

Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

Horse Rescue & Adoption

*Many have forgotten this truth, but you must never forget it.
You remain responsible forever for what you have tamed.”
-Antoine de Saint Expery*

August 28, 2015

From the desk of John Webb

Every year, on the news, we hear about high profile, well publicized instances of animal abuse and the trial that follows. We hear all about the individuals, the circumstances and we see photo after photo of the animals who have been victims of the abuse and neglect.

Last year there was just such a case in the Black Forest, an area north of Colorado Springs, CO. A very famous and expensive cutting horse named Dual Peppy was discovered by a neighbor almost dead, starved, lame and living in absolute filth, squalor and among dead horse carcasses. The trial was delayed endlessly (yes, she had lawyers) but finally she was convicted on eight counts of animal cruelty and sentenced to five years of probation without the right to own animals. The court ordered eight animals to be transferred to a horse rescue to begin the process of their new lives in safety and health.

We were contacted by the organization holding and treating the horses for the court during the trial. They asked us (Blue Rose Ranch) to be the organization to take on the care, expense and work of rehabilitating these wonderful horses. The horses have not been transferred to us, as of this writing, because the previous owner's attorneys are appealing her sentencing, as we understand it.

Last month a wonderful horse, who we call Colby, was seized by law enforcement in Baca County, CO. When we picked up Colby we did not think he would live through the night. He was starved to the point that there was no muscle left on him anywhere. He could hardly stand or move. Rarely does a horse 400 pounds underweight survive. They usually have systemic organ damage that ends their life even if they start getting nourishment. Colby has made it five weeks and has added over 50 pounds of weight. We are hopeful that this incredible horse will live. Note: You can follow his progress and see pictures on our Facebook site - www.facebook/blueroseranch.

When we picked up Colby and when we brought him back to Blue Rose Ranch, there were no photographers, cameramen, TV news trucks or reporters. It was just Cheryl and I and two of our Youth Counselors. There will be no charges and no trial. The owner “surrendered” the horse in lieu of being arrested and charged. That is usually what happens - especially in rural America.

If Dual Peppy and the seven other horses, from the Black Forest, finally make it to Blue Rose Ranch, there will be reporters, TV coverage and much interest. But it will be just the same for us. We love them all.

Our newsletter is taking a different approach this August. We hope you enjoy our photo tour of summer events at Blue Rose Ranch.

John and Cheryl Webb
Executive Directors



This summer we hosted the HOPE group from Lamar, CO. HOPE is an afterschool program for mostly lower income kids. Some of them had never seen a horse before. Coming to Blue Rose Ranch was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Matching these young people to horses was magical and their enthusiasm was contagious. The blessing was ours.



Elizabeth Walker, our outgoing Youth Director of Horse Operations, teaches participants from HOPE about grooming horses.



One of the many groups to visit Blue Rose Ranch this summer was the Baca County Library Summer Reading Program – a 10-12 year old group, dubbed “the Olympians”. Blue Rose Ranch promotes literacy by hosting the Imagination Library, and the summer reading program was a natural outreach. After their safety lesson, “the Olympians” learned how to lead a horse. They also enjoyed riding the horses. They have been invited to become involved in our youth riding program.



Chief demonstrates the strength of our vet examination chute during our Annual Horse Health Day, held in May. He clearly wants to get away from the dental drill!! Horses receive wellness examinations, vaccinations, worming medication, and teeth checks on Horse Health Day.



Rosi demonstrates the demure and proper way to stand in the examination chute while having her temperature taken. Dr. Rick Birdsong is a regular guest speaker at our Youth Horse Camp. He conducted a horse health exam using Rosi as his patient, and talked with camp participants about careers in veterinary medicine.



Midnight pictured during our 2015 Youth Horse Camp.

In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Midnight. Many young people and ranch guests took their first ride on this magnificent horse. He was kind and patient, and was a horse that could be trusted. Midnight was with us for many years and despite his breathing limitations due to a dust allergy, he loved running the ranch with his horse friends. Midnight was a great horse with a big heart. We will miss him and will never forget his truly special gifts.

A favorite photo of ours shows Midnight meeting Preceptor, the guardian statue at the entrance to Blue Rose Ranch.



To our supporters and friends: Thank you for your contributions that make our work on behalf of unwanted horses possible.

Blue Rose Ranch would like to thank the following Foundations for their support:

Alice Jenkins Foundation

Animal Assistance Foundation

Anschutz Family Foundation

ASPCA

(The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation

Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance

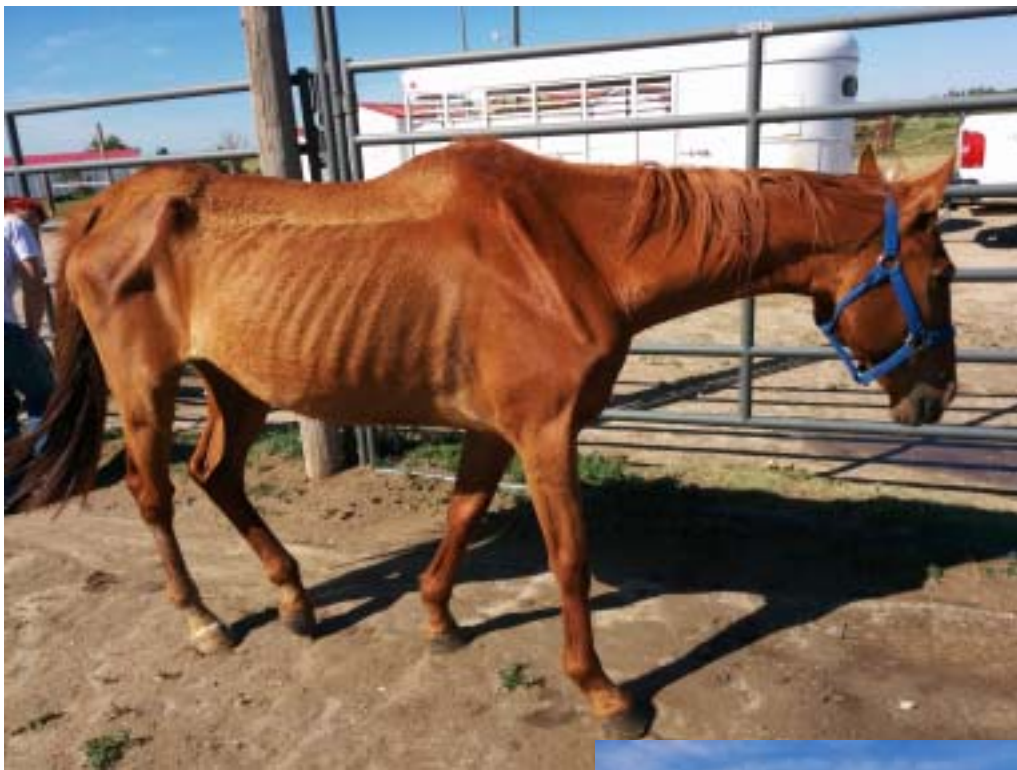
El Pomar's Hambrick Fund

Southern Colorado Community Foundation

William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation

Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign

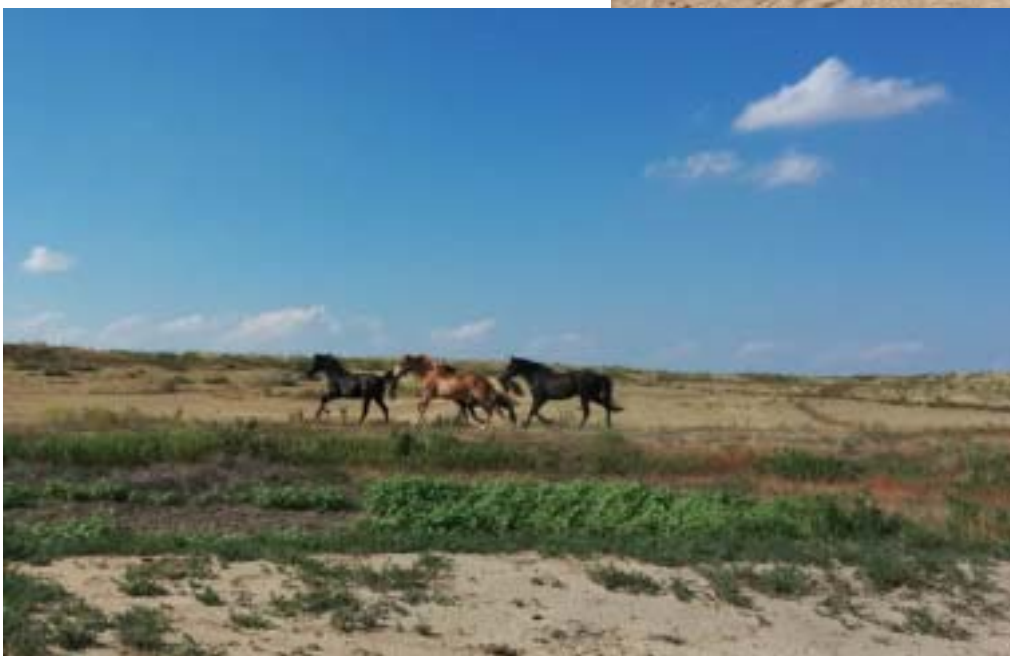
Merck Animal Health



Colby was barely alive when seized by law enforcement. He had no muscle mass and could hardly move his legs. When a horse is malnourished, introduction to food must be monitored. They need to be started on quality grass hay. Giving a horse large amounts of grain and alfalfa can make them colic. It takes many months for a horse to regain muscle and weight.

After five weeks at Blue Rose Ranch, Colby has shown great improvement and now has strength in his legs. Colby is a very sweet horse and follows us around like a dog. He receives a lot of special attention!

Recent arrivals are Kenya and Quest, beautiful mustangs who think the open space at Blue Rose Ranch and all the horses to run with are pretty cool. These mustangs were cared for by their previous owner, but family issues precipitated a need to find a new home for them. Rescuing a horse is often a rescue of people as well.



Shadow, Quest, Hope, and Kenya frolic on our Canyon Ranch facility.



Becky Trekell on Lady

Our youth leadership has transitioned as some of our counselors head to college. This summer we named Becky Trekell our new Youth Director of Horse Operations, and Gene Babb as our Assistant Youth Director of Horse Operations. These two started volunteering at Blue Rose Ranch after attending our Youth Camp many years ago.



The Baca County Fair Parade was held in August. Blue Rose Ranch was represented by some of our Youth Counselors riding and several of our horse walker volunteers leading the way with Mighty Titan in tow! A special thanks to our horse walker leader, Shirley Anderson, for providing the banner.



Gene Babb on Perdita



We call on our Youth Counselors to assist in our outreach to youth in the community. Our youth counselors take on responsibility for the safety of kids and help care for the horses. The skills they have learned will transfer and serve them well in life. This photo shows the counselors debriefing following a day of the Youth Horse Camp and planning for the next day's activities.

2015 Annual Youth Horse Camp – June 15-19

Parents remarked: *"Our kids not only had fun, they learned a lot!"*

