

THE HORSE'S VOICE

SPRING 2021 UPDATE

Community happens when you make connections based on a sense of place and purpose.
John Addison

As we reflect on the past year, we do so in gratitude. Our work continues at full strength because of the generosity of our donors. As a certified humane agency and animal shelter, we never put our work on pause. And our commitment to kids and community is unwavering. The support of friends like you has kept us going strong and has provided a sense of stability and hope for people and animals, even through a pandemic, in our non-stop, every-single-day dedication to mission. The following pages are a snapshot of the impact of your generosity. **Thank you!**

We commit to upholding the highest standards of care for our animals and we serve as a go-to resource for others. Recently, at the request of New York State Humane Association, we advised on a potential hoarding case involving horses and dogs. There are occasions when intervention and community support are necessary and a better approach than engaging law enforcement, as was the case this time. Sometimes people just need a helping hand. And in a first for us, we counseled an insurance agent on whether horses experience trauma (page 2). This is the unseen side of our work that is equally essential to our mission.



Janet Collier from NYS Agriculture and Markets visits our farm each year to inspect our records to ensure we are providing top quality care to our animals.



Kat coined our mantra ***Saving Horses, Healing Hearts*** during her 2017 summer internship with us for Oregon State University. This photo is from her visit with us in May 2021. Rebel welcomed her back with a kiss.

The pandemic has not changed what we do. It has just caused us to adapt to some of the ways we do it. For our after-school program, we created virtual activities to keep the kids connected to us and to each other. Every Friday we post a lesson, photos, or short story on our Facebook Group page. In the posts are clues for a crossword puzzle we will roll out at the end of the school year. Everyone who tries the crossword receives a prize and the prizes get bigger for more answers. In addition to weekly posts, we provide crafts for the kids and their siblings to do at home (page 7).

As we write this issue, we are just starting to open back up for on-site programs. As soon as Mountain Lake Services residents were given the green light to volunteer in the community again, we were honored to be the first place AJ and Jeff called (page 7).

Your support changes lives. ***Thank you beyond words!***
Edward Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders

EMOTIONAL TRAUMA IS REAL

In January of this year, we received a call from an insurance agent asking for our professional opinion about horses and trauma. He had a client who sent a horse for training to learn to pull a carriage for their business and it was hit by a car. The carriage driver and the horse suffered minor injuries, but the horse was too afraid to get in front of the carriage again. Knowing nothing about horses, he asked if this could be true.

Without observing the situation or evaluating the horse, all we could do was let him know we believe that horses experience trauma and that we've seen it too many times. We cited a few examples, like Apollo's fear of men after experiencing horrific abuse at the hands of a man in a domestic violence situation. Apollo was awarded to us by a judge after his owner tragically shot his wife and then himself.

Another example we provided was Zephyr. Looking at these photos of Zephyr, you would never know it. He's come a long way in our care. He's slow to trust, but when he does, he gives you his all.

Horses are fight-or-flight animals, meaning they either run from danger or face it head on. Zephyr's owner loved him but didn't understand that concept. Ground-work with Zephyr was chasing him around a ring until he got tired instead of working with him to build a relationship based on trust. Because he couldn't get away no matter how fast he ran, his fight instinct was reinforced.

Hoof care involved tying him tightly to a pole instead of taking the time to reassure him and build his confidence in the process. This restraint made flight impossible, igniting his fight instinct.

The last straw for Zephyr was while he was being ridden in the road. He was hit head on by a bicyclist. He went up and over backwards, severely injuring himself and his owner. He was taken back to the barn to have his wounds treated, and she to the hospital. They both recovered physically, but his owner was no longer able to ride him and emotionally, he was traumatized so badly by the inability to use flight to protect himself that he chose to fight 100% of the time.

When he first came to us, every time we put him in a halter and lead, he would rear up and swing. His fight instinct was in full gear and he was dangerous. It took lots of one-on-one work and trust building to bring Zephyr back — and the rewards of seeing a relaxed and happy guy are beyond measure.

Unlike a starved horse or a horse with visible scars, overgrown hooves or open wounds from neglect or cruelty, emotional trauma is not easily apparent. Whenever a new horse comes to us, we must assume that trauma may be an underlying issue we will need to work through. And emotional trauma is a much longer road to recovery for the horse — one that is built with patience, trust, respect and time. To see the change is worth every minute.



ANOTHER HAPPY NEW BEGINNING



JC being evaluated by two veterinarians on the scene during the police investigation and seizure. He was blanketed by his owner to hide his condition of skin and bones.



JC four months after being placed in our care and custody. The clip board has his number (#19) and the date the photo was taken. These photos are taken monthly for evidence in the trial. They prove neglect in his prior life.

This is JC. He was one of eight horses placed in our care and custody by New York State Police as part of a 2017 cruelty investigation.

Three of the horses were in such horrible condition they had to be humanely euthanized once they were awarded to our ownership. For more than six months, while the case was heard in court, we had to keep them alive and comfortable. During that time they weren't ours, but were evidence in a criminal case placed in our care and custody, at our expense. We testified on their behalf countless times. We are the voice for the voiceless.

One of the horses had a broken leg when we took her off the property, another had a septic infection throughout her entire body, and the third was so badly starved he lost all of his teeth and muscle mass. Though each was beyond the ability for full rehabilitation to enjoy quality of life, we found solace in knowing they had several months of love and good care and they went over the rainbow bridge with dignity and full hearts.

JC was in bad shape, but he is a fighter and recovered quickly with the care and nutrition he needed. Once recovered and awarded to our ownership by the judge, JC was adopted into his forever home. Today he is a proud 4H horse who tied for first-place in the 2021 4H calendar contest.

Thank you to our donors for making happy new beginnings like JC's possible. And special thanks to foster parents, Becky and Jason, and his adoptive family for giving this boy the love and life he deserves.



JC getting lovin' from a wee one.



The photo of JC that tied for first-place in the 2021 4H calendar contest.

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We are grateful to the following friends who have notified us that CMVHR is in their estate plans.

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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!!!



This group of fourth graders, many of whom are in our after school program, made bracelets to raise money for Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue. They surprised us in early May 2021 with a delivery of envelopes filled with money. They raised over \$300! It was their idea and they were supported by their parents, teachers and the community. These young people are our future, and it is looking bright!

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 or 518-962-8512.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMAL CARE



process, and so much better with balanced hooves, once the task was complete.

Mini and Moo were part of a compassionate intervention in June 2019. An elderly gentleman who had lost his wife, and who is battling cancer himself, could no longer care for his cows, sheep, horses or chickens. When he called to ask for our help, there was no other answer but 'yes'. He sent a letter recently thanking us for helping him, and to say that he misses his animals terribly, but finds comfort in knowing they are loved and well cared for.

Thank you to our donors who make it possible for us to help animals and people in need and for ensuring that we can provide this level of care. It is critical to Mini's and Moo's health. They deserve it and they are much happier. They kick up their heels and run around. Happy cows!

Cows should have their hooves trimmed about once per year. It varies by breed, environment and genetics. Mitch and Mike St. Pierre are a father and son team who have mastered their craft. Known as the *Hoof Guys*, Mitch and Mike have been trimming the cows we have rescued for some 10 years.

Cows can be easily spooked, and a mother cow can be overly protective of her baby. Mini and Moo are mother and daughter and they had never had their hooves trimmed before this. To ensure everyone's safety, we had to map out a plan to get two cows that aren't used to being handled safely into the small stall attached to the truck to be lifted onto the tilt table.

Mitch and Mike are quiet and patient. We gently corralled the cows from their paddock into an aisle (above photo), which we used as a chute. We then gently coaxed Mini (the mom) into the lift by leaving the doors open on both ends so she believed she could walk through and get the hay we had placed on the other side. As soon as she was safely in the lift area, the Hoof Guys closed the doors, locking her in. After some reassurance from Mike, she was lifted up, her hooves were filed, she was lowered back down, and set free. It goes relatively quickly once she's up on the lift, so she's not stressed.

They made Mini and Moo feel comfortable during the



SERVING COMMUNITY

Your support brings our programs to life, demonstrating the collective power of philanthropy. Community enrichment and empowering people of all ages and abilities is as critical to our mission as saving horses. This page is photo rich and text light so you can enjoy the faces of some of the lives you touch. The kiddos with the signs and tie-dye shirts participate in our after-school program and their crafts were activities for which we provided the materials. The men in top two left photos are from Mountain Lake Services whose

mission is "to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities, their families and our communities." We are honored to team up with them for their important work. Thank you to our donors for enabling us to provide these programs — you make a real difference!



CRANE MOUNTAIN VALLEY HORSE RESCUE, INC.

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Westport, NY 12993

Phone: 518-962-8512
Email: horses@cmvhr.org
www.cmvhr.org



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.

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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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BEHIND THE SCENES

Managing a farm is more than caring for animals. There are always projects to keep things running smoothly. Over the past year, we tackled many projects including replacing 17-year-old water hydrants. Leaking hydrants waste precious water and they can freeze in the winter cutting off critical water sources to the animals. Thanks to a generous grant from the Rivendell Foundation for capital projects, we were able to replace our seven hydrants. This grant also enabled us to rent a lift to tighten the cables in the Sally E. Morehouse Memorial Rehabilitation and Training Center so it would shed the snow load, and made it possible for us to do major barn roof replacements and repairs before winter. Fortunately, Eddie is a skilled craftsman who can lead much of this work himself, saving us labor costs. A farmer's work is never done. In all seasons, we work sunup to sundown, or dark to dark as we say.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We are grateful to all of our volunteers who give selflessly of their time and energy to help with animal care (rain, snow or shine), events, programs, mailings, and more. And we are grateful to our donors for your financial backing. We couldn't do what we do without you all!

Jean (right) is one of our amazing volunteers. Jean comes every Sunday to help with farm chores, Wednesdays to work with Grey whom she sponsors, and she stands ready to come on a moment's notice if we need her, since she lives just a few miles down the road.



During the past year, the camaraderie, connection, sense of place and purpose being together and caring for animals has provided for our volunteers and for us is beyond measure. Horses are great healers and huggers.

Saving horses, healing hearts. It's our mantra. Your support truly changes lives for the better. Real people making a real difference. ***Thank you!***