

# Spotlight

NEWS FROM  
FREEDOM  
HILL HORSE  
RESCUE

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue



*Free to Live Again!*



## In this issue:

- Adoption Update
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Rescue Work Beyond the Stalls
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### Adoption Update: Dakota and Gabe

A Calvert County resident for over 30 years, Wendy Lott retired from Prince George's County Sheriff's Office in 2014. She worked briefly at Wolf Creek Equine Hospital, and is currently an instructor at Prince George's Community College Municipal Police Academy. For fun and stress relief, Wendy spends time with her six dogs, two cats, three horses and a donkey. Wendy started riding when she was about nine. She rode up through her teenage years and stopped riding when she had to euthanize her first horse.

Fast forward to 2010. Wendy began volunteering with Freedom Hill Horse Rescue in July that year. It was then she learned about kill pens at the auction houses and how horses were sent to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered

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# Winter/Spring 2016

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Jessi Proctor



Serendipity – that’s what led Jessi Proctor to volunteer at Freedom Hill. In 2013, she was searching for a puppy. While looking online for animals that needed a home, she came across a small mustang named Takoda for sale. Just out of curiosity, Jessi clicked on that link – “How much would it be to adopt a horse?” she wondered. As Jessi told us, “once I saw (the rescue) was local, I called and it’s all history from there.” Even though she had no prior experience with horses she had always wanted to ride. Jessi explained, “I figured I would get well acquainted and see where my love of animals goes from there.”

While Jessi loves all the horses at Freedom Hill and how they all have their own personality, her favorite is Mickey Blue. “He was in the first group of horses that I ever cared for when I joined FHHR. He was standoffish and I wanted him to like me. He is also very tall and I like big tall handsome guys.” Jessi shared a funny experience she had with another handsome horse last week. “Romeo unzipped my jacket as I was mucking Paddock D and I recorded him on camera doing it a second time.”

*Continued on page 3...*

### **Dakota and Gabe....** *Continued from page 1*

and processed for meat. Horses were in need and she needed to help.

Wendy met Dakota, an Appaloosa gelding, while feeding at one of the barns. Instead of eating hay after he finished his grain, he would follow her around and nudge her with his nose. “I fell in love with him. He had such a sweet side to him. Next thing I knew, I was making arrangements to adopt him.” During the adoption process she met Gabe, a Standardbred gelding, and decided to foster him to keep Dakota company. She chose Gabe because he was the field “jerk” that always bossed the other horses. She thought she would never fall in love with *him*. But as Wendy says, “I fell in love with him too! He had been in and out of the rescue and he needed a forever home just like Dakota.” Gabe still wants to be at the top of the field, but as Wendy explains, “Gabe ol boy... he was always at the top of the herd until I adopted my mare and she knocked him off the top of the totem pole. He still tries to pull rank in the field but now ends up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. I have to give him an A for effort, but the girl always wins in my field.”

Wendy got a surprise when she took Dakota on a trail ride for the first time. She discovered that Dakota loves water when he pulled her into the river and she got soaked up past her knees. Dakota is approximately 14 years old now. Wendy plans on more trail rides with Dakota and maybe some riding lessons. As for Gabe, he is in his upper 20s and is retired. “He had a hard life working on an Amish farm before Freedom Hill rescued him from the kill pen, so he gets to

*Continued on page 6...*



### **Wendy’s Advice to Prospective Adopters**

- Keep learning about horses. You can never stop learning.
- Be patient and kind. Sometimes you will never know what their past was about. Sometimes it takes time with certain horses.
- Take riding lessons and always wear a helmet.
- Research the costs of owning a horse; don’t adopt one unless you are financially able to afford them for the rest of their lives, and have an emergency fund for when they get sick or injured.

## Beyond the Stalls: Rescue Work Behind the Scenes

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes so the rescue horses have a place to call home? A visitor to the barn might see horses being fed or exercised, pastures being mowed, stalls being cleaned, or a fence that needs to be repaired. But those tasks are just the tip of the manure pile.

In many cases, rescues begin as a small operation, but, to grow, flourish, and become sustainable, rescues need to be run like any other business.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, a rescue is required to have a strong Board of Directors, all of whom are volunteers, to ensure the organization is fulfilling its mission and making sound financial decisions. Record keeping is essential from the financial, equine management, volunteer, and fundraising perspectives. Rescues often seek the expertise of accounting, law, information technology, and public relations professionals because core staff members and volunteers don't always possess those skills.

*Continued on page 4...*



### Horses on Parade

FHHR was well-represented at the Optimist Club Holiday Parade in Prince Frederick, MD, on December 6, 2015. Adopted horses Honey and Fairy Tale, plus rescue horse Occhi donned Christmas attire for this festive event!

### Volunteer Spotlight.... *Continued from page 2*

When Jessi is not busy mucking stalls, she likes to attend Sam Grow Band concerts and recently taught herself to crochet. She lives in Chesapeake Beach with her husband and three children. Because she is currently a stay at home mom, she is able to take care of our horses and other farm animals while her children are in school. Jessi adds, "My kids love the horses and love helping when they can. I hope they continue and do more than I have when they are older." Jessi even brings her mother to the barn on occasion, making the rescue home to three generations of horse lovers in her family.

Jessi says she's learned a lot while volunteering at Freedom Hill, especially how much work is involved with operating a farm or rescue. She suggests that all new volunteers invest in a good pair of boots and expect to get dirty, and jokes, "But what fun is it if you don't?" Jessi says she's thankful to be part of Freedom Hill Horse Rescue. But we are fortunate ones. Jessi, we are so glad you clicked on that "Horse for Sale" link back in 2013. Thank you for all you do for Mickey, Romeo, Junior, and all our four-legged friends at FHHR!

### Grant Updates

*FHHR is grateful for recent grant support from the following organizations:*

- The **Help Association** for providing funds for educational programs.
- The **ASPCA** for a Fundraising Education Package to increase our development capacity.
- The **Forever Foundation** in support of equine training and volunteer education.



Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain](http://www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain)

## Braving the Blizzard

*The blizzard of 2016 packed a punch, but FHHR was ready.*

*Thanks to the Lawsons and several volunteers, the horses were safe and sound.... and definitely excited to play in the snow!*



**Brocca**

**Which Photo Wins?**



**Apple**

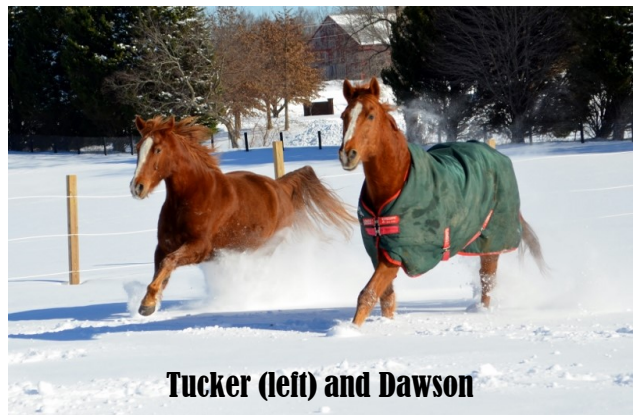


**Hannah (front)**

### **Beyond the Stalls....** *Continued from page 3*

The typical feed shift at Freedom Hill takes approximately 3 hours with 3 volunteers, but the other ongoing activities can lead to more than a full time day! Did you know our day-to-day activities include recruiting new volunteers, responding to inquiries via phone, email, and social media, and following up with Animal Control about specific cases? Volunteers post our horses to various websites, meet with potential adopters, check references, request updates from new owners, and schedule vet and farrier visits. We host volunteer orientation, training, clinics, and other educational programs. We maintain an industry presence at meetings around the region and participate in government agency fairs each fall. Volunteers research and write grants to find more funding, plan events, craft press releases and newsletters, and juggle an ever-changing volunteer schedule. The list goes on and on.

The work we do beyond the stalls is what allows FHHR to help horses in their stalls and fields. We invite you to learn more about running a rescue and encourage you to consider one of many behind-the-scenes opportunities to help the rescue be the best that it can be!



**Tucker (left) and Dawson**



**Romeo (left) and Junior**

## **Ever thought of starting a rescue?**

There are many resources available on how to start a rescue, but the work is long and hard, and finding the necessary resources, both human and financial, is not always an easy task. If you are interested in rescue work, consider supporting one of the many long-standing, reputable rescues around the nation (like FHHR). If you wish to go one step further, explore opportunities to collaborate with or partner with other area rescues. Sharing passion and resources can make the job just as fulfilling, but much easier.

## Finn Shows Marked Improvement

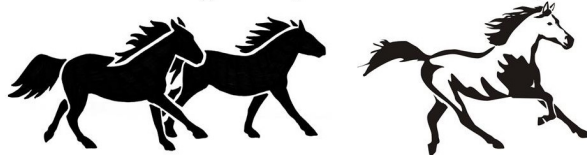


**A picture IS worth 1000 words! Just look at Finn now!** Finn is an owner surrender that came to FHHR in 2015. He was in need of groceries, hoof and dental care, and TLC. This 18yo Quarter Horse is a very sweet boy who deserved a chance to live comfortably. Finn suffers from Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO) which can be quite costly to treat. We are very grateful to Finn's Horse Angel Sponsor, Carol Brady, and the many donors who contributed to Finn's online campaign to breathe easy. Thank you for helping us cover the costs of his ongoing rehabilitation and treatment. It is so easy to see how your love and support make a difference!

## Freedom Hill Horse Rescue

is celebrating Help-a-Horse Day with

**HEART**



### Will you join us?

Our theme is Helping Equines through Art (HEART) and we will be hosting several activities throughout the month of April. The goals for the month are to celebrate the wonders of the horse, to share how horses impact our lives, and to increase our capacity to help horses at the rescue. The ASPCA is offering awards up to \$25,000 for rescues that host the most creative, collaborative, and productive events. This is where you come in. YOU can help us win the \$25,000 top prize!

Read how at

[freedomhillheart.weebly.com](http://freedomhillheart.weebly.com)

### Schedule of Events

April 2nd 2:00—5:00	Painting for Ponies @ Friday's Creek
April 9th	Spring Cleaning @ FHHR
April 15th Deadline	Youth Art Competition Artworks @ 7th
April 23rd	Ponypalooza Family Event Win \$\$\$ at Pony Pile Up
All Month	Online Auction

# Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

## Events:

April 2nd: Painting for Ponies  
 April 9th: Spring Cleaning  
 April 15th: Art Contest Deadline  
 April 23rd: Ponypalooza

May 7th: Kentucky Derby Party & Silent Auction

Contact Jennifer P for more information 347.595.9100

## Volunteer Training Sessions:

New Volunteer Orientation  
 3/5, 4/9, 5/7, 6/4 1:00—5:00  
 Contact Heidi for more information  
 Heidi.freedom.hill@gmail.com

Horsemanship Clinics  
 Mondays from 6:00—8:00 (weekly)  
 Watch Volunteer FB page for start date

## Horsemanship Team Sessions:

For Level 3 Approved Members (all volunteers welcome to observe)  
 TBD at 6:30pm @Hampton (weekly)

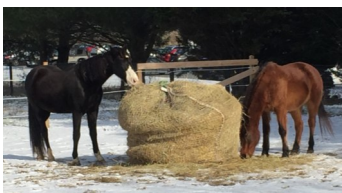
Horsemanship Team evaluations are scheduled by appointment

Contact Terry for more information 240.535.4009



## Round Bale Nets a Huge \$\$\$\$ Saver

This winter, FHHR finally tested the new round bale nets purchased through a generous grant by the Snyder Foundation for Animals. We knew it would be a good investment, but set out to prove it. Both photos below were taken the same day. Feeding round bales is less expensive than square bales (and saves volunteer time); using the feeder nets decreased waste significantly, thereby saving the rescue



even more money, which can be allocated to other needs. Thank you Snyder Foundation!

## How You Can Help!

### Support our Help-a-Horse Day Efforts

FHHR is celebrating ASPCA Help a Horse Day with HEART.

Please spread the word and invite your friends to join us for one or more activities in April!

Our second annual Ponypalooza event will be Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 10-5. Come out for some great family fun, meet horses, check out artwork by area youth, and win some cash!

Can't make the big event? Here are other ways to help the horses at FHHR!

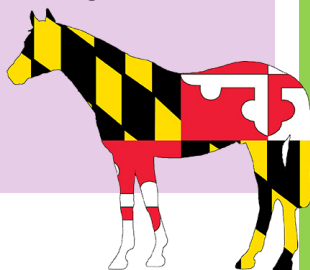
- ◆ Paint for Ponies on April 2nd
- ◆ Help us out at Spring Cleaning April 9th
- ◆ Encourage kids to enter the Youth Art Competition to illustrate Horses in Our Hearts
- ◆ Bid on amazing artwork during our month-long online auction
- ◆ Purchase an item from our Amazon.com wish list
- ◆ Make a cash contribution or donate online April 1– 30. Be sure to say it is for Help-a-Horse Day.

[www.freedomhillhorserescue.com](http://www.freedomhillhorserescue.com)  
 PO Box 606, Dunkirk, MD 20754

## Maryland Horse Industry Day - February 23rd



Jennifer Purcell, FHHR (left), and Nicky Wetzelberger, Days End Farm Horse Rescue (right), pose with the University of Maryland Equine Studies mascot, Terpretariat, at a reception after meeting with legislators to discuss animal welfare issues in the state.



## Dakota and Gabe.... Continued from page 2

enjoy the rest of his life as a very spoiled pasture pet.”

Thank you, Wendy, for bringing Dakota and Gabe into your heart and home. They deserve the wonderful life you have given them.

## What's Next?

In the next issue of Spotlight, you'll read about the various groundwork training techniques we use with the horses, plus stay up-to-date with all the news, events, adoptions, stories and other happenings at the rescue.