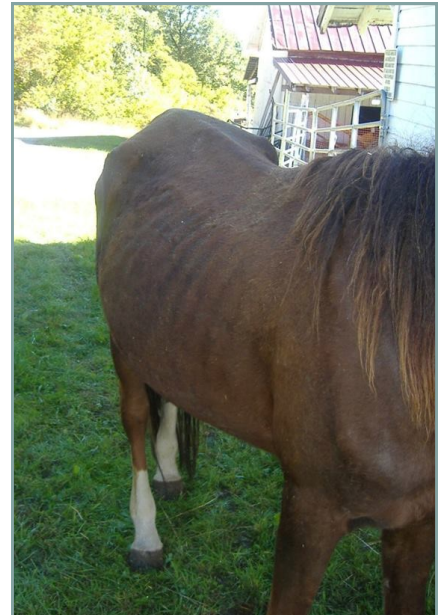
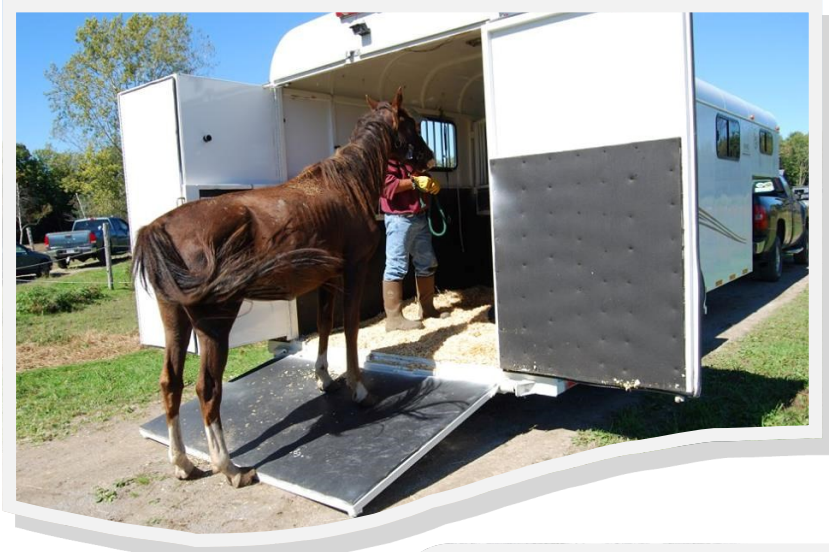
Nancy earning trust aboard, without a bit, another of Apollo's fears.



# A SECOND CHANCE FOR JUMPER

“Dear Eddie and Nancy: Jumper is doing great. He is so happy! An international dressage rider likes Jumper so much. She said he has potential and she wants to school him. Here are some pictures of Jumper. Thank you.”

*Taken from a note we received from Lain Pinello, age 11, whose family adopted Jumper. She is the young lady holding Jumper in the bottom right photo for his first-ever horse show, where they won a blue ribbon together.*



Jumper is one of 41 horses removed from one farm in 2013 – the largest equine seizure in Essex County, New York history. The horses were suffering from extreme starvation and neglect. Their owner was found guilty of 41 counts of animal cruelty.



The bottom left photo is Jumper being trained by his adoptive dad, Alan, who was a Morgan horse trainer for his career. When Alan and Jumper met during the adoption process, there was no doubt where Jumper belonged — the feeling of love, respect and admiration was mutual. The photo on the bottom right is Jumper winning a first-place, blue ribbon in his very first show this summer.

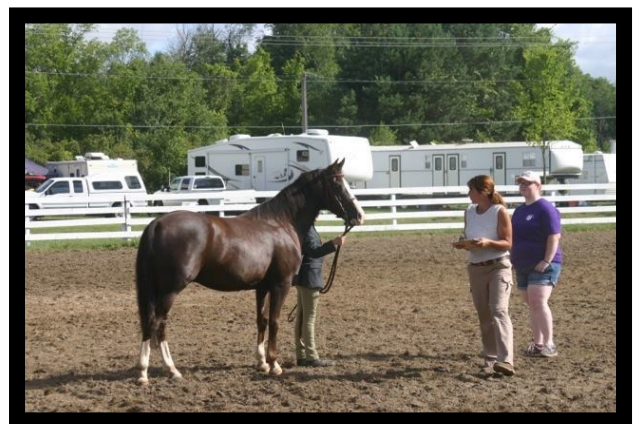
Jumper earned his name by jumping over his Dutch stall door to freedom, and over fences just to be with Eddie.

Above: Jumper at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, a few months after he was seized and after gaining considerable weight.

Our donors made this happy new beginning possible. Thank you!



These photos chronicle Jumper’s journey to a happy new beginning. The top two photos are of Jumper on the day of the seizure, when he was known only as #9. The photo on the top left is of Jumper being loaded onto a trailer by Eddie for removal from the farm where he once lived, and the top right photo is of his bony little body, taken for evidence in the criminal trial.





## ROAD TO RECOVERY

Rebel came to us in early summer suffering from very, very thin soles and detrimental angles on all four hooves, plus a broken coffin bone in his right foot. Correct angles of the hooves is critical for proper alignment of bones and joints. Bad angles can result in lameness and long-term damage. Thin soles on a horse are similar to a human with sensitive feet walking bare-foot over sharp stone or broken glass.

Every step Rebel took hurt.

Rebel's family loved him, but didn't have the knowledge or understanding to properly care for his hooves. Sadly, their lack of knowledge caused these conditions. The sheriff asked if we could assist.

When Rebel arrived, we had our veterinarian take x-rays to help diagnose his condition, understand the severity of it, and to help us establish a protocol for recovery. Our vet and farrier worked together to develop the plan. They agreed on six months to a year for Rebel's physical rehabilitation to be complete.



Right: x-ray of fractured coffin bone in Rebel's right hoof shown by three arrows on the right-hand side of the image.



Top right: Rebel stands quietly as our farrier, Tim, trims his hooves before putting on corrective shoes and wedge pads. Far left: Tim checking the angle of the hoof after hand-crafting a custom shoe to support proper healing of the fracture. Above center: A balanced hoof after the process is complete.

The above photos are of Rebel having his hooves trimmed and corrective shoes with wedge pads put on by our farrier, Tim Felton, who has been providing exceptional hoof care for our horses for some 15 years. In addition to trimming the excess growth from Rebel's hooves, Tim custom cut wedge pads to adjust Rebel's angles to align his bones and joints for comfort, soundness and healing. Tim also applied treated, medicated packing between the wedge pads and soles for hoof health and shock absorption. And because winter is right around the corner, we had ice cleats and snowball pads put on Rebel to keep him from slipping or having snowpack build in the shoes. When wet snow gets packed into a horseshoe, it melts slightly then refreezes, forming "ice balls" within the center of the shoe which can significantly change the angles and lead to soreness and injury. The ice cleats and snowball pads are for Rebel's safety and injury prevention.

Farrier care, whether it is trimming hooves or applying corrective shoes like Rebel wears, should be done every 6 to 8 weeks for correct angles and proper balance. For Rebel, consistency and diligence are critical for his full recovery. This hoof care session is Rebel's third one since he arrived and the results have been magnificent. When we turned Rebel out in his paddock after Tim put on his new shoes, Rebel ran from one end of the field to the other, pain free! Tim helps us manage a variety of needs, often on horses who've either never had hoof care or had a bad experience we need to help them overcome. We are grateful to Tim for his expertise and patience.

## PLAYING FETCH...IN REVERSE

These photos are of LBJ playing with his jolly ball. He loves to play with his ball. Sometimes he plays by himself, other times with his equine buddies, and at times, he plays with humans.

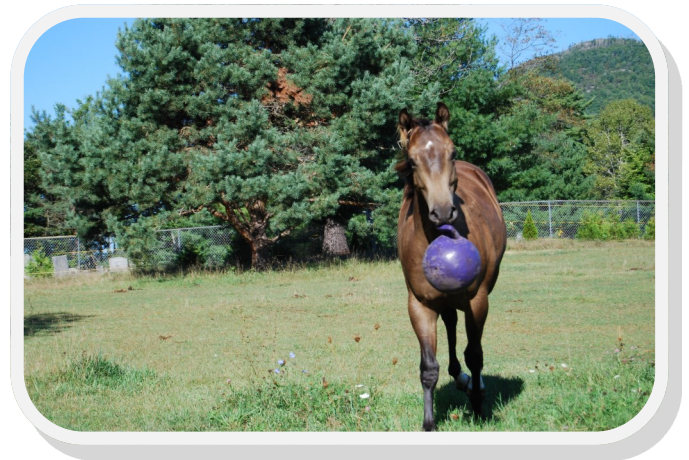
This is a story of LBJ playing fetch with an unsuspecting human who has limited knowledge of horses. We're not sure who had more fun—LBJ or the tractor repair man. Here's their story.

The tractor repair man came to put four tires on our tractor. LBJ viewed this as an opportunity to make a new friend, so he tossed his ball over the fence into the driveway to see what the tractor repair man would do. Perplexed by the ball that appeared by his side, the tractor repair man stopped what he was doing to throw the ball back into the paddock. LBJ picked it up and played with it. The tractor repair guy, thinking he returned an accidental lost ball, went back to work.

Then, LBJ tossed the ball back into the driveway. The tractor repair man once again, stopped what he was doing to toss it back. This time, LBJ picked it up, ran around and tossed it right back. The tractor repair guy picked it up and tossed it back to LBJ again. This scene repeated for about 3 or 4 more tosses back and forth.



That's when the tractor repair man started to laugh and said to Eddie; "I've never played fetch with a horse before", to which Eddie replied; "Yes, and the funny thing is, you are the one fetching the ball." The tractor repair guy laughed out loud and said; "You're right!"



"Just because an animal is large, it doesn't mean he doesn't want kindness; however big Tigger seems to be, remember that he wants as much kindness as Roo."

*Pooh's Little Instruction Book (inspired by A.A. Milne)*



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*Gail Guenther*

*Since 2003: 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 every dollar donated 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.*

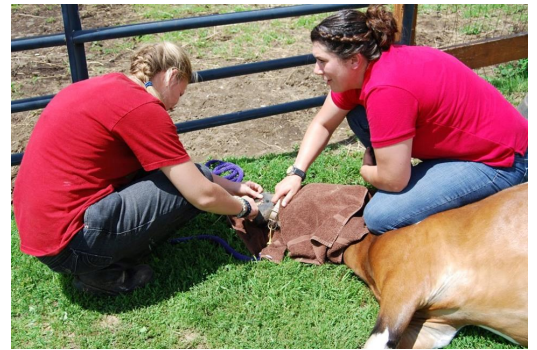
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## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Offering quality education and outreach programs to people of all ages, needs, and backgrounds is as critical to our mission as our hands-on work saving horses. Through these programs we strive to teach horsemanship and the humane treatment of the horse, as well as kindness and compassion for all living beings. Saving horses isn't enough for us; to truly affect change, we believe we must work to prevent cruelty and neglect — two of the primary reasons we need to exist in the first place.



Katia (left) is a youth volunteer. One of our veterinarian's is teaching her how to check a sedated horse's gums for good color.

## HORSES AS TEACHERS



The photo to the left is Westport School kindergarten class participating for the 11th consecutive year, in a character development workshop to learn kindness, compassion, responsibility, and respect. Photo credit: Alvin Reiner.

Directly below is Willsboro Central School's National Junior Honor Society

These programs — made possible by our loyal donors — include field trips for local schools, veterinary internships, training demonstrations, character development workshops, youth volunteer services, family workdays, programs for at-risk youth, developmentally disabled children and adults, and more. Your support has a positive, lasting impact on horses and humans of all ages and abilities.



members during a field trip to see, first-hand, how the funds they raise for the horses during their holiday fundraiser are put to work.



And left is a photo of youth volunteers working with Poesy (right) who suffers from epilepsy and vision loss, and Mommy (left), who serves as Poesy's guide. Horses make great teachers.

**"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." *Winston S. Churchill***