

November 2013

Approximately nine weeks ago we were called into a remote location in northwestern Washington by neighbors of a man who was said to be “starving his horses to get back at his wife/ex-wife”. When we arrived on the scene we found the two horses pictured below and two additional Morgans were living in a pasture where there was literally no grass or feed and a total lack of water. The body scores of the horses ranged from 1.5 to 2.0 (on the Henneke scale) whereas a 5.0 rating is ideal. (Note: please see the article in our educational materials section on understanding horse neglect and abuse).



After talking with the neighbors, we discovered that the wife and daughter who actually owned the horses had fled to an unknown location due to “alleged abuse”. They had to leave the horses behind as they had no means to house or care for them. The husband in turn reportedly “was going to let nature take its course, as they horses weren’t his”.

After several weeks of discourse and negotiation we were finally able to locate the wife and get the horses surrendered to us. We were then able to load up, transport and have them safely re-homed into several locations after thorough veterinary examinations, de-worming and hoof treatments.

Unfortunately this type of case is not uncommon. Domestic disputes end up with pets and other animals becoming the victims. Also it should be noted that where one form of abuse is occurring, there is a large statistical probability that other forms of abuse are also occurring. (i.e. animal, child, spousal or elder abuse).

Please help us stop the cycle of animal neglect and abuse by reporting it to local authorities and potentially rescue groups like ours who may be able to assist you when you see it. Please feel free to also download the article from our educational materials section on “Stopping Animal Neglect, Abuse and Abandonment” if you have questions in this regard.