

THE HORSE'S VOICE

SPRING/SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

A WINTER'S LETTER

November 2024

Dear Nancy and Eddie,

Maybe you've heard the story of Mr. Rogers, how when he was a boy and would see scary things in the news, his mother would say, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

At a time when everything seems so bleak – the days are shorter, winter's digging its heels in, and there is no good news to be found anywhere – your newsletter arrives, and along with it, the realization that there are still so many working tirelessly to make a difference, healing the broken-hearted.

Our gratitude goes out to you, and all your helpers, as you "bring hope through your humanity."

Warm holiday wishes to you both, and many blessings!

Winnie and Larry

To our supporters, these words belong to you as well, because you are our "helpers" through your backing. **Thank you!**

"There is no greater reward than working from your heart and making a difference in the world."

Carlos Santana

This issue of the *Horse's Voice* comes straight from the heart with a huge thanks to our donors for catalyzing meaningful work with positive impact. We deeply appreciate the letters that accompany your gifts, as your kind words and friendship give us strength and inspire us to do what we do. We truly couldn't do it without you.

As you will read in the following pages, this winter had its share of ups and downs. Running a rescue operation is not without heartache. Though we experience grief and often witness the worst in humanity through the deplorable treatment of the animals that come to us, we choose to focus on the positives to prevent emotional burnout. And there are so many positives to keep us going. Our donors, partners, volunteers, community, and the countless stories of healing for animals and people are among the most inspiring and uplifting. You keep us going strong. For that, we are grateful. Together, we can and do make a difference.

Did you know that, as Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue's co-founders, we are not paid staff, but volunteer our time, often working more than 40 hours per week at the farm in addition to full-time employment? Our commitment is 365 days a year, with no sick days and no holidays because our animals need care every day. It's truly a labor of love.

Another fun fact is that we both have a lifelong love of horses. During our youth, horses rescued us from tough times. When we met 25 years ago, we knew instantly that we were kindred spirits with a shared dream of paying it forward to horses by rescuing those in need. And because of our first-hand experience of the healing power of horses, we are emboldened to provide that opportunity for others.

Saving horses, healing hearts is our mantra. To our supporters, it's a privilege and an honor to fulfill your philanthropic vision and our mission to make this world a better place, one life at a time. If you aren't currently a donor, we hope you will join us.

Eddie Mrozik & Nancy Van Wie, Co-founders



Bailey in her pink blanket matches the color of the sky.
Beauty abounds at the farm.

RIO'S JOURNEY

"Although the animals that take refuge and find sanctuary at Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue oftentimes come from unspeakable circumstances and have endured more than a lifetime's share of cruelty at the hands of humans, the sprawling farm somehow manages to be a happy place of healing. One might even say it is magical and where, if miracles exist, this is where they happen." *Shaundra Bartlett Yaw, Sun Community News*

Rio came to us in 2022 after having been locked in a stall for more than six years, standing in his own feces and urine. His hooves were severely overgrown, and because he was standing on an angle for so long, he suffered from chronic lameness and other structural issues that made moving difficult and painful. Over the past two and a half years, his rehabilitation has been gradual, with adjustments as needed. Once we had trimmed the excess growth from his hooves and got him back into balance, he developed chronic abscesses from soft soles. This winter, we soaked and wrapped an affected hoof daily, but his lameness worsened. Fearing progressing damage from his past life, we had his legs x-rayed. We arranged for Dr. Martha Jackson and assistant, Emily, to visit when our farrier, Tim Felton, was here, so they could work together to create a management plan. The x-rays confirmed Rio's coffin bones had begun to rotate, requiring special shoes to correct his angles.



Top left: Rio resting to take the pressure off his sore hooves.

Top right: After soaking his left hoof for 1/2 hour, it was wrapped with a poultice pad to draw the abscess out and a cushion to provide comfort. The right leg was wrapped to prevent tendon injuries to the supporting leg when he limps.

Bottom left: Dr. Martha and Emily x-ray Rio's hooves.

Just above: X-ray shows bone rotation of the coffin bone, which requires corrective shoes.

RIO'S JOURNEY CONTINUED...



To our knowledge, Rio had never had shoes on his hooves prior to coming to our farm. We weren't sure how well he would stand, but he was a champ. In the above photo, he is leaning on Dede for reassurance and comfort.

Tim used custom shoes (above right) designed to protect a part of the hoof called the frog. The frog is a V-shaped structure made of spongy, elastic tissue that aids in shock absorption and blood circulation. Between the shoe and the hoof, Tim applied a urethane-based adhesive to cushion the hoof and protect the soles (Farrier's Choice).

Farrier's Choice provides maximum support and cushioning, and helps prevent abscesses from developing. The yellow in the top right photo is Playdough. It is temporarily applied to prevent the Farrier's Choice from oozing out while it sets up. That takes a few minutes, after which the Playdough is removed.

The right photo is Rio's front hooves with his new, custom shoes. It took Rio a few days to get used to them. If we could include a video in this print publication, we would, because watching Rio run pain free is pure magic.

It's a miracle Rio survived the conditions he lived in for so long. Today, because of your support, he knows only love and the freedom to just be a horse — **a very happy horse**. You make it possible for us to provide this level of treatment for our animals. **Thank you from Rio and the humans who care for him.**



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CMVHR is honored to have been awarded the **Platinum Seal of Transparency** again this year from Candid, formerly GuideStar. This recognition places us among the top tier of charitable organizations nationwide for our commitment to transparency and integrity.

It's very important to us that our supporters have the confidence that your tax-deductible donations directly facilitate the critical work we do. We take immense pride in this recognition and remain steadfast in upholding these standards, ensuring our donors feel confident and connected to the cause you so generously support.

We couldn't do what we do without your backing. **Thank you!**

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.

THE SAD SIDE OF OUR WORK

The letter on the cover page, — “A Winter’s Letter” — lifted our spirits after a Thanksgiving heartbreak when one of our first rescue horses, Pelham Bay, passed away. Pelham was 36 years old and lived a wonderful life with us for 22 years. Pelham was a gentle soul and a good teacher. As a program horse, he cared for youth volunteers, donated nine pints of plasma to save a young foal’s life, taught law enforcement how to lead horses, that age is not an excuse for emaciation, and so much more. The positive impact he had on humans and other horses is immeasurable.

The young foal whose life Pelham saved was named Two Socks. As we shared in our winter 2024 newsletter, we hoped that putting Pelham and Two Socks in a paddock with another horse (Rio) would provide a new friend for Two Socks when the inevitable day came for Pelham to leave this earth. Sadly, it wasn’t enough. Within just a few weeks of Pelham’s passing, Two Socks died from a broken heart. His depression from losing his lifelong friend led to an upset stomach that we treated with medication under veterinary guidance, but ulcers formed and then ruptured. We humanely euthanized him to end his suffering.



Two Socks’ unconditional love for Pelham and the compassionate bond they shared for 19 years were a testament to the sentient nature of horses, and all animals. As we held Two Socks and talked to him while he was slipping away, the only thing that consoled us was when we felt his and Pelham’s eyes meet again as Two Socks crossed over the rainbow bridge. They are together again and at peace.

Above: Pelham at age 35 enjoying breakfast.
Below: Eddie (left), Pelham, and Sierra during a high school job shadowing program in 2016.



Above: In 2005, youth volunteer, Frances (middle) rode Pelham in her first-ever horse show. Pelham’s love for Frances was undeniable.

Right: Drawing of Pelham by Frances.



OUR HEARTS ACHE



This is Two Socks. He and Pelham were best friends since Two Socks was born in March 2005 and Pelham donated nine pints of blood for the plasma transfusion when Two Socks was just two days old.

In the above photo of Eddie and Two Socks, if you look closely at Two Socks' neck, you can see a shave mark from the transfusion. Two Socks had Pelham by his side his entire life and would panic without him. The right photo is the one we featured in our winter newsletter to show their unbreakable bond.



This winter, we also said goodbye to Bea, one of our sheep. She was elderly and battling medical challenges since Fall, including unexplained weight loss and an abscess in her jaw. We got her back on track with a special diet and having the abscess drained by our veterinarian. Bea then developed a respiratory infection and was on antibiotics, pain medication, and vitamin B injections to stimulate her appetite. Our friend and volunteer, Laurie, bought her a blanket to keep her warm.

For several weeks, Bea rebounded. She was talkative and spunky with a voracious appetite. Then, one morning, we found her in a separate barn she didn't usually go in. When we approached her, she let us know she was ready to move on. In tears, we held her and told her we loved her as she slipped peacefully away. Having geriatric animals is wonderful but can be hard when they pass on, especially so many in one season. They may no longer be with us, but they are forever in our hearts.



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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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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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ENHANCING LIVES

Dan, whose story we shared in a previous newsletter, returned this summer for a second visit to see his horse friend, Will. Dan is a blind, wheelchair bound man from Mountain Lake Services whose ability to communicate is limited to laughter, grunting, and body language. Will remembered Dan and instantly came to the fence for a nuzzle. Dan was so excited by Will's greeting that he stood up from his wheelchair to hug Will. We melted in the marvel of their joy for each other and their non-verbal communication.



Over the winter, it was too cold for Dan to visit, so his caregiver came to the farm for Dan and Will to Facetime. Of course, because Dan is blind, he could not see Will, so we narrated what was happening on our end. Initially, Will feared the phone until he heard Dan laugh and grunt, then he came over and gently nuzzled the phone with his lips as he would do to Dan if Dan were standing in front of him. When we told Dan what was happening, his joy was evident in the sounds coming from the speaker. The louder Dan laughed and grunted, the more Will rubbed his nose on the phone. It was beautiful.

Sadly, Dan passed away in April after a brief illness. The above photo was used in his obituary, along with a photo of wild horses running free. Dan's caregivers, and we, believe that Dan is riding Pelham Bay and other horses in heaven, enjoying the scenery he can now see. Ride free, sweet Dan. You are missed dearly.

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

A shout out to our dedicated volunteers! Affectionately known as the "over 60 Club", our adult volunteers come to the farm for camaraderie and equine therapy. They join us faithfully each week in all weather conditions. When we thank them for their selflessness and friendship, the most frequent response is, "It's the highlight of my week being here. It's therapeutic, peaceful, and healing." Humans healing horses healing humans. It's reciprocal.

Right: Two of our volunteers, Laurie and Mike, with Baloo, our farm dog.

