

# Spotlight

NEWS FROM  
FREEDOM  
HILL HORSE  
RESCUE

## Freedom Hill Horse Rescue



*Free to Live Again!*

### *The Spirit of the Mustang*



*Liberty, Maverick, Apple, and Takoda at Freedom Hill*

*Photo by Pam Hill*

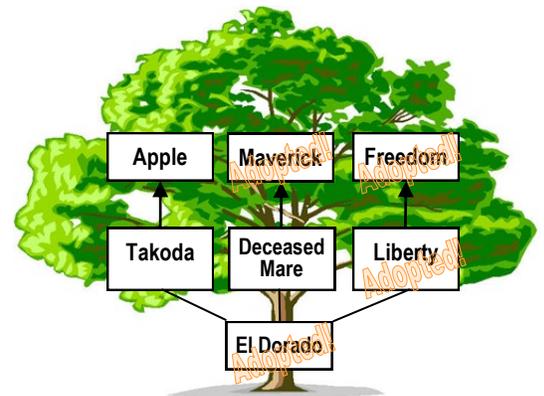
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### **From Freedom to being Free to Live Again: The Journey of Six Mustangs**

Four years ago, a stallion and three mares were adopted from the Bureau of Land Management and found their way to southern Maryland. The owner had limited knowledge about horse care, and she put the horses together in a backyard field about two acres in size. Within a year, the horses were in another bad situation. Her lack of knowledge resulted in the birth of two mustang foals, one mare pregnant, and another mare dead from starvation.

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue stepped in on September 11, 2011, after receiving a phone call from a family member about the condition of the



# Summer 2014

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**2008** El Dorado captured by BLM  
Takoda born in BLM Kansas facility

**2009** El Dorado and Takoda shift to Oklahoma  
Liberty captured by BLM and held in Wyoming

**2010** El Dorado, Takoda, Liberty, and another mare adopted from BLM and moved to Maryland

**2011** Apple and Maverick were born  
Maverick's dam died  
FHHR stepped in

**2012** Freedom was born  
El Dorado adopted—name changed to Apollo  
Maverick adopted  
Liberty adopted (Libby)  
Freedom adopted—name changed to Shadow

**2013** Takoda and Apple continue training at FHHR

**2014** Takoda and Apple hope to find forever homes in 2014



*From left: Liberty and El Dorado a few days after the rescue; Takoda at 550 pounds; Maverick and Apple 6 months after arrival. All photos by Pam Hill.*

horses and the death of one mare. It was too late for the mare, but the other five were brought to the rescue and given a chance for a new life. They were named El Dorado, Takoda, Liberty, Apple and Maverick. Takoda, at the time weighing 250 pounds less than her normal weight, was nursing both the foals, Apple and Maverick. The stallion, El Dorado, was gelded and it was a couple months later volunteers learned the second mare, Liberty, was expecting and later gave birth to a healthy colt, Freedom.

Today, all six mustangs are living full and happy lives, but it was a long journey with many moves and hardships along the way.

***New Homes, New Lives***

Mustangs have become an iconic symbol of the American West, yet their free-roaming lives have changed dramatically from decades ago. Today's mustangs, still known for their stamina, speed and grace, are loyal companions to people who love them.

Our adopters refer to their mustangs as smart, willing, spunky, loveable, observant, and friendly. All of which certainly capture the nature of a Mustang.

El Dorado, the foundation of this family tree, is absolutely stunning, smart, confident and easy going. His adopter, Donata, sensed he didn't want to be called "Ed," and now he travels the trails known as Apollo. He and Donata, who always wanted a mustang, love to explore Maryland's most beautiful trails and have participated in the Bill Mills Memorial Trail Ride at Fair Hill for the past two years. She takes him through stream crossings, fields, forests, overpasses, and covered bridges while riding in a bitless bridle. Of course, Apollo still exhibits youthful playfulness and looks for things to keep him busy. Apollo even decided to make his own renovations to his pasture. Donata told us, "Apollo is very adept at pulling the posts (that divide the pasture with electric polytape) out of the ground. He knows where to pull on them without getting zapped."

Liberty, also known as Libby, was adopted because of her calm disposition. No one can deny the fact that she is gorgeous too! Her new best friend and adopter, Gloria, says she fell in love with Libby because of her size, unique coloring, and natural

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*Apollo at Maxwell Hall, taking a walk along the beach. Photo courtesy of Donata Dow.*

smooth trot. She is very comfortable to ride. Gloria shares, "One thing I find interesting about Libby is that wherever we go, every person and horse that she meets, falls head over heels for her. She can be very social in her own horsey way with people and other horses." Libby is spending plenty of time on the trails, like Apollo, but is currently at Crandell's Horse Works for some refresher training. In fact, Jason Crandell started both Apollo and Libby under saddle when they were brought to Freedom Hill. Jason, who says he's never met a mustang he didn't like, enjoyed working with both of them. When he heard that Libby was pregnant, he expressed interest in her unborn foal and the rest is history. Freedom was born at Freedom Hill in August 2012 and was at his new home in West River that October.

Like his sire, Freedom has also found a new name. "When you go in his field," Jason says, "he shadows you." With a horse that follows you everywhere, Shadow became the perfect name. Shadow is so much like Apollo and Libby: stunning, confident, playful, curious and smart. Jason has been working with him from the beginning and his training is progressing nicely. Shadow knows groundwork, drags barrels, walks on tarps, accepts a saddle and bridle, and has allowed Jason to sit on him; of course no riding until he's a little older. This is the perfect home for Shadow, and Jason certainly knows how to keep his mind busy.

A few months Shadow's senior is Maverick. When we asked Shelby why she decided to adopt Maverick, she explained, "Maverick and I just seemed to have an unspoken connection. The first time that I looked at him and he looked at me, it was as if he had chosen me. We are the best of friends and he is an amazing horse." She also tells us that "even though he has training, (he still has) the spirit of a mustang. He is super playful and loves to antagonize his field-mates." On frequent visits to the farm, Shelby and her sister often see Maverick "dancing around in the field." We certainly agree with Shelby that the horses choose you, and the connection and bond is one of the most important factors in making an adoption a good fit.

### **Why Choose a Rescue Horse?**

These four mustangs have wonderful new homes, new jobs and new friends. Their owners may be very different, but they have one thing in common; they wanted to provide a loving home to a horse that deserves a second chance. At Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, we couldn't agree more with Shelby, who shared why she chose a rescue, "these animals didn't choose to be neglected, mistreated, abused, or ignored and that is a life that they didn't deserve. By adopting a rescue, you give that horse a new chance at life." She suggests, "if you are ever looking for a horse, check the rescues first, these animals deserve the love and compassion of a good family and they turn out to be the most wonderful companions." Donata agrees, saying, "I think that it is wonderful the work and dedication that the rescue groups perform to give these horses a chance to better their lives and the lives of their new human partners."

***It was a long journey for these mustangs and the road was not easy. But, this story has four happy endings with two yet to be written. Will you help create the next happy ending?***

*Photos top to bottom: The day Freedom (Shadow) was born; Libby at training with Jason Crandell in November 2012; Libby today; Shadow today; Shelby and Maverick; Maverick posing for a picture. Photos courtesy of Pam Hill, Gloria Kapciuch, Jason Crandell, and Shelby Jerow.*



## Volunteers Rock!

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue sends out a HUGE thank you to all of our extraordinary volunteers! June 8-14 is Volunteer Appreciation Week at the rescue, and we have many fun surprises and events planned.

This past year, 68 volunteers logged nearly 6000 hours doing feed shifts, events, facility maintenance, work days, equine training, educational sessions, marketing, grant writing, and so much more!!! The horses receive the care and rehabilitation they need and find new homes because of the hard work, dedication and commitment of an all-volunteer team. Freedom Hill Horse Rescue would not exist without the helping hand of each and every individual that crosses our path, but we wanted to highlight a few of our incredible volunteers.

Volunteers join the **100 Muck Club** when they've completed at least 100 feed shifts in the past 12 months. The **Lead Mucker Award** is given to the volunteer who completed the most shifts at a single barn. Check out this year's group listed on the right.

The **Helping Hand Award** goes to Ciara Andrews for covering the most shifts for regularly scheduled volunteers.

Finally, we wish to recognize the **FHHR Muck Master**, the person who completed the most feed shifts over the past 12 months facing wind, rain, mud, heat and cold! A plaque will be displayed at the Hampton barn for all to see. This year's Muck Master is mother/daughter team Beth and Summer!

### **More Thanks!**

The parents and members of the Training Team deserve a special shout out for not only working with the horses on a consistent basis, but also for showing the horses to prospective adopters. The Training Team goes the extra mile to help the horses become more adoptable. Parents never just sit around; they always help clean tack, muck, provide water and so much more! Thank you for assisting the team and making it all come together.

Thanks goes to Angella Kirby for moving muck piles with the tractor at Hampton; to Missi Bittinger and Joey Sapp for removing and spreading manure at Chaneyville and Grovers and spreading the much needed seed and fertilizer in those pastures. Of course, we must thank Steve Moscati for taking on a greater responsibility for facilities this year and going above and beyond to deliver hay and feed and for fixing all that needed fixin' around the barns.

*Continued on page 6...*



**Thank you to our Blanket Queen, Heidi May, and her super duty washing machine for washing more than 40 blankets two years in a row! That is a lot of time and a lot of blankets!**



Amanda Bowen

Anna Darden

Cheri Carter

Heidi May (GT)

Jennifer Purcell (CH)

Kelly Norton

Michelle Trott (HP)

Steve Moscati

Summer & Beth Norfolk

Corinna, Danica & Elana

Woodard (LB)

**FHHR is seeking assistance with writing, social media, and event planning. Can you help?**

**LEAD  
MUCKER  
AWARD**





## Spotlight on Takoda and Apple

Takoda and Apple are the two remaining mustangs waiting to share their happy ending. Granted, they've got a great life at the rescue, but it is time for them to find loving, forever homes so FHHR can open up space to help more horses. Takoda, who was near death, is now a show pony prospect who has participated in flat classes at the PG Equestrian Center. English or western, this girl can do it! Apple is a curious, playful and confident three-year-old that needs a knowledgeable horse person to continue her training. She is a gorgeous mare that is eager to learn while having fun, too. Set up a time to meet Takoda and Apple by contacting us at [freedom.hill.org@gmail.com](mailto:freedom.hill.org@gmail.com)



*Takoda and Apple are waiting to find their forever homes.*

## Volunteers Rock! *continued from page 4*

Thank you to all the volunteers who spend extra time at work days and hay deliveries, and to everyone who participated in Help A Horse Day @ 231 Farm Center, especially Jason Crandell for sharing his expertise during a natural horsemanship demonstration and to Peter May for making sure that everyone could hear it! We were fortunate to have author Valerie Ormond with us and are honored to be featured in her books.

Another shout out to the folks at Crandell's Horse Works for helping our Training Team with the horses as they come in and to Sarah Drew for donating her time to offer on-site clinics.

We wouldn't have fundraising events without our volunteers. From grain shakers and horse handlers at the Holiday Photos with Horses event to food preps and ticket takers at the 1920's Soiree, we thank you all. Val, Susan, and Frank at Friday's Creek Winery are great supporters of the rescue and our volunteer photographers, Claire Clements and John Young, are invaluable.



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*Photo by John Young*



*All photos by Jennifer Purcell, unless otherwise noted.*

**FHHR's newest arrival has a new name thanks to almost 200 people who voted on Facebook. We're pleased to announce that Pearl has already found a new home and will join her new family on June 22nd!**



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain](http://www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain)



Contact Kristy Alvarez, FHHR Executive Director, for information about Equine Connections and Equine-Assisted Learning programs. 240.320.7715



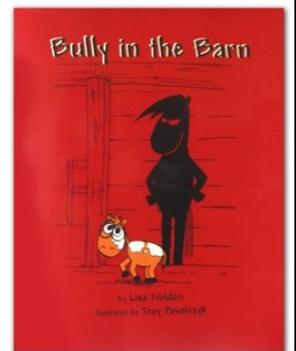
## Spotlight on Education

The mission of Freedom Hill Horse Rescue includes educational programming to increase awareness of equine abuse and neglect, teach horsemanship and the proper care of horses, provide training for volunteers, and give youth the opportunity to learn about themselves and others through equine-assisted activities. In addition to hosting groups on-site, FHHR brought the barn to the community on Help a Horse Day and will be a featured farm in the Calvert County Farm Festival this October.

FHHR's Equine Connections program, an eight-week program for youth to learn about horsemanship and horse care, wrapped up last week. This program was started to connect kids in grades 1-8 to the wonderful world of horses. Students, in small groups, spend one hour each week at the rescue to get hands on experience with horses. They learn proper grooming, how to halter and lead a horse, safety around horses, horse characteristics and personalities, as well as why horses end up in rescues. The students love grooming and spending time with the horses. Kaleb Truax, age 7, said his favorite part of the program was, "giving Takoda a bath." One of the parents, whose daughter is only 6 and had never experienced horses before, was so pleased with her daughter Gillian's experience that she is signing her up for horseback riding lessons and hopes to attend the program again next year. She recently read about a study that shows "youth who are involved with horses have lower stress levels." This is just one more reason to join programs like Equine Connections. At FHHR, we love connecting young people to the world of horses and giving them an experience they will never forget.

### Coming Soon: **Bully in the Barn**

A bully prevention and intervention program for K—8th grade students.



## Volunteers Rock! *continued from page 6*

Thank you to the Founder and Board of Directors who are also volunteers: Melody Parrish, Kristy Alvarez, Lori Harrington, Terry Pennington, Jennifer Purcell, Susan Shifflett and Tammy Sommer. These individuals eat, breathe, and sleep FHHR and put in numerous hours to make everything about FHHR all that it is. Thank you for all that you do and have done to make the mission and vision of FHHR thriving and active.

A special thank you needs to go out to past Board members as well who played an important role in leading and guiding FHHR over the past 10 years. Thank you, Pamela Hill, Ernie Shifflett, Steve Moscati and Aimee Hollins, who are some of our more recent Board members that are no longer with us on the Board. Thank you all for playing important roles at the rescue and best wishes for the future.

***The list can go on and on! Thanks for making this a great 10 years of rescue work. We hope you will help Freedom Hill Horse Rescue make the next 10 years even better!***

# Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

## Events:

June 14: Volunteer Appreciation Party

Oct 12: Trail Ride @ Double J

Oct 18-19: Calvert County Farm Festival

Dec 6: Holiday Photos with Horses (rain date Dec 7)

Contact Jennifer for more information  
347.595.9100

## Volunteer Training Sessions:

New Volunteer Orientation  
6/21, 7/19, 8/16, and 9/13

*All volunteers are encouraged to attend these monthly sessions featuring different equine topics.*

7/5 Equine anatomy, language and lifecycle

8/2 Equine vital signs, proper feeding and nutrition

8/30 Emergency first aid kits

Contact Kristy for more information  
240.320.7715

## Training Team Sessions:

For Level 3 Approved Trainers (all volunteers welcome to observe)

Mondays at 6:30pm @Hampton

Training Team evaluations are scheduled by appointment.

Contact Terry for more information  
240.535.4009



## Chaneyville Barn Gets a Facelift

As a result of corporate donations and grant support from the ASPCA, our Chaneyville barn will soon feature an improved run-in shed, sacrifice area, and split pastures. These changes follow



*Millings donated by Reliable Contracting. FHHR was awarded \$3000 from the ASPCA for land enhancement initiatives.*

an overhaul of the indoor feed space and addition of millings earlier this year.

All improvements are made to ensure FHHR provides the best quality care to the horses. Thank you to our supporters!

## How You Can Help!



### Donate Time or Tack

FHHR always accepts gently used equipment and tack. Thank you to the Happy Trails 4H Club for a recent donation. Are you an experienced rider? Contact Terry Pennington at 240.535.4009 to join the Training Team.

## Cherish Your Horse Forever with Original Art

Turn your favorite photo into an 11x14 original painting to display in your home or barn. 25% of the purchase price benefits Freedom Hill Horse Rescue.



*Free to Live Again!*

[www.freedomhillhorserescue.com](http://www.freedomhillhorserescue.com)

Contact Diane Hutchinson at  
561-848-3987 to order.

[diane@hutchinsoncreations.com](mailto:diane@hutchinsoncreations.com)



**\$245.00**  
+ tax/shipping



### Join the Horse Angel Network!

You can support FHHR by joining the Horse Angel Network! We are seeking individuals that are willing to become a monthly sponsor of one of our horses while they are with us. We have several levels of sponsorship available from \$25 per month to \$200 per month. Contact Kristy today if you would like to become one of our horses' angel.

### Become a member on Amazon Smile!

If you shop on Amazon.com, consider joining Amazon Smile and choose FHHR. Every time you order, Amazon will donate to the rescue. Just login at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).