

# THE HORSE'S VOICE

## SPRING 2022 UPDATE

*You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.* Jane Goodall

Our commitment to saving lives and healing hearts is unwavering. Since our founding nearly 20 years ago, our motto has been ***"By saving the life of one horse, we may not be changing the world, but we are changing the world for that one horse"***. One life at a time is the kind of difference we have decided to make, and since 2003, the collective impact of our work on the lives of animals and people is beyond measure. Friends like you make it possible.

Because we don't receive state or federal funding, we rely on private philanthropy to advance our mission. In the following pages, we celebrate those who team up with us to make a difference. To our donors, we can't thank you enough. You are the lifeblood of our work.

You will read about Mommy's journey and experience a 'day in the life' of a horse rescuer through a chronicle of



Will (front) and Dub (middle) are sound asleep in the warm sun and sand. Horses will sleep lying down when they feel totally safe and comfortable. If this newsletter had sound, you would hear Will snoring ever so loudly.



Mommy (left) and Pony Boy (right) napping in the sun. The remarkable thing about this photo is that Mommy can now lie down again because her broken back has healed enough so she can. Mommy's journey is featured on pages 2 and 3.

photos. You will also meet some amazing volunteers.

Everyone has the power to make a positive, lasting difference on the world around them. When we team up, the impact is amplified and causes ripples that can be felt around the world.

We hope you enjoy reading our stories. To those who join us in our journey to make this world a better place — one life at a time — we hope you are as proud of our accomplishments as we are appreciative of your support. You bring these stories to life and heal the bodies and hearts of myriad lives. ***Thank you!***

*Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders*

You guys are absolutely amazing. You are heroes. These animals love you guys and it really shows that you go above and beyond to make them as safe and comfortable as possible. I wish I was closer. I would have jumped in my car to help out! I got a great workout working at the farm.

Katia Bennett (former youth volunteer-now an adult!)



## MOMMY'S JOURNEY

In our Winter 2021 newsletter, we shared the story of a cruelty situation that angered us to the core, in large part because it happened to one of our horses in the care and custody of her adoptive family — they broke her back. Her name is Mommy. This is Mommy's journey.

In August 2021, we exercised our right under our adoption agreement to take Mommy back after a check in with her adoptive family raised concerns about her welfare. They told us she was rearing up and over backwards, a behavior she never exhibited with us. They said they sent her to a trainer to “fix the issue” and the trainer suspected she was injured. Once back home with us, an emergency vet visit confirmed our worst nightmare. She had sustained fractures in her dorsal spinous processes (broken back bones where her neck joins her back).

Mommy is recovering as well as can be expected for the severity of her injury. Most importantly, she is comfortable, playful, and happy. She will never be ridden again and that's okay. She will live out her days with us as a therapy horse, bringing joy to others and instilling confidence and being a symbol of hope for people of all ages and abilities.



The photo above is the most recent x-ray of Mommy's back. It was taken in March 2022 and shows that the fractures will never heal in alignment. The vet said it's one of the worst fractures they've seen, but as long as she is comfortable, able to lie down, roll, eat with her head down, and run around to play, she is the best she'll ever be. They said it's all they could hope for and that she is lucky to be as strong as she is and where she is — with us, where she will stay forever.

Mommy was x-rayed every few months after we brought her home so we could track her progress and adjust her care and living situation, as needed. Initially, her treatment required that she be kept alone in a small paddock to restrict her movement. Her food and water were elevated to keep her head up. In October we were able to expand her space and give her a buddy.

You might remember that in October 2021 we lost Belle, a 28-year-old Morgan (like Mommy) whose end of life colic required humane euthanasia. She died with her long-time friend Pony Boy at her side, leaving him crying for her through the night. Pony Boy and Belle had been together for most of their lives. They came to us together as part of a compassionate intervention when their owner called to ask for our help because he could no longer care for them.



## MOMMY SAYS THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Pony Boy (left) and Mommy (right) in their winter blankets. As you can see, Mommy is eating from the ground, which is a huge improvement for her and something she could not do when she first returned to the farm. A happy sight.



Mommy and Pony Boy being led by Jon and AJ from Mountain Lakes Services during a visit to the farm. We are proud to partner with Mountain Lakes Services to provide "support and services to meet the individualized needs of people with developmental disabilities". This is Mommy's calling and she is their hero. They were heartbroken to learn what happened to her and delighted to dote on her and love her. And she gave all that love right back.

Pony Boy is in his 40s, which is old for a horse, and we were very worried for him after Belle's passing. He needed a friend and Mommy did too, so we moved them in together. Their bond was instantaneous.

In the far-left photo they are sharing a meal. Mommy likes to put a little extra hay in Pony Boy's mane to snack on later. They are best buds and inseparable.

Mommy's journey is one of sadness, but also one of hope and gratitude. The outpouring of support through words of encouragement and generous donations has been humbling and inspiring. Mommy feels each one and it's giving her the courage and strength to fight.

Mommy is a survivor. Every day, she shows gratitude for the care and attention she is given. She knows she's home and that this will be her home forever.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported her recovery through kind words and generous gifts. Mommy says thank you too.

You are the light in our rainbow.



Mommy getting lovin' from Dede while she gets her hooves trimmed. For the first few sessions with the farrier, we had to hold her up and give her time to rest. She can now hold up her legs on her own and is doing great.



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**We also want to give a shout out  
 to our Facebook donors. These  
 gifts come anonymously through  
 Network for Good. Thank you!!!**



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The #BettyWhiteChallenge was a viral social media fundraising effort to honor the legacy of *Betty White* — a lifelong animal lover and outspoken advocate for animal welfare. It encouraged people to make donations to animal shelters and rescues in honor of what would have been Betty White's 100th birthday on January 17, 2022. We were honored to receive many gifts in celebration of Betty's life to carry on her legacy.

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Addie  
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**Our donors are the lifeblood of our work. We make every effort to ensure accurate recognition of your generosity in our publications. Please, if you see an error, contact Nancy at [horses@cmvhr.org](mailto:horses@cmvhr.org) or 518-962-8512.**



## DAY IN THE LIFE

This is a photo chronicle of a day in the life of a horse rescuer from this past winter. It was just CMVHR co-founders, Eddie and Nancy (we) on this day because the snow storm prevented our staff and other volunteers from getting here.

We are grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to provide for the animals in all weather, and though the work is hard and the days are long, it's so satisfying to know the animals all have food, water, clean stalls and shelter from the elements.

A snapshot of the day: 45 farm animals fed, watered, cleaned and fluffed; wild birds and ducks fed; 10 miles clocked on the pedometer for Nancy; 8 hours of plowing and clearing snow for Eddie.

We are fortunate to live on the farm so when staff or volunteers can't get here, we can care for the animals. We are not paid staff, but volunteer our time, just as we have since our founding in 2003. Eddie is retired and Nancy has worked full-time at the Adirondack Land Trust for the past 20 years. Fortunately, this day was a work holiday for Nancy which made it easier.

We have given many talks on the realities of running a rescue for those considering getting started. It's 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. There are no sick days, no holidays, and no bad weather days. Animals need care every day.



Above: Pony Boy aka Snowman eating his grain.

Below: Mini and Moo hanging out in their shed.



Above: 32 year old Pelham loves the snow.

Right: Before and after of two water troughs. When we started, all of the troughs were full of ice and snow. We had to dump them and refill 14, twice during the day.





## LABOR OF LOVE



Top left: A stall before cleaning. Top middle: The stall after being cleaned. Top right: Sleds full of manure and urine from the stall.



Above left: Eddie plows all the driveways and paddocks every time it snows significantly. Above right: Eddie also plows around the arena and shovels the snow away from the building to prevent pressure on the sides and ice formations that would expand and damage the structure.

Bottom right: A good day. At the farm, in all seasons, we work dark to dark. It's truly a labor of love.

And as a non-profit and local employer, there is also the business side of the work which gets done after animal care and the 'day job' -- things like writing and mailing our twice annual newsletter, sending thank you letters to our donors, business and finance management, etc.

As farmers, there are also non-stop construction projects, repairs, equipment maintenance, hay and shavings deliveries to unload, grain to buy, veterinary and farrier visits, rehabilitation, training, and more. There's no shortage of things to do.....and there's absolutely no pause in our commitment to get them done.





## CRANE MOUNTAIN VALLEY HORSE RESCUE, INC.

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Gail Guenther

*Since 2003: Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. has been dedicated to equine rescue and rehabilitation and to restoring horsemanship, the heritage and humane treatment of the horse.*

### **Contribute with Confidence**

90 cents of every tax-deductible 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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Edward Mrozik, Jr.—President  
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## FAMILY VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

It's wonderful to be welcoming individuals and groups back to the farm for animal time, camaraderie and connection. In April 2022, parents Micah and Emily, with their children Olive and Wilder, braved the rain for a family volunteer workday.

In the bottom left photo they are cleaning Mommy and Pony Boy's stall. It was a welcome relief from the pouring rain outside. The bottom right photo is of Wilder and Buck who share a special bond. No matter how much time passes between visits, their friendship endures.

It was great to see them all again and to have the extra hands and help to get chores done quickly and back inside out of the rain!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our volunteers inspire us every day with their selfless dedication and commitment. Mike has been with us for over five years, faithfully coming every weekend to help with chores, brushing horses and helping with rehabilitation. He also comes after work once a week.

Mike's love of horses runs deep, all the way back to childhood when he bought his first horse using his newspaper delivery money. In addition to volunteering at CMVHR, Mike has been taking a two week vacation from his full-time job to volunteer at the Lake Placid Horse Shows directing traffic and parking during the event. He's been doing that since 1988!



Mike always has a smile on his face, a kind word and a gentle touch with the animals. In this photo, he is helping Zephyr overcome his fear of men and learn to walk quietly on a lead. This photo captures the essence of how Mike makes those around him feel. Kind-hearted people making a real difference — thank you, Mike!