

Spotlight

NEWS FROM
FREEDOM
HILL HORSE
RESCUE

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue



Free to Live Again!



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Great Things Come in Small Packages: A Rescue Success Story

If you never attend a horse auction, you will be lucky! Just knowing what happens to so many horses that end up at auction is almost unbearable. Although they can never know their possible fate, it often feels as if they can; horses have an amazing ability to sense the environment around them. At Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, we try to step in before horses experience the fear, anxiety, and uncertainty of the auction floor, yet we know that horses from auction can live amazing lives. Meet Tristan, a 14.2 hand palomino gelding rescued from the Camelot auction. He had a respiratory problem, which is common for horses in the auction circuit. The bigger issue, we discovered, would be the wound marks on his face from rough handling



Fall 2014

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Photo by: Pam Hill



Photo by: Amanda Capello



Photo by: Jennifer Purcell

From Top: Tristan needed a brief training refresher at FHHR Fun Day in 2013; He was pampered at his foster home with Amanda; Tristan patiently waits at a snowy Hampton Barn while new fences are being built at Dani's property. Front Page: Dani posing with Tristan at the Scavenger Hunt Trail Ride.

and a halter that was far too tight. Tristan was very wary of human touch. He disliked it; he pulled away. He had to be sedated to have his hooves cleaned or trimmed, and he was a “handful” when we sent him to training. He would charge at people in the round pen when doing groundwork and would buck when asked to trot or canter.

It was time to take a step back. We needed to invest time in just showing affection and earning his trust. For several months, volunteers just talked to him. “In fact,” shares Lori Harrington, “when I would sweet talk to him, I could see him relax almost immediately, and eventually, he would come up to the gate to greet us, looking forward to his grooming session.” Two experienced volunteers started to ride him while still focusing on giving him lots of love and attention. Amanda Capello then agreed to foster Tristan at her home and she continued to train (and spoil) him. Tristan experienced a set back while in her care due to the death of a pasture-mate, but Amanda was able to bring him around with love and kindness.

Tristan returned to the rescue last summer and was integrated into the weekly Training Team sessions. “He was still a bit strong under saddle and would throw a buck here and there,” says volunteer Heidi May, but her daughter Veronica “really took to him, and over a very short time, she was able to bring out the incredibly wonderful, loving, willing animal that was in him all along.” Heidi continued, “he just needed love and a little baby-talk; he soaked it up like a sponge.” Veronica’s best friend, Dani, was in the market for a horse, but she was on summer vacation. She had not met him yet, but Heidi knew in her heart that Dani would love him.

Dani met Tristan in August 2013. She tells us that her very first thought was, “wow, he’s small!” But there is something about love at first sight. Dani knew it would work. She and Veronica train under the same coach, which would make the transition easier, and even though he was green and needed a ton of work and encouragement, “he was really willing,” said Dani, “and that was something I needed in a pony.”

Within a month, Dani submitted the adoption application and was approved.

It wasn’t easy in the beginning. Although Tristan had everything he could want in a

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Dani tells us that her very first thought was, “wow, he’s small.”



Photo courtesy of: Willowbend Farm



Photos by: Jennifer Purcell

From Right: Dani, Tristan, Veronica, and Sir pose at the Black-Eyed Susan Horse Show (PG Equestrian Center); Dani and Tristan have a little fun in the schooling ring.

home with Dani, he still continued to buck and kick out at the trot. Dani explains, “it was really hard because I had no clue what was wrong with him. First I thought it was his feet, but his feet were fine. I thought it was disrespect, but I learned it wasn’t that either.” Eventually, with the guidance of instructor Sarah Drew, she realized that it was a lack of muscle causing the problem. Dani worked with him daily to build his muscles and stamina. She concedes that it took a lot of patience on her end because “I wanted a horse that could get started with training right away, that I could start jumping and showing right away. But that didn’t happen,” she admits, “and I’m glad now because our bond and relationship grew so much those three to four months. I learned how to trust him completely and that we don’t have to go with my plan all of the time.”

Since then, Dani and Tristan have become an incredible team. She started taking him to local shows and recently took Champion in the Jr/Sr equitation class for 15 yo and over. At home, they’ve been training over 3-foot jumps and Dani says, “he is learning to trust my judgment and I am learning to follow and listen to him when he is trying to tell me something.” Yet, this new Tristan isn’t always calm and collected. A couple months ago, Dani took Tristan to her lesson barn. Because of his curiosity and all the other horses, Dani jokes, “he held his head so high that he could have passed for a giraffe! I don’t think his head could have gone any higher. I was laughing for most of the lesson.”

Heidi is thrilled that Veronica and Dani can train their horses together. “We see them all the time,” Heidi states, “Sir (Veronica’s horse) and Tristan are best friends. Tristan is an amazing animal and true example of what love and devotion can accomplish. A true success story.”

DANI’S WORDS OF ADVICE TO POTENTIAL ADOPTERS:

- ◇ *Be patient. Sometimes you won't know the history of your new buddy, just like I don't know what Tristan went through before he came to Freedom Hill.*
- ◇ *Don't underestimate them; rescue horses can do amazing things if you give them the chance.*
- ◇ *Always tell them you love them no matter what; it will help you as much as it will them.*
- ◇ *Don't be afraid to seek help from either the FHHR Board or your coach; they can really help you when you hit the bumps in the road.*



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Volunteer Spotlight: Cheri Carter



Cheri Carter grew up right here in Calvert County, Maryland, and returned in 1999 after several years away. She's owned horses and taken riding lessons on and off since she was a little kid. She and her brother shared a pony named Chico and often rode the neighbor's horses. As a teenager, Cheri worked with horses at a day camp, where she says, "we were fearless, jumping bareback with no bridle and other crazy antics." In her 20's, Cheri quit a good state government job to work at a horse farm in Silver Spring. She later returned to government work, recently retiring from the position of Operations Manager for the US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, in October.

It is clear that Cheri has always had a love of horses and still does. "Of all the horses I have owned," she shares, "my favorite is the one I have now, a paint named Rebel." She boards Rebel at Crandell's Horse Works and feels very fortunate to have the expert advice of Joe, Donna, and Jason Crandell.

Cheri began volunteering at FHHR a little over a year ago, but she met Lori Harrington, FHHR Vice President, three or four years ago. It was when Cheri retired and had some extra time, she offered to volunteer for a feed shift. Cheri jokes, "that quickly turned into the five shifts a week that I now do." Cheri rightfully earned her place in the 100 Muck Club this year, completing more than 100 feed shifts in 12 months. Cheri says she enjoys spending time with the rescue horses and feeling like she is making a small difference in their lives. When we asked if she had a favorite rescue horse, Cheri quickly responded, "it has to be Apple – I love her comical personality and curiosity. She will make someone a fun partner."

Retirement is grand. Cheri stays busy with many hobbies, including gardening, hanging out with Rebel, spending time with her two grandbabies, and volunteering both with FHHR and as manager of her son's ice hockey team. We are so thrilled that Cheri decided to make FHHR part of her retirement plan. She's dependable, knowledgeable, and gives the horses the best possible care – five times a week!

Thank you, Cheri!



FHHR Recognized as a MHIB Equine Experience Center

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue (FHHR) was recently awarded the designation of Equine Experience Center through the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB). FHHR will host an Equine Connection program the first Saturday of each month.

The MHIB announced the Equine Experience Center concept in January with the goal of creating a network of certified facilities and organizations to introduce and educate the public about multiple facets of the horse industry in Maryland. Experience Centers complete an application process and are only selected if specific, rigorous standards are met. FHHR participated in a site-visit last month and was officially recognized by MHIB on August 1, 2014.

FHHR offers Equine Connection programs the first Saturday of each month. Space is limited to 10 participants, ages 6 and up. Contact Kristy at 240-320-7715 for more information.

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FHHR Operations Move to the Beautiful Hampton Plantation

The FHHR Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that it has signed a lease with Hampton Plantation to run the rescue’s operations at the 15-acre facility. FHHR has kept 3-4 horses at Hampton for the past five years, but will now be able house more than double that number, plus host more training and public education events.

“This is a spectacular opportunity for Freedom Hill,” says Lori Harrington, Vice President and Treasurer. “It is challenging to staff four different properties. This move will allow us to focus on helping people help horses through our training team, educational programs, and equine-assisted learning programs; and finding adoptable homes for our horses that deserve the chance to be free to live again.” If you are interested in visiting the new facility, contact us at freedom.hill.org@gmail.com or 240-320-7715 to schedule an appointment.

Experience Center *continued from page 4*

“Freedom Hill Horse Rescue has always included public education as part of its mission,” said Kristy Alvarez, President and Executive Director. “The MHIB Experience Center designation will help the rescue connect more people to the wonderful world of horses. We will offer monthly sessions for individuals, families, and groups that are interested in learning about horse care, natural horsemanship, and responsible horse ownership. The best part is that the rescue horses benefit from interactions with these groups, too.”

Sessions are offered the first Saturday of each month at Hampton Plantation, FHHR’s primary facility in Owings, MD. Space is limited to 10 participants, ages 6 and up, per session. The cost is \$50 for the two-hour program, which includes instruction, materials, and a hand-guided ride. Contact Kristy Alvarez at freedom.hill.org@gmail.com or 240-320-7715 to register.

At right, Equine Connection participants pose with Dawn at the session held August 2, 2014.





Spotlight on Tigre Appaloosas

What is a Tigre Horse? In 1992, a couple in New Mexico began their dream of bringing back the Tigre breed, one which had disappeared after wars of possession in China and Europe. Cave paintings of spotted horses, dating back 25,000 years, illustrate legendary animals with



magnificent beauty. Tigres were known for their bravery and stamina, but most notably their spots and middle gait. The couple created a breeding program and Registry, spending 20 years collecting data on how gait and color are inherited. They categorize Tigres into three levels: non-gaited Heavenly Tigres; the gaited Royalty Tigres, and the Soulon Tigre. According to their website, “apart from their intended splendid physiques, their amazing dispositions, their high degree of intelligence, and array of exotic coat patterns, our Soulon approved Tiger Horses are one of a kind. They are antiquity revisited. A perfect 21st century replica using the same formula that China used for the creation of her legendary but extinct SOULONS during the T’Ang Dynasty (618-780).” For more information on the history of the Tigre Horse and the Registry, visit www.tigrehorse.com. *Images from www.appaloosamuseum.org*

How does this information about the Tigre Horse relate to Freedom Hill Horse Rescue? Last October, FHHR acquired six Appaloosas through owner surrender. Four of the six were registered Tigre Appaloosas and three are featured on this website. Why these horses ended up in our care is beyond the scope of this article, but we do wish to point out that rescue horses come from varied backgrounds for many different reasons. Although we question the need for breeding programs when there are so many unwanted horses in the nation, we treat each of our rescues the same... with the love, care, and dignity that they deserve.

Annandale’s Avalanche has found a forever home. Annandale’s Fairy Tale, now 17 yo, is in a foster home and has a pending adoption. She is shown on the website as a 10-day old foal, one of the first generation USA Tigre horses. FHHR is so pleased these two have found loving homes. Fairy Tale’s filly, Tehya (now 5 yo) and Henna, another 5 yo mare, are available for adoption. Both had very little human interaction and no formal training when they were acquired by FHHR. Since then, the rescue has invested over \$3600 in professional training under saddle and volunteers have spent numerous hours working with them on ground manners. Both are eager, smart, beautiful and ready to find their special person. Their perfect match will be an experienced horse person or someone willing to learn and grow with them under the guidance of a trainer. If you are unable to adopt, please consider a foster arrangement or contributing to their care by making a monetary donation to help FHHR cover the costs of training. These girls are worth it!



Clockwise from top left: Avalanche, Fairy Tale, Tehya, and Henna. All photos by Jennifer Purcell.



Farewell Ashley

When Freedom Hill Horse Rescue volunteers find homes for rescue horses, they look for forever homes. This is an excerpt from a letter from Ashley's adopter, Lisa, who loved her from the day they met to the day she passed. Thank you, Lisa, for taking such wonderful care of Ashley during some difficult times.

Dear Melody and Lori,

I wrote you once last month, and thought I sent it; I guess the email never went through. I did get the papers and was about to send back the part you asked for, but then things took a turn in life and I never got to it. Thank you for all you do to keep up with the horses and their lives.

It's to this end I'm writing. On June 25, 2014 Ashley passed away. Her cancer flared up for the last couple of months just after the winter ended, and she lost a lot of weight suddenly. Also, a new tumor lodged above her larynx area and caused her some real breathing difficulties that would come and go.

The doctor and I were doing all we could do help her maintain weight, be sure there wasn't pain, and he came out regularly to assess her condition as it progressed. Luckily, the cancer didn't stop her appetite, or her movement, or drinking so we continued to monitor her. Some days were better than others of course, and the day before she died I was thrilled that she went out of the barn for a long walk around the property. All the horses had been voluntarily staying in until it cooled off at night, but she was more energetic on the 24th, and strolled out. I was so happy that she felt better that I took her picture on her way out on her walk because she looked pretty in the sun. Now, looking back, I wonder if she knew her time was short and she wanted to go for one last walk around the place, because by the next morning she was gone. Judging from the undisturbed fluffy bedding around her, she did not suffer or struggle, and might have even been snacking, because in her mouth was a long piece of hay. Her eyes looked peaceful.

Now, she is at rest, right outside her stall along the fence, next to our other well-loved TB. I still say hi every day over the fence. I miss her peeking over the stall at me, waiting for her food & carrots. She was the sweetest horse anywhere!

Thank you for doing so much for her in her life, and for being so careful finding her good homes throughout her years. You were SO good to her. I know she appreciated all you did to help her have a good life. Bless you for being so careful to find these horses good homes and following up on them the way you do. You are a wonderful team and I would recommend your rescue to anyone.



I wish this was a better letter but I knew you would want to know. Ashley's chapter may be closed, but you are doing so much to help horses everywhere to have a good life, and I wanted you to know that her last 3 years with us was easy on her and that she was well loved and cared about more than I can say.

Thanks, Lisa and Ashley



Photo by: Tina Styer

FHHR 2015 Calendar

Can you picture Apple playing with a hose or Pearl sniffing a rose? Well, these are just two of the images to be featured in FHHR's 2015 calendar. Calendars are a great holiday gift and all proceeds support the horses at FHHR.

Calendars will be available to order online or for purchase at events in late October.



Rest in Peace sweet Ashley. You will always be remembered.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!



Events:

Sept 6-7 FHHR Workday @ Hampton Plantation

Sept 14-20 Chesapeake Grille donates all tips to FHHR

Oct 12: Trail Ride @ Double J

Oct 18-19: Calvert County Farm Festival @ Spider Hall

Oct 30: Halloween In-House show

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.

Current Volunteer Training
10/4 and 11/1

Contact Lori for more information
301.806.1708

Yoga for Horses

TBA @ Northeast Community Center

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

Equine Connections Program:

9/6, 10/4, 11/1

Contact Kristy for more information
240.320.7715

Yoga for Horses

As interesting as it sounds, we aren't asking Honey or Brocca or Mickey Blue to do a downward facing dog. We're asking YOU to yoga for horses! FHHR volunteer Tina Styer is offering a Glow & Flow Yoga (glow in the dark) session to benefit the horses at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue.

A specific date has not been set, but keep an eye on the FHHR Facebook page for details later this fall.

\$15 suggested donation for a one-hour session, which will be held at the Northeast Community Center in Chesapeake Beach. If everyone enjoys the flow, we might make it a monthly event!



Photos by: Jennifer Purcell

Halloween In-House Show

We know how to get into the spirit of Halloween! Join us on Thursday, October 30th for the FHHR In-House Halloween show. Riding classes begin at 6:30 and are open to volunteers, adopters, and boarders. \$5 per class; \$20 for four or more. It will be an evening of ghoulish fun at the Hampton barn. Costume contests for horses and guests with trick-or-treating for the kids after dark. Complimentary photos for each participant.

How You Can Help!

Donate Online

at www.freedomhillhorserescue.com or send a check to PO Box 606, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Become a member on Amazon Smile!

If you shop on Amazon.com, you should join Amazon Smile and choose FHHR. Every time you shop Amazon will donate to the rescue.

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 a horse's angel.

Purchase Wish List Items

For the months of September—December, wish list items include:

- ◆ Mounting Block
- ◆ Mecate Reins
- ◆ Bags of Sawdust (stall bedding)
- ◆ 4x6 rubber stall mats
- ◆ Wood for fencing
- ◆ Care Kit Items: Fly Spray, MTG, Banixx, SWAT, Kopertox, and Keratex