

# Bart



Bart was rescued from severe starvation, neglect and abuse when he was 6 years old. His mother died when he was 2 weeks old, at which time he was placed with Jake, a mini pony who became his best friend. Upon examination by a vet, it was discovered that Bart's legs are crooked due to lack of consistent nourishment over the critical growing years. There is also no hair from his front knees down & he wears scars over his body. Bart also suffers from slight neurological damage due to a blow to the head which left his jaw fractured-growing back offset according to a vet examination. He is now given soft feed to ensure proper nutritional needs and avoid choke. When Bart first arrived, he would jerk and toss his head as a nervous tick, but we are beyond happy to say now that he no longer has the tick unless, for that rare occasion, someone visits who triggers a feeling of extreme panic (usually a loud, deep male voice). Bart was rescued with Jake and still must always be close enough to Jake to feel safe.

Bart today is bringing hope and inspiration to all who meet him. His story has given courage to youth people to disclose the trauma and abuse they have also endured and in some cases (like Bart) never realized this treatment is not how life should ever be. Bart enjoys his special feed and sharing it with visitors/participants! No one can hang out with Bart without getting a little on their clothes, face or hair as he appears to enjoy seeing their response to it. He loves to spend his time "horsing around" with others, laying lifeless/napping in the sand and trying to open doors and gates with this mouth - which he is good at! He is truly the "barn clown" and keeps everyone laughing.