



Newsletter

March 2021

Happy New Year! We wish all the best to everyone in the coming year.

I've been (very) lax about keeping up with posting news so I'll apologize for that right off the bat. I actually started this newsletter in January (hence the 'Happy New Year') and here it is, March!

Amazingly, 2020 was a pretty good year for the Rescue, in spite of world events. The biggest issue we've had to deal with is that our intern program is at a standstill since international travel has been restricted. We hope we'll be able to restart the program soon as we've really come to rely on their help, and we have a backlog of people wanting to come stay with us.

We worked very hard at fundraising throughout the year, with a tack/yard sale and online auctions with wonderful donated items. Our Christmas fundraiser and winter sponsorship drive were both a resounding success, raising over \$50,000 and finding sponsors for all 49 horses on the poster! The Open House in August was scaled back a bit due to covid but was still a success: we raised over \$6000. Going into January with a financial cushion is a massive relief. We are planning more online auctions and sales for the coming year so stay tuned!

A huge thank you goes out to all the donors, sponsors, grantors, and volunteers who contributed to our successes this year. Thank you to Alberta Equestrian Federation and Partners for the Herd for the very generous donation toward feed costs this winter.

I started out 2020 with a new accounting program (Quickbooks) which has made paperwork and bookkeeping a lot easier! Thanks to TechSoup Canada for this inexpensive software that we would definitely recommend to other charities, and thank you to Leslie K for helping with the download and install – slow rural internet can be such a pain.

One of the biggest pluses this fall was lower prices and increased availability of hay in our area. Hay prices dropped almost 50% from the previous year, and 75% from the year before that, with the average

round bale costing us \$50 - \$60. Hay quality was also exceptional, and we received some very generous donations of hay!

Here are some of our numbers from 2020:

Intakes: 79 horses and ponies, 68 chickens, 4 feral cats

Adoptions: 87 horses and ponies, 40 chickens

In foster homes: 41 horses and ponies

Current residents: 166 horses, ponies, donkeys and 1 mule, 15 cows, 1 llama, 2 goats, 44 chickens, 3 ducks, 1 goose, 5 pigs, 10 rabbits (also 3 dogs and 22 cats!)

Current medical cases:

Marilyn, a recent intake mare, is undergoing treatment for a large sarcoid on her bottom.

Ezzie, a 4-year-old mare, is receiving ongoing care for a sarcoid on her foot that was removed last year but has since grown back.

We currently have 8 horses and 6 minis receiving daily medication for Cushing's Disease, approximately 28 horses receiving daily anti-inflammatories and half that many again receiving occasional (every second day) anti-inflammatories.

Ruby#3, an 11-year-old mare, had surgery on January 25th to resolve an ongoing weeping fistula from a large injury she sustained to her shoulder prior to arriving at the Rescue. She is now on the road to recovery!



i. Ruby in surgery at Moore Equine

We have 4 blind horses in our care. One of them, Kahlua, has glaucoma and receives drops in her eyes every day to treat it. We are blessed to have a foster home that provides safe pasture for the blind horses every summer!



ii. the 'blindies' at their summer pasture

Titan and Alistair received new Soft-Ride boots and are very comfortable in them. Though they were expensive, we are delighted with the difference they make!



iii. Alistair



v. Eddie

We had some very sad stories over the year, including the loss of some long-time residents to illness or old age, and some of our intakes that were in just too much distress to be saved. Most recently we had to say goodbye to Eddie, our 18.2 HH Shire gelding, and Molly, one of our beloved dogs. Every animal is so very missed, but our lives are better for having known them all.

We have had some great recoveries and success stories as well.

Ray, the gelding that was hit by a car and then shot in the head, is doing fantastic. His flank wound is almost completely healed and he doesn't have much in the way of lasting negative effects from his ordeal. He still has a bit of trouble chewing sometimes, possibly from bullet fragments that remain lodged in his skull, but his weight and demeanor are excellent. Khalil, the emaciated Arab with facial paralysis most likely from a stroke, has almost completely recovered and continues to improve every day.



vi. Ray



vii. Khalil

We had a tragic fire at the end of April that destroyed our coop and boiler and, sadly, took the lives of four of our roosters. It was probably the most scared I've ever been! We'll never be able to thank our neighbour enough who came so quickly and helped control the fire until the fire department arrived. It could have been so much more disastrous. The new coop is now rebuilt and the new boiler installed, finally. The poultry all love their new accommodations. Thank you to everyone who helped us recover from this awful experience.



vi. After the fire



viii. The new coop

Looking ahead, one of our biggest priorities for the coming year will be to further rework our winter hay storage. The new hay shed holds about 200 – 250 round bales which is one quarter of our winter hay supply. Storing the round bales under cover has been fantastic as the covered hay remains dry and clean until spring. However, we don't have the space to store the balance of the hay, about 750 rounds, without stacking it, and stacking the hay without cover can lead to losses due to mould. We had 2 options - either increase our hay storage area, which means losing some pasture area, or consider bringing in only some of our winter hay in the fall and getting the rest of it mid-winter once existing hay is used up and we have space again. The big downside of option 2 is that hauling hay in winter is a huge stressor as so much depends on road and weather conditions, so we're going to fence off a larger area for storage. This additional space will need to be leveled and graveled as well, so it's a fairly big project.

We have some fencing to replace, some shelters to move around, and of course, lots of animals that require our attention and care every day. We are looking forward to a year of new adventure, and with our amazing supporters, being able to help as many horses as possible!



vi. Thelma & Midnight, two of our seniors



x. New intake Joy getting her first trim