

THE HORSE'S VOICE

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

In Others' Words

Living versus being alive.
You give these horses a
true life. What a blessing.
Paul Withstandley

Rio and Bailey now have a
future worth fighting for.
Bless you for giving them
what they need to thrive.
They will make it in your
good care—love heals.
Susan Howe

So thankful for all you do
for these sweet souls.
Susie Oliver

Their resilience (and yours)
is a beautiful and powerful
thing. I look forward to the
day when they can fully
embrace the safe and
loving freedom you offer
them.

*AnnaLisa Silliman-
Patterson*

Thank you for so many
years of being there for the
horses, and others.
Fiona Farrell

I don't know whether to hit
the tearful emoji or the
furious one I guess
writing a check is the one
significant thing I can do.
Anyone else want to join
me?
Barbara Smith

**"Never doubt that a small
group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can
change the world. Indeed,
it is the only thing that
ever has."** *Margaret Mead*

In 2003, we perceived the
need for a local humane
agency that would serve as
a lifeline for horses in need.
For nearly two decades, we
have stayed true to our
mission and have amplified
our work to include helping
people in need through the
healing power of the horse.

With deep appreciation, we
celebrate all who help
strengthen our mission
through generous donations, volunteerism, and partnerships. Your support inspires
us and keeps us resilient in the face of adversity. You are our strength and our light.

In this issue, you will meet Rio and Bailey who were saved from being caged for
years in their own feces and urine, with no human contact, ability to breathe fresh air,
or enjoy a walk outside. At age 24 and 22, respectively, they had nearly given up on
life after living a third of it in these horrible conditions. For them, we were the lifeline
they needed to hold on. Our donors helped make that possible.



You will also meet some of the people who
work tirelessly to care for the animals. Every
story included in this issue is a reminder of the
power of collective acts of generosity and kind-
ness, and the impact that we have — together
— on the lives of others. To our donors, **thank
you!** If you are not currently a donor, we hope
you will join us.

*Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie
Co-founders, CMVHR, Inc.*

We had a nice visit this summer with the New York
State Police with whom we work closely on animal
cruelty investigations. Fortunately, not every visit
is for a tough reason. Some are just to stay connect-
ed and visit with the horses they help to save and
the people with whom they team up to do so.



Bugsy (left), in his forever home with his new girlfriend, Clover.
Bugsy was adopted in May 2022. His happy new beginning
was made possible by the generous support of our donors.

TWO MORE SOULS SAVED

In mid-July 2022, a good Samaritan sent us these photos, with a request for guidance on what to do to help the horses. They provided some background and the location. We told them we'd take it from there and would ensure anonymity.

Our role as a certified humane agency is vital for advising and supporting law enforcement in these cases. Most officers are not trained on how to investigate animal cruelty and need our guidance to navigate the laws and the process. Moreover, they require a certified humane agency to take custody of the animals if they are seized or surrendered. When the animals are placed in our care and custody, rehabilitation is at our expense, funded through the generous support of our donors.

In addition to our counsel, we provide an assessment of the situation. A licensed veterinarian must also evaluate the animals to support a determination that a seizure is warranted. In the event that the case goes to court, our testimony and that of a veterinarian are critical. After receiving these photos and speaking with the good Samaritan, we contacted law enforcement and a veterinarian. The veterinarian knew the man who owned the horses and she called him to ask what was going on. She told him the police had photos of his horses and to avoid a court case, he should contact us. He said his wife has dementia and he would appreciate the help.

He called us and we immediately responded. As soon as we saw Bailey (above) and Rio (left), we went home to get our trailer and bring them to our farm. Their owner signed them over to us. We work hard to keep our work judgement and shame free, as it doesn't help the horses. Compassion and your generous support does. That doesn't diminish the fact that these horses were living in hell.



Both horses had been locked in their stalls for years and standing in feet of manure and urine. They were in separate barns and didn't know each other except by smell and voice. They couldn't see one another. Bailey was in a 12 x 24 foot stall so she could pace back and forth. She was emaciated and dehydrated. Rio was in a much smaller stall. His back legs were about five feet off the ground in a heaping pile of manure and his front legs were about two feet off the ground. He had been standing on that angle for years without the ability to move or lie down. His hooves were severely overgrown and curled which can cause permanent damage to the hooves and tendons.

Because he was unable to move, Rio had little strength or muscle tone in his back end. Standing on flat ground was a severe challenge for him. As a result, he preferred to lie down. So, we let him. We would bring him food and water throughout the day, cool him with cold, wet sponges, and just sit with him and let him know he is loved; brushing him and talking to him. We did not think he would survive.

Rio is missing one eye and that eye socket was discharging puss. His good eye also had discharge. We cleaned his eyes regularly. The more love and attention we gave him, the more he would eat and drink. We were working to keep his strength up as well as his will to live.

REHABILITATION IN ACTION



This is Rio.

The upper left photo is our veterinarian, Dr. DeFranco, evaluating him shortly after his arrival.

The upper right photo is Eddie sawing off excess hoof in consultation with Dr. DeFranco.

The middle left is Rio's hoof after some hoof removal, and the above right is the section of hoof that Eddie sawed off.

The bottom left photo is Rio drinking water we would bring to him throughout the day.

AMAZING TRANSFORMATION

Our vet and our farrier, Dr. Amanda DeFranco and Tim Felton, respectively, teamed up to work on Rio's and Bailey's hooves shortly after their arrival. Tim has been caring for our horses' hooves since our founding. He is a master at his craft and the transformation was amazing.

We are grateful to Dr. DeFranco and Tim, and we are grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to provide this level of care in a time of great need.

For Rio, Dr. DeFranco nerve blocked his front feet to take away the pain so he could stand comfortably for Tim to trim and file his hooves. While the nerve block was setting in, Tim trimmed Bailey's hooves.



Bailey was more anxious than Rio and required sedation. Dr. DeFranco and Tim monitored her throughout to ensure her comfort level and Tim's safety. When Bailey realized what we were doing was helping her, she started to relax. She was a star.

Rio started without sedation, but he became nervous outside of his stall so Dr. DeFranco gave him a mild dose of sedation for his comfort and Tim's safety. It's important to remember that Rio and Bailey were locked in their stalls for years without human interaction or handling, so this was all new to them.

Rio and Bailey have come to understand that all we are doing with them is improving their health and comfort, so both are all heart and all try. Their resilience and trust are remarkable for what they've endured. They've been through so much. Their expressions of gratitude are humbling and heartwarming.



Above right: Rio's hooves after Tim sawed off more of the excess growth.

Above middle: Tim is trimming Rio's hooves with Nancy as the handler.

Right: Rio's hooves after his trim.

Left: Rio visits Mason (see page 6). The mask is to protect Rio's eyes.



LOVE WINS



Top two photos: (left) Rio on the day of his arrival. (right) With his new feet, Rio got to venture outside for the first time in years. Just a week prior to taking this photo, we weren't sure if Rio would even survive.

Bottom two photos: (left) Bailey lowers her head in defeat and sadness for the life she endured. (right) Three months later, Bailey stands tall and proud.

Right photo: Nancy reassuring Rio with a hug that all will be okay, with the hope that he can find the strength to fight and hold on to life — his new life.

We are grateful to all who have sent positive energy, good thoughts, donations and caring words of support. We are stronger when we come together with compassion and kindness. Love wins.

"Incredible improvement in such a short time and so brave of them to trust that positive energy they're picking up on." Beth Daniels, Facebook follower



GODSPEED, OCHO

On the eighth day of June 2022, Ocho (whose name means eight in Spanish) went over the rainbow bridge. When we went out that morning, he was standing with his friends Grey, Will, and Dub. Together, they were known as the Four Amigos. About ½ hour later, we saw him down with Will pulling on his mane to get him up, using his own body to push against Ocho's back to help him stand. We knew something was wrong.

Ocho had back and leg problems since he came to us, so it wasn't unusual for him to need extra time to stand after rolling. But it was unusual to need a friend's help. We ran out and put Grey, Will, and Dub in an adjacent pasture while we tried to help Ocho stand. He couldn't do it. His back legs had given out, and he had given up.



Will, the horse who tried to help Ocho up stayed at the gate to be with him. The vet came to humanely euthanize Ocho. When Will saw her, he went to get Grey and Dub and they all stood by in a show of support for their friend. Will laid down in solidarity on the other side of the fence. Our hearts were deeply moved by Will's intuition and efforts to help his friend. Will was a twin, who watched his sibling die. We wonder if that's what was behind his need to be with Ocho. It was remarkable to witness.

The vet used a technique and solution that is safe for the environment and wildlife, as we planned to bury Ocho on our property. It was quiet and pain free. We comforted him and he slipped peacefully away.

After he passed, we let Will, Grey, and Dub in with him for a few hours to say their goodbyes. Eddie let them watch the burial so they would have closure. They stood by his grave for hours, and that night Grey called for Ocho all night. The next morning, Grey got very sick. We gave him medicine and walked with him for hours. Horses are sentient beings. They have attachments and



emotion. Grey pulled through and he and Will have formed a special bond since Ocho passed.

Ocho was part of a NYS police cruelty investigation for which we were the lead humane agency. He was the eighth horse seized, hence his name. We have no idea how old he was, but best guess was in his mid-to late 30s. Due to extreme malnutrition in a past life, he lost all but four main chewing teeth. He had a hard time eating hay or grass, so to keep his weight up and maintain good health, Ocho ate 20 pounds of a special mixture of grain per day.

Now, Ocho can run pain free, roll in the warm sand, spring right back up, and eat all the grass he wants with ease. Ocho was a favorite for so many. His gentle disposition eased the hearts of kids and adults alike and he brought joy to all who met him.

Run free, sweet boy. You will be forever in our hearts.



ANIMAL CARE, WITH GRATITUDE

In 2019, as part of a compassionate intervention, we took in two sheep, two cows, two horses and a chicken for an elderly gentleman who had just lost his wife and was battling cancer himself. Once a year, the sheep are sheared and have their hooves trimmed. We donate the wool to local businesses who transform it into something beautiful and useful that they can sell.

Also once per year, the cows get their hooves trimmed by the "Hoof Guys", Mitch and Mike St. Pierre (father and son). Mitch has been trimming for other farmers since 1992, and for his own cows before that. He built a special trim table, designed to protect and calm the animals. The table was inspired by the work of Temple Grandin, a prominent author and speaker on both autism and animal behavior. If you're interest in learning more about her work, her website is: <https://www.templegrandin.com/>

Because of our donors, all of our animals get the quality of care they need, and deserve. ***Thank you!***



Top photos (left): Bea being sheared while Marley enthusiastically waits her turn. (right) Bea and Marley after being sheared.

Middle photos (left): Mitch trimming Mini's hooves. (right) After the trim and before Mini is let down and set free.

Right photo: Mini and Moo enjoying fresh grass clippings from mowing.



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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

94 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

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Dejanira Plumstead “Dede”
Rehabilitator and Trainer

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

For over a decade, we've been partnering with OneWorkSource to provide gainful employment and experiential learning for local youth. OneWorkSource is a federal program that works “to place as many youth as possible in appropriate, meaningful jobs in safe settings, and to provide academic enrichment and opportunities to gain marketable skills.”

Mason (right) was with us last summer and enjoyed it so much, he returned this past summer. And we enjoy our time with Mason!

It's wonderful to be able to work with young people and help them find confidence through the eyes and hearts of the animals. We are honored to be a part of this enrichment program for the kids in our community.

This summer, Meg (far right) joined us as an intern. Meg worked at a dude ranch in Wyoming for several years before moving to Australia. She was here visiting her family and we were fortunate to benefit from her experience with and passion for horses. She was a great addition to the team!



Above: Mason with Zephyr in the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation & Training Center.

Below: Meg (right) and Dede (left) give Grey a sponge bath after a training session during which Meg rode him to get him ready for adoption.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Laurie has been volunteering with us for five years. She helps with animal care, cleaning stalls and paddocks, grooming, and so much more. She also financially sponsors Marley and Bea, the sheep! Laurie recruits other volunteers and helps with orientation and teaching new friends the ropes.

Laurie's dedication inspires us. Her positive energy and passion for all that is good is infectious. When asked for a quote for this publication, she shared this; “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” *Mahatma Gandhi*