

FREEDOM HILL HORSE RESCUE

P.O.Box 606 Dunkirk, MD 20754

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 Terry Hurley, Farm Operations Mgr.

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Rehoming Horses - A Behind the Scenes Look by Lori H.

Many people don't realize all the behind the scenes work that Freedom Hill Horse Rescue Board members and volunteers do. There are many horses that are in need of a new home that may not come into our facility but we are always championing for them and trying to find the right home for them. Recently, Shaun G. worked very hard to find the right home for a former FHHR horse named El Dorado - a 12 year old mustang gelding. El Dorado was adopted back in early 2012 at 4 years of age after we had rescued him from a dire situation - along with two mustang mares (Takoda and Liberty) and two foals (Apple and Maverick). There was



Rehoming Horses (cont.)



Takoda and Apple on their first day at FHHR

a third mare at the location that passed away from neglect before we were notified. El Dorado, Takoda, Liberty and the other mare were rounded up out west and then adopted out through the Wild Horse and Burro Program of the Bureau of Land Management. They have the BLM mustang brand on their necks and we have their papers of the locations where they were rounded up from the wild. The adopters of BLM mustangs are not pre-checked and there are no follow ups.

The people who adopted these mustangs did not know how to care for them. El Dorado was a stallion in a small area with 3 mares and subsequently, all mares became impregnated. Apple is the offspring of El Dorado and Takoda and Maverick is the offspring of El Dorado and the mare that passed away. Takoda was such a good mom that she was nursing her foal and Maverick while she herself was just skin and bones. We later found out that Liberty was also pregnant and she foaled a few months after we rescued them at an FHHR barn. We named that colt, Freedom. Apple, Liberty and Freedom were given those names in honor of the day we rescued them - September 11th. A video of their rescue can be found on our YouTube Channel entitled "[The Evil Face of Equine Starvation](#)".

Well, back to the present, El Dorado's adopter contacted us to tell us she could no longer keep El Dorado after 7 years and we needed to find him a new home. Shaun drove an hour each way and spent many hours showing El Dorado to prospective adopters. After several weeks, we finally found a great family that wanted to adopt El Dorado! - (who had been renamed Apollo by his previous adopter). We did the whole process of an adoption application, reference checks, a site check, a transfer of ownership and an adoption application. We look forward to hearing updates on how El Dorado (Apollo) is doing in his new home! This horse is not the only one that we have helped find a new home over the years. FHHR works tirelessly to help any horse in need or at risk. Since 2018, we have been able to refer a lot of horse owners in need of rehoming their horse to Maryland Equine Transition Services (METS), which is a statewide network of equine rescues, sanctuaries, veterinarians and equine dentists. They will come assess the horse and take photos and then advertise the horse that needs rehoming on their website and Facebook page. They have been quite successful this year in finding new homes for many horses. We are very grateful to METS for being able to do what we do but on a much larger scale and it takes a big burden off our small shoulders.

Rehoming Horses (cont).



Reggie

Through word of mouth and social media advertising we recently helped Reggie's owner facilitate the adoption of her 19 year old Quarter Horse and we are super excited that he found his new forever home!

New Video in the Making for FHHR by Alicia S. and Lori H.



Ryan, one of our volunteers

SSgt. Lauren G. reached out to Freedom Hill and asked if she could film and photograph the horses and volunteers to create a video for us to showcase the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the care for these amazing horses. Not only is SSgt. Lauren extremely talented, her photographs and videos give such beautiful insight showing why the rescue is so important and how valuable and passionate our volunteers are for the cause. She has graciously volunteered her time and has come out multiple times to get the photos and footage that she needs to create a beautiful piece of art, just for FHHR! Her work will provide us with a valuable marketing tool to attract future volunteers and potential adopters of our horses. Please join us in thanking her for her services! Her Instagram is [Gramley Photography](#). Be sure to look for a sneak peek of our video there!



Goldie



Delilah

How has Covid-19 affected FHHR? by Lori H.

When we received Gov Hogan's stay at home directive in March, we knew we had to come up with a plan to continue to care for our horses. They still needed to be fed twice a day and have fresh hay and water. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we were able to downsize our feed shifts, wear face masks, have hand sanitizing stations and keep social distancing in effect and still do our daily tasks. We had to announce that we were closed to the public for visiting, cancel all our programs and events, discontinue on-site checks and assessments for horses needing new homes and reschedule all potential adopter visits. We have now increased our feed shift attendance to a full staff, were able to hold one Open House and two volunteer orientations in June and July with the MD Stage 2 reopening directives. Our horses have continued to receive the very best care throughout this very challenging period and we are so grateful for our steady, caring, reliable group of amazing, wonderful volunteers! Since fundraising was virtually shut down for 4 months, we now need to ramp up our efforts for the remaining of the year with grant applications, restaurant fundraisers, programs, Open Houses and our all important two big events in the Fall; Spirits and Steeds in October and Holiday Photos with Horses in November. Best of all, we were remarkably able to facilitate the adoption of three horses during these last few months and helped a few others find a new home! So despite all, we have persevered and have had 3 volunteer orientations in June, July and August and had our tack sale in August.



Photo courtesy of Lauren G.

Adoption Updates



Goldie: Everyone at FHHR could not be more excited that Goldie has found her forever home with her new mom Nichole! "We have settled in nicely, she's been accepted into the herd and actually is besties with the mare that was running her off on the first few days. Today was going to be our first ride but it's just too hot, so we went on a nice long walk to see how it would be leaving the barn alone. It went perfectly, and she was rewarded with treats and kisses when

we returned. She's eating well and does well for her wrap changes daily. She's a gem and our bond is growing with each day."

Adoption Updates (cont.)



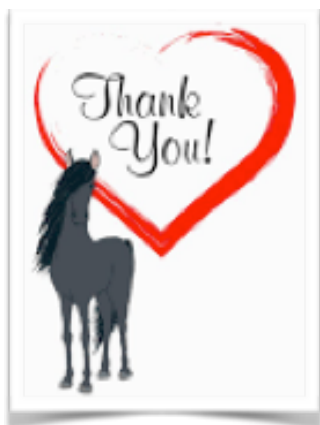
El Dorado: Amy and Zoe C. are so excited to have El Dorado as the newest addition to their farm!

Go Gabe Go!! by Lori H.

Looking Snazzy....Julie L and Gabe won a few first and second place ribbons on July 18th at a small local show in Southern MD. Congrats you two! Look at that smile! Julie says they were cheered on throughout the event by one of her students, five year old Ellie, who is especially fond of Gabe. Ellie kept shouting, "Go Gabe Go"!



Huge Shout-Out!



We are very grateful to Kate and Steve Sheridan for their very generous donation to FHHR and their research into corporate employee matching donations. Due to their research and subsequent donation, we will be receiving a matching donation from GEICO! If you are employed, please look into your employer matching program for 501(c)3 non profits. You could also provide substantial assistance for our horses through a matching program through your employer!

Volunteer Spotlight

We wanted to showcase our amazing Feed Shift Leaders (FSL), Co-Feed Shift Leaders (CL) and shift volunteers. Some photos showcase the whole feed shift and some are just of Feed Shift Leaders and Co-Feed Shift Leaders. We value all of our volunteers and would love to get more group shots for our next newsletter. Their dedication, attention to detail, and support help every feed shift run smoothly!

Monday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Kelly G. (FSL) & Alexis A. (CL)



PM Shift: Sierra B., Kristina S., AnnaGrace B., Jaylee C., Susan F. (CL), Beth M. (FSL), Ryan

Tuesday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: AnnaGrace, Nick, Dot (FSL), Linda and Will, in the back is Caroline and Ryan.



PM Shift: Cathy H. (FSL) & Sharon F (CL)

Volunteer Spotlight (cont.)

Wednesday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Front right Lili S. (CL) and left front Michaela T., then right to left back: Becky T (FSL), Nani C., Ryan S.



PM Shift: Anna D. (FSL)

Thursday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Dot S. (FSL) & Dawn W. (CL)



PM Shift: Tammie F. (FSL), Natasha G., Emma C., Grace E. (CL), Caitlyn W. (CL)

Volunteer Spotlight (cont.)

Friday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Diane H. (CL), Kate S. (FSL), & Kyle W.

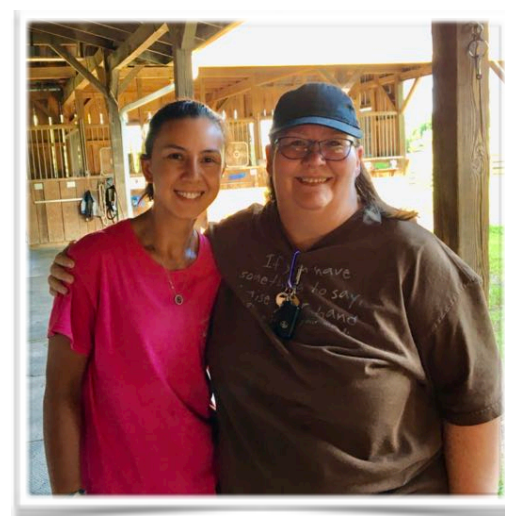


*PM Shift: Terry H., Cathy H. (FSL),
Grace E. (CL), & Caitlin W. (CL)*

Saturday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Alicia S. (FSL), Bill T., Becky T. (CL), Kelley T.



PM Shift: Alicia S. (CL) & Jeanette H. (FSL)

Volunteer Spotlight (cont.)

Sunday Feed Shifts



AM Shift: Left is Rachel S. (CL) & right is Disa E. (FSL)



PM Shift: Diane H.(CL), Rachel D., Brian F., Karen M., Courtney P., Sagan, Susan T., Lauren T, Beth M. (FSL)

Lymes Disease and Behavior in Horses by Beth M.

About a year ago, some volunteers at FHHR reported aggressive behavior in one of our most beloved horses, Dutiful Sun or D. D is a gelding that came to FHHR almost 4 1/2 years ago. He has always been known to be easy to work with although he can be pushy, but never aggressive. Since I knew it was unusual for him to act this way, I went to check on him. Upon entering his stall, D immediately turned around on me. Surprised, I went around to the front of him. Again, he turned on me and this time had me in a corner. When he went for the kick, I quickly scooted around him and out of the stall. He was off limits to all volunteers at that point.

Luckily, FHHR's President, Lori Harrington, had experience with these strange symptoms. Years ago, volunteers reported that a normally docile gelding was charging them. Lori couldn't believe this horse would do that, so she went to take a look. When she got to the barn, she had to trudge through knee deep snow in the pasture and suddenly there was the horse, snorting and blowing out through his nose, pawing at the

ground with his hooves and ready to charge her like a raging bull! She knew she had to act quick so she made a snowball and threw it directly at him to distract him and defuse his attention. Lori was able to get to her car safely and immediately called the veterinarian. The vet ran a quick blood test and the diagnosis was Lyme Disease. This gelding was treated for 30 days and completely recovered, returned to his normal self, was adopted and has been a phenomenal trail horse ever since. FHHR has come across Lyme disease in five of our horses over the years. All five horses have recovered with treatment and are leading normal lives. Some were treated for 30 days while others had to have repeated treatments. One of the FHHR horses that was treated for several months, is our beloved Mickey Blue. He had a weak stifle muscle and his hind end would give out on him. Persistence won over and Blue recovered. Another FHHR horse with similar weak hind end issues, was River. He received two 30-day treatments and is now doing very well. The dedication of our volunteers, walking these horses daily up and down hills to strengthen their hind muscles, was just as instrumental in their healing as the medicine was.

Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria passed from black-legged ticks. The transfer of infection is highest during the larval stage of the tick but the bacteria can be passed from adult ticks. Diagnosis of the disease can be difficult, but horses with Lyme disease can show the following: joint and muscle stiffness, lameness, fever, poor performance, lethargy, weight loss, eye inflammation, laminitis, hypersensitivity to touch. But the most obvious symptom, presented by both the gelding and D, are sudden behavioral changes such as nervous or aggressive actions.

Our veterinarian came out and gave D a thorough exam to rule out other issues. She used the Lyme Multiplex assay to test D's blood. This assay recently developed at Cornell University is able to differentiate among antibodies associated with new or older exposure, or infection. Test results concluded that D was experiencing an infection, so he was treated with Doxycycline and re-tested several weeks later. Since then, he has been back to his old, loving self.

Awareness of each horse's behavior in our care is so very important to the health and safety of our horses and the safety of our volunteers. Every horse has a different personality, but the identification of subtle changes in behavior can truly make a difference in the health and safety of the horse and volunteers. Thanks to the experienced team of officers at FHHR and the awareness and reporting of issues by our volunteers, we were able to quickly manage an unpleasant health situation.

EquiNews, September 10, 2014

The Horse, November 1, 2018

Equine Massage

Alexis Reid, from Healing Moon Solutions LLC., graciously provided two massage therapy sessions for all our horses last month! Alexis is a certified equine massage therapist who has a huge heart and wanted to come to FHHR to give our horses some pro-bono massage therapy. As you can see from the photos the horses thoroughly enjoyed her healing hands and released a lot of tension. They were all so relaxed and ready for a nap afterwards! We can't thank you enough Alexis, we all enjoyed having you here!

Make sure you find her on Facebook: [Healing Moon Solutions LLC](#)



Dawson



Dutiful Sun



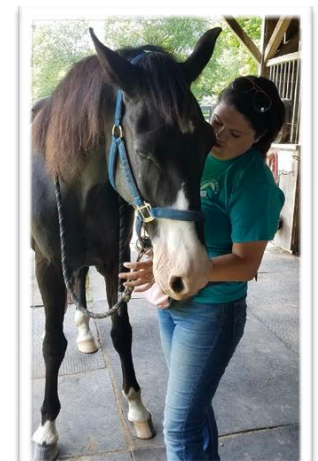
Mickey Blue



Apollo



Delilah



River

2020 Calendar of Events

August 21st, 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Volunteer Training Class
August 28th, 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Volunteer Training Class
September 5th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm	New Volunteer Orientation
September 19th, 11:00 - 2:00 pm	Fall Clean-Up Day
October 3rd, 1:00 - 3:00 pm	New Volunteer Orientation
October 17th, 2:00 - 7:00 pm	Spirits and Steeds
November 7th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm	New Volunteer Orientation
November 21st, 10:00 - 3:00 pm	Holiday Photos with Horses
December 5th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm	New Volunteer Orientation



Tickets for our Spirits and Steeds event will be for sale on September 1st!

Click here —> [Spirit and Steeds](#) to purchase your tickets. We can't wait to see you there!

Ways You Can Help

Because we are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit charitable organization, we rely heavily on the generous financial support of individuals like you. All donations to FHHR are tax deductible and 100% of your donation goes directly to support our organization's mission, vision and goals. You can mail your donation by check or money order to P.O. Box 606, Dunkirk, MD 20754 or you can give by debit or credit through [PayPal](#).

Wish List

- Amazon Wish List located at: [FHHR Amazon Wish List](#)
- Gift cards to Home Depot, Tractor Supply, Sneads's, & Southern States
- Pressure treated 4x4s and 2x4s for fence repairs
- Tools for tool box - hand wood saws, heavy duty plastic coated hooks, double sided clips, boxes of various size screws and nails, plug- in drill with level, vise grips
- 15x15ft heavy duty tarps
- Bulk sawdust for bedding
- Arena sand
- 8 ft. corral panels
- Flat bed trailer
- 4x4 truck

Other Ways to Help

- Use Amazon Smile when shopping: [FHHR Amazon Smile](#)
- Join [iGive.com](#) and go shopping.
- We are proud members of the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** through the Animal Welfare Fund! Federal Employees please pledge to donate. Pledges are being accepted now! **Code 52449**
- **Maryland State Employees** - In late 2018, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue was approved to participate in the Maryland State Employees Campaign, which is an annual workplace giving campaign where MD state employees and retirees can choose to support charitable organizations through an automatic deduction in their paycheck. We are thrilled to be a part of this program and hope to see lots of pledges coming in!
- Donating new or used tack

Ways you can Help (cont.)

Volunteer

You don't need horse experience to volunteer. We need help with direct horse care and behind the scenes. Do you have a special skill? FHHR can use it. We always need help with feed shifts, barn maintenance, grooming, events, training, marketing, social media, photography and much more!

Adopt or Foster

When you adopt a horse from FHHR, you not only help your new four-legged friend, but you give another horse a second chance at life by freeing up space at the rescue. The "Save our Seniors" program offers additional tax benefits.

Become a Horse Angel

If adoption is not an option, the Horse Angel Network might be right for you! When you become a Horse Angel, you help one horse on its journey to find a forever home. Tax-deductible contributions range from \$25 to \$200 per month.

Shop with us

100% of ALL tack and clothing sales directly support and benefit FHHR's mission. Email us at freedom.hill.org@gmail.com to set up an appointment to shop for tack or our FHHR apparel. Semi-annual tack sales will be posted on our Facebook page.

Visit us on Social Media

Here at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, we like to stay in touch with our volunteers and supporters. We welcome you to visit us on our social media sites to learn more about our horses, day to day operations, or even how to be a better horse owner through our horsemanship classes.

Twitter: [@FHHR_Horses](https://twitter.com/FHHR_Horses)

Instagram: [Freedomhillhorserescue](https://www.instagram.com/freedomhillhorserescue)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain

YouTube: [Freedom Hill](https://www.youtube.com/FreedomHill)

Special Thank you

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue would like to give a special thank you to all of our supporters. We are blessed to have over 100 volunteers who spend countless hours helping run the rescue and care for our horses. Our volunteers work on committees for farm operations, barn management, feed shifts, equine health and training, adoptions and fosters, horse angel network, horse owner assistance, public relations and fundraising, volunteer orientation/training, social media and more ensuring the barn runs smoothly and our horses are well cared for.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, donors, foster families and horse angels! We could not do this without the help of our community and the many people who care for our horses and support what we do.

Grant funding was awarded by:

- CFC
- Dancers Legacy Foundation
- EQUUS Foundation
- MD Charitable Contributions Fund
- The Strickland Foundation

Horse Angel Sponsors:

- Marcie S. for Delilah
- Lynn H. for Apollo
- Janice S. for Maggie
- Janet L. for Dutiful
- Diane H. for Dutiful & River
- Sharon F. for Goldie & Apollo
- Halvorson/Finn/Carlson for Delilah and Apollo

First half of 2020 Business Sponsors:

- Prince Frederick Ford
- Sweet Frog
- Chesapeake Grille
- Healing Moon Solutions LLC

Fosters (on-site and off-site):

- Liz C. fosters Maggie
- Jen & Carrigan W. and Cara & Sophie L. foster River
- Jaylee C. fosters Dawson
- Emma C. fosters River

Special Thank You (cont.)

Donations over \$50

- Steve & Kathleen Sheridan
- Wendy Weaver
- David LaRosa
- Gail Kennedy
- Laura Catlett
- Shirley Doyle
- Carol Brady
- Valerie Ormond
- Yanira Morales-Alvarez
- William Webb
- Susan Fogleman

First half of 2020 Adoptions:

- Julie L adopted Gabe
- Nichole P adopted Goldie
- Amy and Zoe C adopted El Dorado
- Samantha S adopted Kirby
- Jessica and Ava adopted Ellie

Many Thanks!

We would like to give a HUGE thank you to Shelby C. for all her years in helping FHHR by feeding in the early morning hours before work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and for making sure we had grain, sawdust and all our barn supplies and medicines and supplements. Shelby needs to step down from her position as Barn Supplies/Inventory Manager and we wish her all the best. She did such a great job behind the scenes and made sure we had all the supplies we needed to take care of our horses! It is a big job! Cathy H. has agreed to take over this important position and we appreciate her willingness to do this for us. Feed Shift Leaders, please make sure to write on the whiteboard, under the Barn Supplies section as always, when you see that a supply item is getting low so Cathy will have ample time to get and replace the items. Thank you!

We would also like to announce that Terry Hurley has joined our Board of Directors! Thank you Terry for your continued support to our organization and our horses. Terry's official title will be BOD member/Farm Operations Manager.