

# **Bear Valley Rescue Newsletter: July, 2014**

**Horses adopted to date: 517   Horses in foster care: 67**  
**Other animals in foster care: 9**

## **The first half of 2014 in Review**

What a whirlwind of activity over the last few months!

### **Intakes:**

In the previous 6 months we took in 110 animals, including 61 horses, 1 donkey, 1 calf, 47 chickens, and 1 piglet.

Of the 62 equines:

3 came to us through the Alberta SPCA,  
1 was purchased directly from a slaughter plant/kill buyer,  
1 was purchased from a breeder,  
1 was purchased at an auction,  
15 were owner surrenders,  
11 were purchased from a horse dealer,  
20 were surrendered to the Rescue from an impound lot,  
4 were born to horses previously rescued, and  
6 horses were returned from previous adoptions.

The majority of the chickens came through the Calgary Humane Society, as did the piglet. The piglet was rehomed to a fledgling rescue just starting up, called The Alice Sanctuary.

Bailey and Jax, who were adopted out in 2013, were returned in January and Samia, Nina and Cecil, who also went out in 2013, were returned in April. Sundance, who was adopted out 9 years ago, was also returned in April and has already been rehomed. Sadly, as is all too typical, to the best of our knowledge these horses all were returned due to a relationship breakdown on the part of the owners.

### **New Homes**

Adopted so far this year – 30 horses, 1 donkey, and 12 chickens! We also have 8 horse adoptions currently pending.

### **Now Available:**

**Horses available for adoption: 102; for fostering: 25; permanent residents: 14**

If you haven't already done so, check out all the horses on our wonderful updated website! – [www.bearvalleyab.org](http://www.bearvalleyab.org)

## Updates since our last newsletter

### Thank You!

#### **To the following organizations for grants received in the first half of 2014:**

- Calgary Regional Trail Riders
- Four Feet Companions Foundation
- Celine Myers of the Ark Watch Foundation
- The Vancouver Foundation – Greygates Foundation
- Government of Alberta (AGLC Casino Fundraiser)

#### **To the following individuals and groups in the first half of 2014:**

- Planet Organic Calgary North, for the fruits and veggies each week for the animals!
- Clarissa, Craig and Todd
- Uschi Donalessen and the Calgary Gymnastics Club
- Jim Muma, our accountant
- Trendsetting Stable Riders
- Noble Riders 4H
- Market 17 at Casel Marche
- Shay-Ann Rangen for her birthday donation
- The Tack Collector
- Meadowlark Stables for the donation in memory of Eileen Day
- Karyn Beal for holding the clinic for the volunteers
- Lara Ulan of Trendsetting Stables for taking on some horses for training
- Marcie and Christian also for taking on some youngsters for training
- Ken and Linda McEwan for donating the clippers and other items
- Mary Ellen and everyone who supports the used tack sales on our behalf
- Terri Bodell for donating lots more hay
- Deanna Thompson
- Heather Waddell
- Krystle Meek and everyone who donated silent auction items to the fundraiser
- Lindsay Crook
- The Fuerstenberg family

Again, my apologies if I've missed anyone!

### What's Been Happening...

We've had some major rescues happen this year, all involving larger numbers of horses, which unfortunately strains all our resources – energy, time, and money – but we jump in to help where we can and will continue to do so! How can we turn away when there is no one else?

In February and March, mostly due I'm sure to the long, hard winter, we had a couple of serious situations that required our help.

First, in February, a herd of 20+ starving horses was located at the south end of the province. They were impounded and four of the worst cases had already been euthanized. We took in 18 of the horses but despite our intervention we lost 4 of them within the first week due to their weakened condition. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from everyone who stepped up to help these horses, whether it was with hauling, or coming out to the Rescue to help provide around the clock care to the ailing horses, or donating money or items that were needed. We are happy to say that the remaining 14 horses are doing well. We think that at least one or two of the mares are pregnant too, and it turned out that 2 of the geldings were actually stallions, so they have to be halterbroke and gelded as well. Maggie, the littlest one, has finally turned a corner and is recovering well, though she still has issues with her back feet due to all the abscesses she developed.

Then, in March, we were informed about 10 underweight Clydesdales that ended up at the local horse dealer. We went to look at them and they were in pretty sad shape. Five of the mares were obviously pregnant as well and then one foaled the next morning. We purchased them and right away took home the mare that had foaled. That poor mare, who we named Philomena, became so ill because she'd retained part of her placenta. We spent a week trying to help her, she was so patient and good, but it was not to be. After losing Philomena we were left with the orphan foal, who we had named Fonda. Thankfully we were able to find another mare, a little Quarter Horse, that had lost twins that day and after buying her and bringing her to the Rescue (thank you to more good Samaritans!), we were able to get her to accept Fonda as her own foal. Best news was, Fonda and the mare, Bitsy, were adopted together! Since then, the other four mares have had healthy foals and all the Clydesdales have been adopted to new homes, save the one oldest mare who is going to be in our foster program and already has a foster home lined up. Once again, our sincerest thanks to everyone who helped care for Philomena and Fonda and Bitsy over this sad week.

We had been contacted late last year about a situation involving a small herd of Morgan horses that were going to need to be rehomed by spring. The owner had returned to the States due to ill health and was not going to be coming back to Canada. Fortunately he had arranged for a caretaker to look after the horses over the winter, but when it was determined that he would not be coming back, come spring, when the hay ran out and the property was repossessed or the power cut off, the horses would have nowhere to go. After a bit of finagling we were able to obtain legal permission to take in the horses. Mid June, with two trucks and trailers we drove all the way to the Saskatchewan/Alberta border to pick up the twelve Morgans. Of course there's always a 'but', and in this case it was that two of the twelve were stallions. No matter, we got them all home, the stallions have already been gelded and 2 of the Morgans have already been adopted. At least in this case all twelve horses are halterbroke. That's a big plus when we're used to dealing with horses with no history and often little or no handling!

We had the booth at the Mane Event in Red Deer once again. Thank you to everyone who helped man the booth. We held a raffle and The Tack Collector also held a raffle for our benefit, which helped cover the cost of the booth and expenses, and then some. We also received the funds from our casino that was held last November, and it was over \$25,000! That will go a long way toward covering our hay bill next winter.

We have had 2 very successful fundraisers so far this year. We had the 'Dueling Pianos, Live! From Las Vegas' event in Cremona. A super huge thank you to Krystle for arranging the whole event and making it such a big success! We netted almost \$10,000, way beyond our expectations, which helped cover our vet bills from this spring. We also had the 'skidsteer fundraiser', which was initiated by Linda Somers and brought into being with the support of Deanna Thompson and Heather Waddell, who put up a total of up to \$10,000 in matching

donations to what we could raise. We were overwhelmed with the response as we were able to raise over \$10,000 in less than 2 weeks! Mike is overjoyed with his new (used) skidsteer. It is a must-have piece of equipment when you have this much manure to shovel!

Our three llamas finally got sheared! And right after they got sheared, two of them decided to go on the lam, we think they got spooked by a bear and jumped the fence. We went looking for them and didn't find them, but we did find the bear! That was a little scary. One of the llamas has come home, the other one is still in hiding.



It's a grizzly!

Here is a link to a heartwarming video created by Sirius' adopters!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=467073833427791&set=o.91031233727&type=3&th eater>

They have done wonders with him, and this really reinforces why we do what we do.

Bear Valley silkscreen t-shirts and embroidered hoodies are now available for sale on our website!

We can now accept Aeroplan miles – there is a link on the website.

If you would like to make a donation, please consider using the ATB Cares link on the website. Donations made through ATB Cares are matched at 15% by ATB, plus there are no fees.

## **Rainbow Bridge**

We lost so many dear horses over the last 6 months: Bennie, Angel, Cisco, Coal, DJ, Hannah, Jasper, Montego, Nova, Philomena, Phoenix, and Teresa.

Bennie came to the Rescue in 2009, in about the worst shape we'd ever seen a horse in. He was old and badly neglected. We nursed him back to health, and even though he had a number of strokes and lost his sight and hearing, he was a joy to have here and we miss him dearly.

Angel came to us in 2007 from another rescue, and almost immediately she went out on foster to Pat in Blackfalds. She already had arthritis in her knees but she had a lot of good years with Pat before her arthritis became bad enough that she was euthanized.

Cisco came to us in 2012, an old horse in poor shape. He did really well under Janine's care but sadly had to be euthanized due to health issues this winter.



We lost Coal and Montego within a few days of each other. Both were lovely young horses, only 2 years old. Coal was euthanized because of severe colic and Montego had to be euthanized when he broke a bone in his upper leg. It was so heartbreaking to lose them.

Hannah came to the Rescue in 2008. She was an older broodmare but very sweet. She died due to illness at the age of 31.

Teresa was rescued from auction in 2013 by Mary Ellen, one of our supporters. Teresa had badly deformed front legs but at least we were able to keep her from meeting her end in a slaughter house. She had a good summer and early winter but we had to make the decision to euthanize her when her joints started to deteriorate.

DJ, Nova, Jasper, and Phoenix all died due to complications resulting from starvation. We were too late to save them, but at least we were able to give them care and compassion before they died, and we were able to save 14 of their herd-mates.

Philomena, the lovely Clydesdale mare, passed due to retained placenta, as by the time we intervened it was already too late. However, even her story has a happy ending, because we were able to save another mare who became a nurse mare to Philomena's foal, and the foal (Fonda) and the nurse mare (Bitsy) were adopted out together to a loving home.

Even though we are sad to lose any horse, we do what we do to give them the best life and best end that we can.



The starvation herd – Feb/14



and Jun/14



The Clydesdales



Fonda and her foster mom Bitsy