



## Spirit Keeper News December 2016 Week 1



December 9, 2016

DONATE AND SHARE OUR 2016 INDY GIVE CAMPAIGN FOR A BARN AND SHELTERS!

BRIEF NEWS:

# Organization Challenges

by Lori Torrini, Spirit Keeper Equine Sanctuary Director

The last 3 years have been challenging for us as an organization trying to find our feet in the very overwhelming world of animal welfare. Those of us on the Spirit Keeper Board who have experience with animal rescue have learned over the years that equine rescue is challenging for several reasons:

1. Keeping horses is expensive. Even normal, healthy horses are not cheap to maintain but our sanctuary cares for horses with special needs. The horses here require food, medications, veterinary and farrier care beyond what an average horse would and the cost is outrageous!
2. People in general won't or don't want to keep a horse that can no longer be ridden or used in some capacity. There is not enough money or space to admit all the horses people want to get rid of. We are out of room and struggle financially. Saying "no" to a horse in need is the hardest thing we do but we are literally out of resources!
3. Finding donors, garnering public support, and securing buy-in to our mission is like pulling teeth that aren't ready to come out. Perhaps the reason for this is that people feel

less of an emotional connection with horses than with other domestic animals like dogs and cats, or perhaps it is because they aren't living around them every day.

4. If you feed them they will come. NOT REALLY. Experience has shown us people have a general unwillingness to come visit the sanctuary, volunteer, or attend events here because "it is so far". It is not in the best interest of the horses to make them travel to events and the work to be done is at the sanctuary. We need help here.
5. We have failed at obtaining grants. Finding grants to support our mission has been work and once the grants are located and applied for we have invested sometimes 40 hours into just one. We have applied for grants through the ASPCA, the Unwanted Horse Alliance, and St. Paws Thrift Store in the last 3 years with no success.

We will be seeking advice and assistance in 2017 in regards to financial sustainability.



## Help A Horse Day 2017

We are already moving forward with our 2017 plans including the ASPCA HAHD in April 2017. Our plans are to host educational events at the sanctuary including Animal First Aid and CPR along with Emergency Preparedness for Equines! Stay tuned for more . . .



## Volunteer Days

Starting in 2017 we will have volunteer training on a regular basis as well as regularly scheduled volunteer work days. Our volunteer coordinators are Lori Passaro and James Barrentine.

# Organization Wins!

by Lori Torrini

We have been fortunate and are very thankful for the successful partnerships we have been able to make in the last 3 years and for the generous donors who have supported our efforts to give the horses here the best life possible for each individual animal. Some of our success include:

1. We have a very nice on-going relationship with our local Big R Store located in Colorado Springs at the intersection of Powers and Constitution. They allow us to keep a donation box at the store and hold events there once or twice a year. We sell hotdogs for them when they have store events and they allow us to keep the money from the hot dog sales. Thank you to Derrick Lyle for making this possible!
2. We have former horse owners who loved their horses enough to follow through with the intensive admission process and have continued to check on their horses even after they were relinquished. They have also continued to make regular financial contributions to our organization and help spread the word about what we do here.
3. We have a few people who sponsor horses. THANK YOU to our top two horse sponsors Jane Fliesbach and Shawn Barrow!
4. We were fortunate in 2015 to have an individual sponsor share the cost of a loafing shed for our elderly horses. They paid half and we matched the other half. That worked out well and because of Pauline Foss we have 5 geriatric horses enjoying shelter!
5. We found 4 excellent foster families in 2016, our first time using foster homes for special needs equines. Thank you to the Loparco Family for fostering Emmy all summer, to Robin Widmar for accepting Peppermint into long-term foster, to Heidi Sisenstein for fostering (to adopt) Cee Cee, and to Sara Pehrsson for accepting Flower and Summer into long-term foster care.
6. A BIG SUCCESS in 2016 was getting accepted into the INDY GIVE campaign. It was competitive for non-profits to be chosen. Participation is giving us opportunities for education in marketing, fundraising, and finding a donor base. It has given us media opportunities both in print and on television. Indy Give continues through 12/31/2016 so there is still time to help us!



Pictured above are Cee Cee and her foster grandson on Thanksgiving 2016.

## SUPPORT OUR BARN PROJECT

You can make a difference in the lives of 8 horses by contributing to provide shelter for them in the form of a barn and loafing sheds. Donations being accepted via Indy Give at: <https://indygive.com/nonprofit/spirit-keeper-equine-sanctuary/>



## Featured Horse - Peppermint

Peppermint is a bay tobiano APHA registered Paint mare foaled on April 10, 2009 in Montana. She arrived at Spirit Keeper on May 21, 2016 as part of a group of 10 horses at-risk of being put down because of a situation which included divorce, loss of property, and job loss all effecting the same family. Rather than see the horses go to auction or slaughter the family felt it best to euthanize the horses they were unable to sell. Peppermint had been started under saddle and had been ridden about 20 times on the owners' leased cattle ranch. She exhibited intermittent lameness and upon arrival at Spirit Keeper had severe weakness in the hindquarters making it difficult for her to support herself if one leg was

raised up for hoof trimming. This has gotten better but is not resolved. She is a sensitive mare with a nervous personality. We interviewed several foster homes until we found just the right one for her. Peppermint's foster mom is very calm and does not react when Peppermint is behaving in a nervous manner. Peppermint needed a calm, gentle, person who would be patient with her and work with her slowly and cautiously. She responded very well to her foster mom when they met and we are thankful to Robin Widmar for her long-term foster care of Peppermint. In 2017 we will further assess Peppermint medically, have a lameness exam completed, and then, if she is cleared for activity we will assess her ability to be ridden and to undergo further training.

**Photos:** The picture at upper left is Peppermint with volunteer Lori Passaro waiting for the vet to look at her when she arrived. The photo lower right is Peppermint meeting her foster mom Robin.

