

THE HORSE'S VOICE

SPRING 2024 UPDATE

IN OTHERS' WORDS

Thanks for all your amazing work. I love how you've become a catalyst for getting the community involved, and inspiring others to lend a hand as volunteers.

Herb
(donor for 20 years)

Nancy and Eddie, you two are amazing. Despite impossibly busy schedules, competently doing more than any other two people could be expected to do, you graciously cope with all manner of challenges — from broken tractors and fields of poop, to roofs needing replacements ASAP, to increasing prices for hay and grain, to fundraising, to mentoring young people, to taming feisty and fearful horses. Thank you for your unconditional acceptance.

Irene
(donor for 20 years)

Thank you so much for all you do to make the world a brighter place for the animals in your care.

Becky
(donor for 20 years)

Because several of our long-time supporters have asked us to share more stories of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into rehabilitating horses, we've devoted this issue to just that. The following pages are a snapshot of a day-in-the-life of a horse rescuer.

Horses come to us from situations of neglect, abuse, or in some cases because their owners have fallen on hard times and needed help. We call the latter compassionate interventions. While our ultimate goal is to restore a horse's physical and emotional health and place each in a forever home, some will stay with us to live out their days at our farm. This could be due to their age, medical needs, or because their trauma was so extreme in their previous life, another change may be too much for them to bear. In these cases, they become sanctuary horses that participate in our programs to heal human hearts and empower people of all ages and abilities.

Our core mission is equine rescue and rehabilitation, augmented by a commitment to focused initiatives that enhance our community and provide enrichment to those in need. Since 2003, our programs for local schools, summer camps, at-risk youth, Mountain Lake Services, and more, have always been offered at no charge. Removing the financial barrier for those in need enables us to reach more people.

Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Inc. receives no state or federal funding. We operate entirely on private donations made by the generosity of friends like you. You make our life-saving work possible. Helping horses heal physically and mentally is incredible rewarding. Witnessing the healing power of the horse in the eyes of a child, or through the expressions of joy in an intellectually disabled person, or in the calm a horse brings to an anxious youth, is unmatched.

Your support truly changes lives. Thank you for teaming up with us on our journey to make the world a better place — one life at a time. If you are not currently a donor, we hope you will join us. **Thank you!**

Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders



Pony Boy is estimated to be about 43 years old. He has Cushings Disease and requires daily medication along with a special diet. His medicine costs over \$100 per month.

BAILEY'S JOURNEY



We rescued Bailey in 2022 from years of confinement. She was standing in a stall for nearly six years in feet of feces and urine with no medical or hoof care. Hay and water would arrive occasionally. She was severely underweight and traumatized. Horses can hold negative memories when they've experienced trauma, which can be very challenging to overcome.

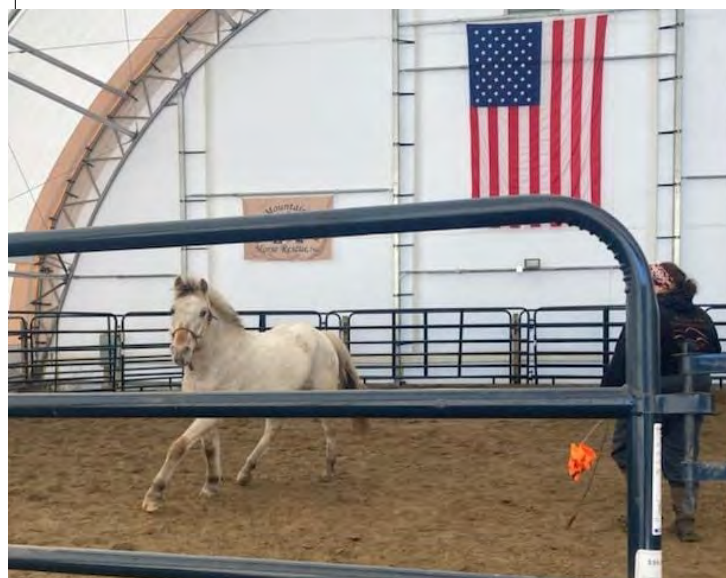
Bailey is also partially blind, which exacerbates her mistrust and fear. As she began to gain weight and get stronger, her fearful behavior of rearing up, panicking, and bolting was dangerous for anyone trying to work with her. Being blind in one eye made it even more dangerous because if you were on her blind side, she'd knock you over. Building confidence in a fearful animal requires patience and positive reinforcement. Maintaining a consistent routine and providing structure also aids in forward progress.



We put Bailey in a paddock by herself so the only interaction she had was with the humans caring for her. The goal was to help her realize that people were not something to fear. We would bring food and water, clean her stall, and offer a gentle touch. We call it getting used to having housekeeping and room service. She gained weight and made good early progress one-on-one.

What Bailey feared most was having two people in her space. This became a huge challenge for veterinary and hoof care. Sedation helped for a few cycles, then she became resistant to the sedation and would panic even while tranquilized. She started fighting us when we tried to sedate her by rearing up and spinning around.

Fortunately, she would let Dede or Eddie clean her hooves alone, and she would let Nancy file them, so we were able to maintain her balance and good care. But, Nancy will be the first to admit that she's not a farrier and that was not sustainable long-term.



So, we changed our approach. Dede built enough trust in Bailey to begin training sessions in the indoor arena to build her confidence. At the suggestion of our vet, we started clicker training with Bailey. Clicker training uses a tool that makes a "click" sound to reinforce a calm behavior you are looking for, followed by a treat. When done properly, it improves the horse's success rate and shortens the time it takes to learn a new behavior. It also improves the relationship between the trainer and the horse through clear communication and positive reinforcement. We saw forward progress after each session. Bailey became calmer and more trusting. She even started to look forward to these training sessions.

BAILEY'S JOURNEY



After a few months, Bailey had her first milestone with our farrier, Tim. Dede held her and used the clicker and treats to reward her calm behavior. Tim was able to trim her front hooves before she started to get anxious again, so we quit on a good note and Tim rewarded her with treats. Nancy went in later to file the back hooves.

Bailey is a sensitive girl with a great memory. When Tim returned six weeks later, she remembered the positive experience and let him trim all four hooves. We wept.

Bailey's confidence in herself is growing and her fear of humans, waning. She is becoming much more relaxed and calm. With such forward progress, we moved her in with Jillie last winter. Jillie lost her friend, Bijou, and needed comfort and companionship. Bailey was more than up to the task. She was ready for the next step in her journey to just be a horse—carefree.



Above left: No longer afraid, Bailey patiently waits her turn to have her hooves trimmed after her friend, Jillie.

Left: Dede holding Bailey while Tim trims her hooves. Dede has a treat in her back pocket to reward Bailey when Tim finishes that hoof.

Below left and right: No longer fearful, Bailey naps in the afternoon. In the left photo, Bailey sleeps without a care in the world that Nancy is sitting next to her. We are so proud of this girl.



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 Thank you!!!**



Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue is honored to have been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, formerly known as Guidestar. This distinguished recognition places us among the top tier of charitable organizations nationwide for our commitment to openness and integrity.

The Platinum Seal of Transparency is more than just a rating; it's a testament to our unwavering commitment to accountability in every aspect of our work. It recognizes our diligence in sharing comprehensive and essential details about our mission, strategic approach, capabilities, and accomplishments, with clarity in how we advance our mission-driven goals.

It's very important to us that our supporters have the confidence that your contributions are directly facilitating the critical work we do. We take immense pride in this recognition and remain steadfast in upholding these standards, ensuring our supporters feel confident and connected to the cause you so generously support. We celebrate this with you, and for you!

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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.

WHO WILL ENDURE



Will and his friend, Dub (page 7), came to us in 2021 as part of a compassionate intervention. When their owner, Barb, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, she asked if we would be a safe place for her horses to land when she could no longer care for them. Will's full name is Who Will Endure. He was a twin, and sadly, his twin died. He endured.

In April 2023, Will had a traumatic injury just a few days after his 7th birthday. While playing in the late spring snow, Will tore his deep digital flexor tendon and his suspensory ligament in his hind leg. Full rehabilitation would be at least a year.

His injury required cold hosing, wrapping the leg, and stall rest for the first four months. During his stall rest, we had to hand-walk him for five minutes a day for three days, increasing to 10 minutes for three days, 15 minutes for three days, and so on, until we reached an hour a day of walking. We then added trotting to his walks at brief intervals. After four months of stall rest and hand-walking, we built him a small turn out area within his paddock so he could stay with his friends, Dub and Grey.



We gradually increased the amount of time he was out everyday, then began physical therapy two to three days a week, adding poles for him to step over to prevent scar tissue build up. We lengthened his trotting time, and added some cantering. Eventually, he was able to be moved into a small paddock of his own for more freedom and mobility. Will is recovering nicely. He won't be available for adoption until he is 100% healed and given the green light by the vet. His prognosis is good for a light duty horse with a rider under 150 pounds. Fortunately, he has been the best patient!

During one of his hand walking adventures, he spooked at movement in the wetland and stepped on Nancy's foot (left). That foot has been broken so many times by fearful horses, the bone structure is unrecognizable in an x-ray. So, it became a dual rehabilitation for a while. The toenail eventually fell off and doesn't seem to want to grow back, but we're happy to report that the foot works just fine! All in a day's work.

FOREVER HOME FOUND



Above: Dub (left) meets his new friend, Skittles.

Right: They became fast friends and enjoyed a meal shortly after Dub's welcome and introduction into his new family.



Dub was adopted in March 2024. It's always bittersweet for us, but we are very happy for Dub. He will be much loved and doted on by all, including two young girls with a passion for horses.

His new family recently lost their older mare, leaving their pony, Skittles, alone and sad without his long-time friend. We've known his adoptive parents, Joann and Larry, for many years and when they reached out to us to ask about the possibility of adopting Dub, we were thrilled because we knew he'd get the best of care, lots of attention, and devotion. They came to our farm to meet Dub and immediately felt the kind of connection we wait for. When we delivered Dub to his new home, he and Skittles became instant friends. To see Dub settle in so fast, and to know the hole in Skittles' heart is full again, brings us great joy. It was worth the wait.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Our work is more than caring for the animals here on the farm. As a certified humane agency, we assist law enforcement with suspected cases of cruelty and neglect. This includes providing counsel, accompanying them on scene, assisting with investigations, transporting animals, and more.

When we are at capacity here at the farm, we work to find other options for animals that are surrendered by their owners. In this case, we transported a horse that was signed over to law enforcement after a concerned citizen called the police about the horse's condition and the inconsistency of care she was getting.

This photo is Eddie loading the horse onto our trailer to transport her to a partner sanctuary. She's doing well now. We are grateful to law enforcement, partner organizations, and to our donors. We are stronger together!



CRANE MOUNTAIN VALLEY HORSE RESCUE, INC.

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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.

Contribute with Confidence

95 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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ENRICHING LIVES

Community enrichment programs are as critical to our mission as saving horses. While the horses are in our care, they become activists for empowering people of all ages and abilities.

Interacting with horses through non-verbal communication in a non-threatening and tranquil way can provide a calming effect that helps to reduce anxiety.

Matthew (top right) is a 12-year old boy with developmental disability and some angst. He finds peace with animals and came to visit this winter to meet the horses, cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea hens, and our goose. He loved them all, and they enjoyed his gentle kindness.

In the upper right photo, he is greeted by Pelham Bay, who is 35 years old and living his best life helping others to live theirs.

The middle photo is of Jeff (right) with his friend, Nancy. Jeff has been volunteering at CMVHR for 8 years. He has mild intellectual disabilities. His relationship with Mommy, one of our rescued horses, has truly changed his life. He visits her once a week when he volunteers, and calls us regularly to check up on his "mama horse".

The bottom photo is CMVHR Co-founder, Eddie (with the cap) and Jeff, building a roof for a bee hive. Jeff asked Eddie if he needed help and Eddie jumped at the opportunity to empower Jeff by giving him a task, clear direction, and praise for a job well done.

Your support saves animals, enriches lives, and empowers people of all ages and abilities.

Thank you for teaming up with us to make a positive difference in so many lives — one life at a time.

