



Equine Sanctuary for Healing and Learning

News Notes for *December 2011*

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Susan's Message

I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you who have been a big part in supporting Heaven Can Wait whether by money, time, ideas and your prayers. Without you, we would not be starting our 10th year. I often run out of time to personally thank each of you, but please know nothing goes unnoticed, unappreciated or without my gratitude and thanks. I hope I can continue to count on you to make it to our 11th year.

Thank you from my heart and those of the 28 equines who reside here. May God bless you all and your families with a very special holiday season and lets all stay optimistic that 2012 has to and will be better.

Missy is the sweetest donkey in the world. Yes, of course I am prejudiced, but knowing what she endured from being roped for sport--broken ribs and all—she is the sweetest donkey in the world. The best Kodak moment, if I had a camera available at the time, was when she shared a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and Doritos with my husband. He was on a tractor, I took lunch to him as he worked, and his lap was at her head level. I will always keep a picture that moment in my mind—I still have not learned to keep a camera at the ready at all times.

Missy's body is giving out on her, but her spirit and desire to hang on and stay at Heaven Can Wait as long as possible still remains. For how much longer, I do not know. She is not suffering. She is going out her way, in her own time. This picture of her is with one of the special needs teenagers who come to *Someone To Smile For* every Tuesday. This picture was taken only a few weeks ago and, even though her body probably didn't want to, Missy's wonderful strength and spirit would not allow her to disappoint Rebecca. I love this donkey more



than I can put into words. The cowboys who rope these phenomenal equines for money and entertainment should be...well, I'll leave the rest of that sentence to your imagination.

Our love to all of you,

~ Susan

Custodianship—A Different Side of Rescue

Heaven Can Wait is at capacity for equines needing sanctuary. In this regard, we are in the company of nearly every other sanctuary in the United States. There are many sides to equine rescue – rescuing and adopting for a fee, providing lifelong sanctuary, rescuing and giving equines new jobs in for-profit riding programs and therapeutic programs, and individuals and families, like you – our supporters – who find room in their hearts and barns for one or two more equines who need loving forever homes.

Until recently the focus of rescue has been primarily on abused and neglected equines, those with behavior problems who were deemed 'unsafe' or 'unusable,' and on saving horses, donkeys, and mules from the slaughter yards and PMU farms. Occasionally, equines come to our attention because their owners are elderly or very ill and unable to care for them.

The economical down turn of the past few years has added perfectly healthy, rideable, and well-loved equines into the mix needing a safe place to live. At HCW, we receive too many calls and emails every week from loving owners who can no longer afford their horse or donkey. These calls and emails, added to those about the neglected, abused, and starving equines we have no room for, are heartbreaking.



Meet Huckleberry. Huck was passed from home to home for a number of years, because of emotional issues that made him seem to be 'unsafe.' He finally arrived into the custody of two close friends who realized he needed very special attention. They contacted HCW. We placed him with one of our custodians and he is now on his way to becoming a happy, well-loved, well-behaved, and safe horse.

We educate the public; work with other rescues, sanctuaries, and animal protection agencies to find homes for these equines. Everyone's resources are stretched to the maximum these days.

HCW's small band of custodians is also full. These generous people have stepped forward to accept one or more horses into their existing herds and have willingly taken on the added responsibility.

We have more requests to save horses than we have available custodial homes. Please think about taking on a horse, or a donkey and giving a perfectly wonderful equine a new forever home! In light of the recent legislation that seems to be heading towards reopening horse slaughter plants, we expect even more urgency in the need to save horses, donkeys, and mules from a cruel and heartless end to their lives of loyal dedication to their owners.

How does *custodianship* work?

A *custodian* is a keeper or guardian of something of value. An equine that comes to our attention has great value in the love it can bring to your family. A horse that has been neglected or abused needs your special love and attention to help in recovery. A horse that is facing an uncertain future due to his or her owner's misfortune needs a safe home to continue to love and be of service. The gratitude from both the relinquishing owner and the horse, donkey, or mule can only enrich all of the lives involved.

Heaven Can Wait's procedure for custodianship is:

1. Contact us with your interest at susan@heavencanwait.us or 805-368-5702.
2. Someone from Heaven Can Wait will meet with you and help you complete the application.
3. You agree to take full custodianship of the equine regarding all of the necessary care.
4. Heaven Can Wait retains "ownership" of the equine in the sense that if you can no longer keep the equine for any reason, he or she is returned to the custody of Heaven Can Wait.
5. Other contractual agreements may apply, such as (but not limited to) mares may not be bred, certain types of showing disciplines may be restricted, thoroughbreds may not be raced, trainers must be approved by Heaven Can Wait, and periodic site visits and follow up to assist with any issues. We support some youth equine projects and can make special allowances for certain circumstances.

Keep in mind that the contractual agreements are to protect the equine and guarantee a fulfilling partnership for both the equine and the custodial family. Heaven Can Wait **DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE OF ANY KIND** for you to become a custodian. We are seeking custodial homes that share our concern that the equine have lifelong love, care, and safety and who are willing to work with Heaven Can Wait to guarantee this goal.

Two Horses Available for Custodianship

Mez, is a 16 year old registered Morgan mare looking for a forever, loving home. Mez is 14.3 hh and truly a doll to look at. Her tail drags on the ground. She is UTD on all vaccinations and worming. Mez is broke to ride, but hasn't been ridden in over eight years. Owner is having health problems and a friend is helping place this mare in an approved, loving home. Contact Lauri Blake at nay4pay@msn.com.

Jocko, a 15.2 hh registered Quarter Horse gelding (Jack o Lena Two). Jocko is a professionally trained cutting, reining, reined cow horse. He is highly versatile and has won many awards.

He is great stocky bay QH that will not embarrass any man or person learning to ride. Great on trails and can sit for weeks and you can saddle up and go. Jocko is UTD on all shots and worming. Contact Lauri Blake at nay4pay@msn.com.

Preventing Horse Slaughter

We have received many phone calls and emails from those of you who are concerned about reports that Congress recently lifted the ban on horse slaughter. The bill is HR2112 and we encourage you to all read the bill. For those of you who want to express your concern about horse slaughter, there are a variety of petitions accessible via the Internet that you can sign. Simply googling "horse slaughter petition" will show you the sites. Some of the major animal welfare sites, such as HSUS are mobilizing as well.

You can also call, write/fax, and email your representatives. If you don't know how to contact your federal representative (or any other you may want to contact for any reason), go to <http://www.senate.gov>.

You can also call the White House between 9 AM and 5 PM EST, at 202-456-1414 or 202-456-1111.

We know that horse slaughter is *not* a humane option. The supporters claim that it is a viable economic option. **Is this true?** Here's a quote from the American Veterinarian Medical Association (www.avma.org).

...the additional cost of shipping reduces the value of these horses even further. Recent media reports describe horse auctions where horses have been shot by the owners of the auction house because the horses were not sold and were abandoned at the auction by the sellers. The costs involved in feeding, caring for, and shipping these horses simply exceeded their market value. As much as we wish this were not the case, it is the reality.

A 2010 research report published by the Equine Welfare Alliance (www.equinewelfarealliance.org), *Horse Slaughter Trends From 2006 through 2009*, presents a number of facts demonstrating the futility of horse slaughter as a viable business venture. Those facts include the following:

Concerns over drug residues in American horses have caused the European Union to impose stricter regulations on the traceability of slaughter horses. Starting in July of 2010, the EU will require that health records be presented for all horses slaughtered for export to the EU. These records must show that no prohibited drugs have been administered to these horses within 6 months. In three years, this requirement will be escalated to require that all slaughtered horses be electronically tagged from birth to provide lifetime records of their medications.

Here is one more interesting fact (among many) that can be found by doing Internet research: ***When California passed laws in 1998 to ban horse slaughter, horse thefts in the state subsequently dropped 40% and have continued to drop each year, despite the average price for horses at sale remaining constant.***

Is it Horse Friday?

"Is it horse Friday!?!?" the teens ask as they trudge into the Kinship Center on Friday, after a long week of school. When the staff says "Yes!" the teens excitedly begin to talk about "their" horses and how they are the "best" at taking care of them. Although the teens are at the sanctuary to serve Susan and the horses, the horses serve to build our teens self esteem and confidence. ~ Hanna Warren, Kinship Center, Templeton, CA.

A group of young people and their therapists from the Kinship Center in Templeton visit HCW every other Friday. They come to take care of the horses and donkeys. They groom them, take them for walks, help feed them dinner, and take care of other needs that come up. They are an energetic and dedicated group of young people and we love them and every minute they are here.

Recently, these young people sold dog biscuits to raise money to donate to Heaven Can Wait and to a dog rescue organization.

Did you know that there are more than 50,000 kids in California who desperately need homes? Most are victims of neglect, abuse or abandonment. Kinship Center is dedicated to the creation, preservation and support of foster, adoptive and relative families for these children and has helped dozens of families in San Luis Obispo County provide stable, secure homes for children with past trauma. Each year more San Luis Obispo County families step forward to change a child's life. Kinship Center licensed professionals provide adoption and relative care services, clinical counseling, year-round parent support groups and hands-on resources for these kids and families in our county.

The 'kinship' these young people have developed with our horses and donkeys, who are also survivors of neglect, abuse, and abandonment, is heartwarming and encouraging. Not only is our larger community "willing to step forward to change a child's life," Heaven Can Wait's supporters have been willing to step forward to change a horse or donkey's life! Look at what this willingness has created! Your support has created a place where children, horses, and donkeys – all survivors of neglect, abuse, and abandonment – can come together to heal and experience love and nurture from one another.

As a Heaven Can Wait Supporter, you deserve our applause and gratitude for helping create and nurture Heaven Can Wait Equine Sanctuary for Healing and Learning.

Horses and Hounds

Everyone attending the Horses and Hounds fundraiser had a great time! Lance Robison's donated music and singing was perfect. The donated wines were excellent. The variety of goods, services, and food by the vendors

Kinship Center

"Every child deserves a family"

www.kinshipcenter.org

805-424-2449

Kinship Center is a California nonprofit agency headquartered in Monterey County dedicated to the creation, preservation and support of foster care, adoptive and relative care families for children who need them. With a core belief that every child deserves a family, Kinship Center has remained focused on our mission for more than twenty-five years – to connect children to safe, permanent families that will be there for a lifetime. Kinship Center serves children and families throughout California.

was superb. The raffle prizes, generously donated by our vendors and supporters, were all hot items, generating many ticket sales.

Susan conducted at least three tours of the facility, introducing the equines to a number of people who had never been to HCW before.

Maybe it was the threat of bad weather? Maybe it was the busy time of year? Who knows? The turnout, while energetic and enthusiastic was small compared to our past events. When all was tallied up, Heaven and Wait and Second Chance at Love only cleared a little over \$400 apiece.

Enjoy the photos, courtesy of Jan Whitley.



One of the tours heading down the hill



Mark Schwartz pouring Haiku Red from the Cinquain Winery. Is it true? The only way you could get Mark to give you a glass of wine was to recite an original Haiku poem?



The crowd braving the cloudy sky to have a good time and support the Horses and Hounds!



Jackie Iddings, Wind Rider Therapies, demonstrating Myofascial Release on a visitor's injured shoulder.



Aaaaand the winning number is



Must be a Winner! Look at those smiles!

\$80 for HCW

One of our supporters is selling a small refrigerator that has been removed from their horse trailer. It works! The income from the sale is being donated to Heaven Can Wait. Go to craigslist or respond to this link:

sale-t9atw-2678692206@craigslist.org

One Fun Day

A new volunteer, Richard Baccigaluppi, and two friends (June Mathews, 93 years young from Fairfield, Texas, and Kathy Byers from Simi Valley, California) visited HCW a few weeks ago and had a wonderful time! Richard took several photos of the HCW horses and Susan's goats. Here are some that we liked the best!

Enjoy!



Estrella 4H and HCW Float Wins the Sweepstakes!

Drum roll please.....we won Sweepstakes again in the Paso Robles Christmas Parade for the second year in a row.



Here's the float at the staging area. That carousel really goes around and around!

the preparation. Kudos to Mark Krutsinger for his clever and creative design and adding the carousel this year! I wonder what he will dream up for next year.

Here's a view from the front! Be sure to come out December 10th and see the Ferris wheel and carousel in action!

Our float will lead off the Winner's Parade down Vine Street on Saturday, December 10. The float will be parked at 20th and Vine at 5:30 and will take off about 6ish. We'll go all the way down Vine turn around and finish back at 20th and Vine. We need anybody that we can get back to ride the float again next Saturday night.

What fun and thank you all for your participation and help with



Someone to Smile For — a Photo Album

As you know, Christina Reid brings a group from the Paso Robles School District to HCW every Tuesday. Here are a few of our favorite photos of these very impressive young people and their interactions with our horses and donkeys.



The Tax-Person Cometh!

We know it's not even Christmas yet, but it won't be long before the IRS and FTB are ruining Christmas and New Years by creeping their ever-open hands into your Christmas stockings and bank account! Because Heaven Can Wait is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, your donations are tax deductible!

The horses and donkeys will sure appreciate your help! So will the many children and adults who participate in our very special programs.

YES!

I want to support the rescued equines and their therapy programs.

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500

\$ _____ Other amount Check # _____

Credit Card: To donate with your credit card, click the Donate button to the right.
It takes you to our website: www.heavencanwait.us.



Print Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip: Phone:

Email:

Mail your donation to: Heaven Can Wait, P.O. Box 5, San Miguel, CA, 93451.

Thank you!
