Dear Friend of Animals,

Luna (pictured above) and I are extremely thankful that friends like you step forward every day to help DEFHR protect horses suffering right here in our own communities.

Without the help of people like you, Luna’s starvation would have been much worse than it already was, and her foal’s future might have been very bleak.

As it is, Luna came to DEFHR in the nick of time because of a routine vet visit to Luna’s farm. On entering the farm the vet became alarmed by what he saw there—filthy living conditions for some horses, . . . no shelter for the young ones . . . not enough food and water. He was so concerned that he placed a call to the Humane Society of Washington County (HSWC).

The agent who took the vet’s call found that in January 2016, the property owner had 2 yearling horses taken from him because they were in poor condition. At that time, the owner had other animals and was given directives to improve how he was caring for them.

Two months had gone by since that initial seizure, and the owner was not in compliance with the directives. With search and seizure warrant in hand, on April 3, HSWC agents went back to Luna’s farm, taking with them a vet, DEFHR’s rescue team and several Washington County police officers.

5 AT-RISK HORSES SEIZED

Of the 16 horses on the property on April 3rd, 5 were seized because they were particularly at risk: the 2 pregnant mares, who were severely emaciated, endangering the health of their foals; 2 stallions living in small, dark stalls with 2-3 feet of manure; and 1 thin yearling living without shelter.

On arrival at DEFHR, the horses (named Kit, Luna, Montego, Oberon and Nike) were immediately put into critical care. Staff and volunteers were called in to provide round-the-clock monitoring and foal watch.

An initial evaluation by DEFHR’s vet showed that all 5 horses were malnourished, had poor body conditions, and were suffering from hoof/dental neglect, parasites and thrush.

Nike, a yearling, had never had his hooves trimmed. His hooves had flares and long heels. Since his arrival at DEFHR, Nike’s significant parasite load has caused several painful colic episodes.

Because of the filth the stallions had been living in, their coats were matted with dried feces, urine and mud.
DEFHR HELPS ENFORCE STATE LAW

Not all states have laws protecting livestock. Fortunately for these horses, Maryland does. The law, in part, states “that any person having the charge or custody of an animal must provide: Nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter and protection from the weather.”

Back in January when the owner was first cited, he was given directives by HSWC to clean his property, get farrier and dental care for all horses, and provide free-choice hay and water. He was also ordered to downsize, follow veterinarian recommendations, and allow agent visits. At this writing, he is noncompliant and HSWC is moving forward with charges. A court date has been set for July 19th.

Your dollars ensure that DEFHR is here when animal protection agents need to impound suffering horses!!

Kit, Luna, Montego, Oberon and Nike deserve a better life than they had with their previous owner. Your donation will help ensure that they get one.

Won’t you please make your most generous donation of $500, $250, $100, $50, $20 or any amount? A gift now of any amount will show your commitment to horses needing our help.

Thank you!

Erin Ochoa, Executive Director

P.S. Your gift will help pay for food and medicine, teeth floating, parasite testing, vaccinations and more.

I WANT TO GIVE HORSES A 2ND CHANCE!  A516

YES! You can count on me to do my part to protect horses and educate people.

[] Please call me to set up a monthly recurring gift

Here is my gift today:
[ ] $1000  [ ] $500  [ ] $250  [ ] $100  [ ] $50  [ ] $20  [ ] Other $_______

Charge my gift to [ ] MC  [ ] Visa  [ ] Disc

Card #: ___________________________  Exp. Date: ___________________________

Print Full Name: ___________________________  Phone Number: ___________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Email: ___________________________

We promise not to share your contact information with others.

Donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
2 fillies born to the pregnant mares rescued from Washington County on April 3.

4 Horses from MD and WV, 5/4-5/13
Since the beginning of April, DEFHR has taken in 14 rescue horses from 4 different counties and 2 states. Besides the 5 horses from Washington County described on pages 1 and 2, the 4 horses shown above were seized for neglect and/or abuse: Roxie (Prince George’s County), Sophia (Montgomery County), Timber and Ulia (both from Lewis County, WV).

3 Horses from Prince George’s County, 5/18
Prince George’s County animal protection officials found 3 neglected horses when they went to a property for a dog-related call. The horses suffered from hoof neglect and starvation, with body condition scores of 1 out of 9.

Neglect charges are pending against the owner.

RIP: Vico fell out of a moving trailer in 2009 and was dragged, leaving a horrific wound on his left hip that measured a foot in diameter. His owner failed to provide medical care for 7 years. After coming to DEFHR on May 18, the vet determined that Vico was too malnourished and emaciated to withstand the treatment needed to heal the wound. Vico was humanely euthanized later that week. His last days were filled with plenty of hay, water, pain relief and most of all, love and compassion.

Your donation will help these horses recover!
Days End Farm Horse rescue is such a valuable organization in the community, not only for the horses, but for the humane agencies that respond to calls about equine cruelty. As an animal shelter with a contract to provide full-service animal control in a semi-rural county, the Humane Society of Washington County (HSWC) receives dozens of calls annually about horse neglect and cruelty.

With limited resources for staffing, funding and barn space, we can quickly become overwhelmed when attempting to house and care for several horses at a time, or even consecutively. Without assistance from DEFHR, we would not be able to rescue 80% of the horses in need in our county. The expert care and medical treatment these horses receive from DEFHR relieves their suffering, provides us with the evidence we need to prosecute the offenders, and allows these beautiful, majestic creatures to find the loving home they deserve.

Kimberley Intino, M.S., CAWA
President/CEO
Humane Society of Washington County

Quest came in August 2015 from Washington County, MD where he had been kept in a dark stall for over 10 years. He had been standing on 4’ of manure and had the worst case of hoof neglect DEFHR has ever seen (3’ of hoof overgrowth that rendered him completely immobile). He was underweight and parasitic. He also had long teeth which prevented him from chewing his food properly and getting the nutrients he needed.

After many months of vet and farrier visits, deworming, teeth filing and careful refeeding, Quest has gained weight and made an incredible recovery. He loves to roll and spend time in grassy fields with his herd mates—something he could never do during his many years of isolation. He has been castrated and is being trained to prepare him for adoption. The horse that couldn’t move, now walks, trots and gallops through grassy fields!