Watershed/Right Horse Initiative Grant Boosts DEFHR’s Adoption Program

Early this year, DEFHR’s adoption department got a significant boost that was right in line with our partnership with The Right Horse Initiative which focuses on reframing the conversation around equine adoption. Made possible by a grant provided by the Watershed Animal Fund, DEFHR has launched a Client Focused Adoption Project aimed at improving the adoption experience for people with a wide variety of equine backgrounds and skills, while finding more homes for rescue horses in transition.

These grant funds are enabling DEFHR to significantly increase the number of horses adopted by adding an Adoption Relations Manager to our team. This new person is responsible for helping prospective adopters find their Right Horse, expanding DEFHR’s adoption radius and resource avenues, and nurturing long-lasting relationships to further strengthen adopters’ loyalty to DEFHR’s mission.

“We are so honored to be a partner with The Right Horse Initiative and thrilled to be part of the bigger picture in encouraging adoption to be the preferred option for horse ownership. We can’t wait to make an impact on a larger scale this year,” said DEFHR CEO, Erin Clemm Ochoa.

In addition to the Watershed grant and the opportunities it provides, The Maryland Horse Council is launching a new service that is stimulating even more growth at DEFHR. Here’s more about that initiative:

Available Summer 2018: Maryland Equine Transition Service

The Maryland Horse Council, in partnership with DEFHR, is working behind the scenes to launch the Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) this summer, a unique service designed to help horses in transition. “Horses in need of...”
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A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting: Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc. PO Box 309, Lisbon, MD 21765 (301) 854-5037 · (410) 442-1564 www.defhr.org · info@defhr.org

Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available on our website at: www.defhr.org/about/financial-statements/

Information contained in Horse Talk is the opinion of the authors and may not reflect the opinion of DEFHR affiliates.

DEFHR is a non-profit animal welfare organization established in 1989 to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach. DEFHR exists primarily on donations from individuals and businesses. Donations may be made by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard or Discover. To make a credit card donation, call (301) 854-5037 or (410) 442-1564. Donations are tax deductible under IRS Tax Code 501(c)3.

Because of these two initiatives, DEFHR has two new managers. Says CEO, Erin Clemm Ochoa, “Bringing on two new team members is stimulating for DEFHR; fresh perspectives can only open doors to more creativity and growth—these are truly exciting times for the organization!”

MEET OUR TWO NEW MANAGERS:

Meet Raychel Harvey-Jones, Adoption Relations Manager
Hired in February, Raychel brings an interesting mix of creativity and people skills to the job, with 15 years of experience as a news reporter for ABC, NBC and Bloomberg. She was living in Los Angeles until five years ago when her husband passed, at which point she decided to move back to the east coast to start a television station for a newspaper in Hagerstown, Maryland. She had lived in Washington County before and has family here.

Growing up in Britain in rural Wales, there were always stray and rescued animals in her home. Because she wanted to be a vet, her father thought it would be a good idea for her to have horse riding lessons. “A funny story,” she said, “I was a very good singer in my youth, and the school told my parents I should have singing lessons to train me for opera. My parents couldn’t afford both and said I could have horse riding lessons or singing lessons. I chose riding. Later, I quit vet school and went on to sing professionally for 15 years, traveling the world before becoming a reporter—ironic!”

Raychel has known about DEFHR for some time, and during her career as a media professional, she said she always used DEFHR as a good example of a nonprofit with a great social media presence. After returning to the east coast, she saw the job post and sent in an application. “I really never expected to get a call,” she said, “since by most peoples’ standards I am starting over as a beginner horse rider and handler (I haven’t ridden for 10 years or more).” She applied, thinking she could bring different media/marketing skills to the farm. “When it comes to marketing companion horses in particular we need to let them shine,” she wrote. “They may be retired from their various disciplines, but they still have quirky personalities and make great pasture pals for other horses. After all, horses are herd animals and very social.”

In her position as Adoption Relations Manager, her goals are to help the farm expand the reach of the adoption programs, expand the already vast network of collaborators DEFHR works with, work closely with The Right Horse Initiative to change the conversation on horse adoption, and market the adoptable horses using DEFHR’s nationwide platform.

What does she appreciate about this new role? “Not waking up at 2am to go to work! Seriously,” she said, she appreciates “new challenges, getting back in the saddle (literally) and helping to make the adoption with a great social media presence.

To help ensure the success of this program, DEFHR is providing expertise and a well developed infrastructure, as well as a location central to horses and their owners across Maryland. METS offices will be housed at DEFHR’s Woodbine, Maryland, facility, and will be headed up by Brittney Carow. Formerly DEFHR Equine Health Director, Brittney is now Director, Maryland Equine Transition Service.

Because of these two initiatives, DEFHR has two new managers. Says CEO, Erin Clemm Ochoa, “Bringing on two new team members is stimulating for DEFHR; fresh perspectives can only open doors to more creativity and growth—these are truly exciting times for the organization!”
Raychel considers herself a through-and-through advocate for animals large and small. She recently decided to go back onto the stage, so she sings with a local band called “The Reagan Years” on weekends, an 80’s tribute band. She also has her own solo show. Her life is horses by day and harmonies by night. As far as hobbies, she loves gardening and riding her jet ski.

At the writing of this article, DEFHR has adopted out 32 horses, a year-to-date record! Clearly, something in the reshuffling of DEFHR and the hiring of Raychel is working. If you are interested in adopting a horse from DEFHR, please contact Raychel: adopt@defhr.org or 301-854-5037.

**Meet Meagan Walters, Equine Health Manager**

In late February, soon after taking the job vacated by Brittnay Carow, who had accepted the directorship of the newly established Maryland Equine Transition Service, Meagan Walters had to deal with a snow storm, complications with a filly in an Anderson Sling, a staff shortage, then an impound of 12 critically ill horses from Wicomico County, all of whom had to be in quarantine. Meagan quickly found some aspects of the job to be surprising.

“I have managed large herds before,” said Meagan “and I have managed some sick horses, but not so many critically ill rehab horses like this. I don’t think this job will ever be predictable.”

While Meagan is managing the health of 60 to 100 horses at any given time, she is responsible for a staff of 6, a roster of hundreds of volunteers, and maintaining the facilities. She orchestrates the comings and goings of vets, farriers, dentists, equine treatment providers and supply deliveries. To do her job well, she must know horses and she must interact well with people.

Born and raised in Somerset, Pennsylvania, Meagan was introduced to horses at age 11 when she began riding her cousin’s older Arabian mare for a 4-H project. As a teenager, she worked as a horse counselor at a YMCA camp, cleaning stalls and doing barn chores, and later as an all-day camp counselor which involved taking kids out on trail rides as well as conducting camp activities like swimming, archery and crafts.

When that camp later dissolved their horse program, she got her first horse, Cinn, from there. “She was my heart horse and taught me so much,” said Meagan.

Meagan attended college at the university of Pittsburgh and rode with their equestrian club. After college, she worked on various ranches in Colorado, Wyoming and Arizona. During the past five years, she was the equestrian director at a large youth camp in Southern Illinois where she managed all aspects of a 70-horse herd and the riding programs there.

These life and work experiences prepared Meagan to work with a variety of people in many environments. “What better way to learn how to manage and connect with different people?” asked Meagan. She was looking for a job closer to family when she came across DEFHR’s posting for an Equine Health Manager, so she applied.

Since starting at DEFHR, Meagan has hired several high-caliber barn staff, is settling into the position well and working to create a successful team environment. She is also “getting to know all the people connected with DEFHR, learning new things, and most importantly, doing my best to care for the horses. As I become more familiar with everything, I hope to work with staff and volunteers to address any challenges that we can improve on.” She likes the teaching aspect of the job and looks forward to getting more involved with that.

She has worked with a lot of volunteers at previous jobs and has a huge appreciation for their time and talent. She finds the volunteers at Days End “awesome!” They have definitely already been a support to me and I look forward to working with them more in the future.

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**State Officials Visit DEFHR**

On May 10, DEFHR had a special visit from several state and horse industry officials: Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, State Senator Gail Bates, Secretary of Agriculture for the Maryland Department of Agriculture Joseph Bartenfelder, Director Mary Beth Tung of the Maryland Energy Administration, Director Ross Peddicord of the Maryland Horse Industry Board and other various state staffers. They toured our facility and witnessed first-hand our mission hard at work.

CEO Erin Clemm Ochoa received a Governor’s Citation in recognition of “the devoted and compassionate care provided by DEFHR for homeless and rescued animals, ensuring a safe, humane environment for these animals to live and thrive.” Equine Programs Director DeEtte Hillman provided the visitors with an update on the horses in critical care.
Voyager, The Right Horse for Me
by Krista Boutté

It’s funny how when you stop, and just let go, life has a way of working out.

I had struggled for the last few years to find the right horse, or what I thought was the right horse for me. And then one day, there he was on my Instagram, this compact little gray dressage horse. For whatever reason, I was immediately drawn to him. There was just something about his picture that I couldn’t get over.

The picture had come from Days End Farm Horse Rescue, so I called them that moment and left a message asking to come and meet him. Before I tell you much more, let me explain why it was so shocking that I would be drawn to a 15-hand dressage draft cross.

I grew up riding a red-headed Thoroughbred, who was anything but quiet and calm. My mom bought her off the track and re-trained her, and I ended up eventing her for the next five years during high school. She was a firecracker to say the least. After Fergie, I rode several friends’ horses for a while, not able to afford my own, all massive giants who would test me every step, and were never sound or healthy.

My next Thoroughbred came after my children were born. He was stunning. Right off the track, and I was in love immediately. Sadly, he quickly fell apart and was forced into retirement, breaking my heart as I spent every last dime and resource available trying to fix him. But I wasn’t ready to give up.

I went after another OTTB, and after a few months of training his back fell apart. And numerous other health issues became apparent. He wasn’t going to event, let alone be much of a rideable horse. He was in pain all the time, so I let him retire and he now lives out his days in my fields spoiled with treats and love. My heart broke once again and I felt like someone was telling me OTTBs were not for me.

For the next year I didn’t go on social media. I stopped checking rescue sights. I stopped looking at horse ads. I didn’t ride at all and I felt defeated.

Then one Tuesday, I opened up my phone and started scrolling through Instagram, and there was Voyager. A perfect little package horse, I thought at first glance. DEFHR’s Assistant Trainer, Leigha Schrader, was riding him in the picture and he was so fancy and cute. For the first time in a long time, I wanted to reach out.

A few days and emails later, I had an appointment to meet him. I hopped in the car and made the two-hour drive to Woodbine. I remember feeling so guarded when I was there, afraid to fall in love and have my heart broken again. Voyager was a perfect, quiet gentleman. So kind and sweet and I wanted to take him home that day, sign the paperwork and leave. Not to mention, he was also very talented.

Head Trainer Sara Strauss and Leigha were so patient with me, I’m sure they could sense my uncertainty to fall again and have it not work out. I told myself this time you have to let go. Let go, walk away and if it’s meant to be, he’ll be yours. So I drove home and Sara told me she had several other people coming to look at him that week. I told her with great hesitancy to go ahead and let them come.

A few weeks later, when the weather broke and I was able to make the ride back out there again, I emailed Sara to see if I could come visit. I had another horse in mind, thinking Voyager certainly wouldn’t still be available. To my amazement, she emailed me back and told me he was. I was ecstatic.

I arranged for a pre-purchase exam to be done, and at one point I kissed him on his nose as I turned him back out in the big gelding field, telling him I’d see him again real soon and that he’d be coming home.

The day arrived. I hooked up the trailer, two kids, two dogs, my mom in the passenger seat, and we headed to our adoption. We were about five miles out from DEFHR when a tire blew on Route 70. Something in the road caused several cars’ tires to shred and we were forced off the highway barely making it onto the median. My heart sank. And that feeling of uncertainty crept back.

To prove just how wonderful the staff is at DEFHR, Sara hopped in the intro division. My lifetime draught horse Voyager, now Storm, and I are enjoying our quiet little farm life on the eastern shore. We’ve been to one local show and he blew us all away, taking home first place and champion in the intro division. My little draft package horse turned out to be the perfect Storm, the perfect remedy for a broken heart. Who would have thought? He healed me. It’s funny how sometimes what we think we want or need isn’t what’s actually right for us. Storm helped me realize that sometimes if we let go, the right ones find us.

There’s no better feeling than knowing you’ve given a horse a second chance by adopting. We both needed another shot, and with the right time, the right people helping to bring us together, we’re on the right track.
Quest Inducted into Horse Stars Hall of Fame

The EQUUS Foundation and the United States Equestrian Federation established a Horse Stars Hall of Fame in 2013 dedicated to celebrating horses as athletes and humanitarians. The video on their fun, interactive website (horsestarhalloffame.org) has these stirring words about horses:

“Of all the animals that have naturally come from the wild, there are very few that have shown any disposition to tolerate man and live with him on the terms we impose. [The horse] is a giving creature who asks for nothing. Horses have served as man’s partner throughout the history of civilization. Through the centuries, without complaint, they have served in war, commerce, agriculture and entertainment. . . . I am astounded above all else by his inner self, his spirit and his sweet and generous nature.

Quest is one of 12 horses inducted by the EQUUS Foundation for his inspirational impact on people. Those who know him can attest to the magical and powerful bond he has with his current adopter, and had with his long-time trainer at DEFHR, Leigha Schrader, all the DEFHR volunteers who helped care for him, and people in the community who were inspired by his rescue story.

“Let us protect and guard these wonderful creatures to the best of our ability.”

“Letters from H” — DEFHR’s Answer to Finding More Homes for Rescue Horses

New research conducted by the ASPCA and published in 2017 suggests “there could be at least 1.2 million households—or approximately 2.3 million adults—in the United States with both the resources and desire to adopt horses in need” (from aspcapro.org).

Motivated by this research, and by the substantial increase in adoptions realized by The Right Horse Initiative in the last year, the ASPCA decided to focus its 2018 Help a Horse Day competition on adoption, offering grant prizes of $110,000 to rescues, sanctuaries, shelters or animal control agencies with the video or campaign that best promotes adoptions.

DEFHR won a $5,000 grant in last year’s competition by using Facebook to live stream videos of rescue horses available across Maryland, which led to an uptick in the number of Maryland horses being adopted. This year, DEFHR is again using social media to feature adoptable horses at rescues across the United States.

In the spirit of collaboration, Nicky Wetzelberger, DEFHR’s Outreach Director, contacted over 85 rescues across the U.S. from Maine to Hawaii, inviting them to participate. One or more in almost every state has responded and is sending pictures to be included in the campaign, with links to their organization. “Letters from H,” explained Nicky, “are meant to give people who may be looking for their right horse insight into the sentiments of the horses, straight from the rescues they call home.”

NOTE: Research statistics are from Estimating the Availability of Potential Homes for Unwanted Horses in the United States by Emily Weiss, Emily D. Dolan, Heather Mohan-Gibbons, Shannon Gramann and Margaret R. Slater, Research and Development, Community Outreach, ASPCA.
April Showers Bring May Flowers  
by Kara Kline, Development Intern

The iconic saying “April Showers Bring May Flowers” 

titles the time when the wet month of April brings heavy storms and days of rain. It makes the week feel never ending as the rain traps us indoors as we avoid drenched socks and mud puddles. With all the spare time, people may end up doing household chores to prepare for the warmer months spent outside. After the gray clouds have moved on and the sun comes out, the grass is picturesque with its tall, vibrant green color and voluminous trees full of fresh leaves. Finally, like the saying “April showers bring May flowers,” the flowers are in full bloom and sprouting all around town. The smell of fresh cut grass and newly bloomed flowers hangs in the air.

Flowers are not the only things that bloom around springtime. It is the season for baby birds chirping in treetops; baby bunnies hopping across the fresh grass; horses giving birth after 11 long months of carrying their foals. Just like how people do a little spring cleaning before spring arrives, the preparation that goes into the time before an animal is born is meticulous and very important for the health of mother and baby.

At DEFHR, the barn staff have been working around the clock preparing for five foals. When a mare comes into DEFHR that is suspected to be pregnant, the vet is contacted to run a series of tests. If they are pregnant, the barn staff not only have to worry about getting the mare back to health, but they also have to worry about the foal that the mare is carrying. A foal can hinder the mare’s rehabilitation as the nutrients that the mare is receiving are going straight to the foal.

Meagan Walters, the Equine Health Manager at DEFHR, determines a feeding plan for each pregnant mare, ensuring that they are getting the proper amount of food and enough nutrients to benefit both mother and foal. With cases like these, it is a matter of balancing mare and foal to ensure both are healthy enough for the stress and strain of birth.

Shawnee was put on foal watch May 30th. She delivered Eensie Everett at the end of June. Both are doing well! Photo courtesy of Pam Wheeler.

Shawnee experienced a liver infection, which was causing stress on her and her baby. She was running a high fever and had symptoms of colic. Medication could save her, but the medication’s effect on the foal would be unknown until it was born. Not treating Shawnee would not harm the foal but could worsen Shawnee’s health, thus still affecting the foal in the long run.

“We had to focus on Shawnee and hope that it did not affect her baby,” said Courtney. The decision to treat Shawnee has stabilized her, but now the staff must wait for the foal to be born to determine if it had an effect on the foal.

Foaling season can be a scary time because of the state that the horses are in and then having to go through the strain of birth. “I wasn’t sure that either were going to survive, because they were so malnourished,” said Dana Howson, a long-time volunteer at DEFHR about her foal watch experience with Rizza and her foal Ariel’s Assateague.

Mares are put on foal watch depending on what signs the mare is showing. It could be anywhere from 6 weeks to the day before birth; some may not even show signs. “We look for the foal to drop down, milk bag to form, the tail bed to soften, anything that may show the foal is on its way,” said Alyvia Combass, barn staff at DEFHR.

Dana is part of the night staff who stay overnight to watch over horses that are sick, pregnant or may need an extra eye to ensure that they are safe throughout the night. Dana explains that night watch is for horses in critical condition that need to be monitored 24/7 and for pregnant mares expected to give birth soon.

During night foal watch, volunteers are given instructions on what to look out for, anything from the horse acting distressed or biting her stomach to going into labor. “If something happens observing-wise that shouldn’t,” said Dana, “then you contact on-call staff immediately.” Dana was excited about the success of Ariel’s birth, considering the state Rizza was in.

For Dana, doing night and foal watch has “allowed me to see the animals in a different light, because it’s quiet and no one is here.” She gets to see the interaction between mother and baby, “just watching how wobbly she was when she got up, and curious about everything, and just cute.”

Springtime brings many new adorable faces to the world, but in the world of rescue, it can be a longer, scarier journey before we get to see that end result. By caring for the horses as they come in, we are not only helping them today, but we are giving them a brighter future.

So as we finish up our spring cleaning and preparedness around the barn, we wait for our new little ones to arrive and continue caring for them and for those to come.
Days End Farm Horse Rescue is a leader in equine education. During our time at DEFHR we have had so many opportunities to expand our knowledge and apply it in our hands-on volunteer activities. Because of these opportunities, we have also had the privilege of reaching out to others and sharing our experiences and knowledge. My son Michael teaches DEFHR’s homeschool classes, a program we started and is entering its fourth year. The classes run Sept-May and incorporate a wide variety of topics that pertain to horse health, care, handling and responsible horse ownership. Each class consists of classroom time, an activity that relates to the current lesson and always ends with hands-on time spent with the horses.

We love The Scoop, the staff’s monthly educational experience program for volunteers. Each month is a new and different topic which typically ties into what is happening at the farm. For example, since we have expectant moms on the farm, the topic in May was foals and foaling. It is a great opportunity to get all your questions answered from our knowledgeable staff.

We, along with many other volunteers, are also members of the mentor program. The mentors are on the farm to assist any volunteer with anything they may need help with. The first day at the farm can be a bit overwhelming but the mentors are there to make sure it’s also enjoyable. Mentors also teach barn chores and horse handling training classes for new volunteers. It’s always fun to see new volunteers interacting with horses for the first time.

Hosting groups at the farm is another opportunity that we are involved with. The groups may consist of school children, corporate groups, 4-H clubs or Scouts. Their day typically starts with a welcome/information session and a tour of the farm, and then the group typically spends their day doing a project at the farm. Groups are always enjoyable because you meet such a wide variety of people. What we love the most, though, is how curious they are about the work done at DEFHR. It’s a great opportunity to share history and experiences, and to educate.

We often attend horse handling clinics, which teach hands-on skills under the supervision of either DEFHR’s trainers or a guest trainer. You are matched with a horse that is going to teach you so we always expect an exciting and challenging class. Almost every day at the farm provides an opportunity to give a visitor a tour and educate them about the farm and DEFHR’s mission. We find that visitors are very impressed by the work being done. What is interesting is the wide range of visitors. We have met people who had never heard of DEFHR and happened to be driving by and saw the tour sign, and we have met people who come often just to see how things are going.

Education and outreach happens every day at the farm. Volunteers are always sharing interesting equine articles or experiences. The staff is always willing to take their time and teach us new things. And the horses themselves through our daily interaction are always teaching us something new.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” ~ Nelson Mandela

Imagine a world where horses are free from abuse and neglect. DEFHR is working to create such a world by making sure horse owners and caretakers know what the basic needs of the equine are, by strengthening horse owners’ horse handling skills, by spreading best horsemanship practices, by preparing animal protection officials to intervene for at-risk horses, and by teaching young people compassion toward animals. DEFHR works toward accomplishing this goal through humane education, and we have now become an official partner with the Humane Education Coalition, an international alliance for collective impact, whose mission is “to advance the field of humane education for the betterment of all living things.”

With collaborations such as this, and through partnerships with you, DEFHR supporters, we can work together to change the world.

**DEFHR Leads in Equine Education**

*by Sandy Petr, Volunteer*

Volunteers Michael, Sandy and Rhetta Petr with Quest after an education session.
Impactful Training Opportunities at DEFHR

Did you know that DEFHR offers LOTS of training opportunities for the public? There is training for everyone, from basic barn chores and horse handling for the novice horse person, to “Expert Witness Preparation” for people being called to be the voice for horses in court.

Mucking out stalls and leading horses may seem basic, but to those unfamiliar with horses and their requirements, learning how to do these valuable tasks may be the first step to equine ownership. For first responders and guardians of animal welfare, knowing the intrinsic needs of horses is the key to knowing when to intervene on their behalf.

If you look at DEFHR’s website events page (www.defhr.org/about/events), you will see their events by date, including educational programs, classes and trainings. Some are specifically designed for professionals while others are targeted at volunteers and plain old horse lovers.

I have attended several DEFHR trainings, including the monthly “Scoop” for volunteers and taught by the barn managers on the first Tuesday and last Saturday of the month. These trainings provide information about basic everyday horse care (for example, taking vitals, administering medications, and knowing what it looks like when a horse founders or has weakness in the legs), and one Scoop session went over how to give a tour to visitors to the farm (visitors are welcome to visit the farm every day of the year, so tour-givers are in high demand!).

I have also attended classes in the outdoor arena for the general public, working hands-on with a horse, such as “Bonding through Groundwork” where I learned how to safely lead and control a horse. And I have participated in classes given in the Legacy Barn (indoor educational facility) provided by DEFHR staff and other first-class facilitators who come to the farm to lend their expertise on such topics as “Rehabilitation and Refeeding” and “I’m Trying to Tell You I’m Sick.” Hearing the stories and watching the videos offered during these classes is enlightening and offers the opportunity to look behind the scenes. You get to know details of where some of the rescue horses came from, and to understand what it takes to rehabilitate horses that have been starved and abused/neglected and ultimately get them to their forever homes.

Attending DEFHR classes can give insight into the legal issues and challenges involved with impounds (including when and whether to impound), rescue logistics (such as procedures for keeping horses and humans safe), the rehabilitation process and so much more!

For DEFHR, one of the important steps in the rehab process is getting legal custody of the horses that have been seized, which sometimes entails going to court. This is important because without it, caregivers are limited in the health decisions they can make on behalf of the horses. Without legal custody, for example, surgery or castration cannot be performed.

I attended “Expert Witness Preparation” in March of this year, given by Gillian Deegan, Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney from Botetourt County, Virginia. In addition to being an attorney, Deegan has worked with animal control and trained as a veterinary technologist, and is an expert on animal welfare. The attendees were animal control officers and veterinarians. Some were new to the job; others were seasoned professionals; all were there to learn how to be a witness for the animals.

Here’s what I learned from this fascinating class:

• An expert is a professional with training and education in a specialized field of experience; an individual who possesses superior knowledge of a subject, including an eyewitness, an owner, or a veterinarian providing results of an examination.

• In cases of animal abuse and neglect, everyone who testifies is considered an “expert” when providing detailed, authoritative testimony. Therefore, it is important to begin testimony by giving one’s full name and official status (for example, “Officer John Smith,” not John Smith). This sets the tone for being heard as an expert.

• Witnesses testifying on behalf of a horse in an abuse and/or neglect case must provide fact-based information, such as: At the time of seizing the animals, was water and hay available, or were the animals eating dirt? Were the horses bone thin with ragged-looking coats, or did they have normal weight and shiny coats? Were the horses fearful and lethargic, or calm and responsive?

• How well the witness presents facts and connects with others in the courtroom can impact how effective their testimony is. Reading from a script is not allowed, so practicing before trial is essential so the witness can make eye contact with the attorneys and jury. Referring to notes is acceptable in order to ensure accurate presentation of details. Having supporting evidence such as pictures (before rehab and after rehab, for example) is a good way to provide visual evidence of the issue at hand. Court cases
can be adversarial, but the most effective witness is one who avoids getting caught up in the emotion and states facts simply and clearly.

This is a very brief snapshot of one specific class. Here is an overview of other classes and trainings available at DEFHR:

- **Field Trips, Scout Days and Off-Site Presentations.** The farm hosts field trips for schools and scouts and will even travel to make presentations at schools, colleges, community organizations, churches and businesses. And DEFHR will work with individual groups to maximize their visit. Just this past April, DEFHR hosted 315 students over two days: 175 students from Patuxent Valley Middle School and 140 scouts from different troops. The participants were broken up into small groups and ushered from one volunteer-led station to the next, experiencing tours and hands-on grooming and leading sessions with the horses.

- **Equine Cruelty Investigator Clinic and Large Animal Rescue Training (LART).** These one- and two-day programs are for equine cruelty investigators, animal protection officials and the general public.

- **Volunteer Continued Education.** Throughout the year, DEFHR offers classes on a variety of topics free to volunteers. Some of this year’s topics include:
  - **Rehabilitation/Refeeding.** Information covers what happens to a horse during starvation, how to feed the starved horse while avoiding refeeding syndrome (which can occur when a horse is fed too many calories too quickly), how to address dental and hoof issues, determining parasite load and the deworming process, and behavioral issues.
  - **Farm Inspector Training.** Volunteers who want to help place DEFHR rescue horses in second chance homes take this class to learn what to look for when reviewing farms or facilities where a horse will be housed once it leaves DEFHR (through adoption or SOS foster care).
  - **Youth Legacy Program.** This is a series of programs held during summer and spring break for volunteers ages 7-17. In addition to volunteering, participants learn about horse care and handling, and includes games on horseback. Financial aid is available.
  - **Homeschool Program.** Designed for children who are homeschooled, students in this program learn about equines by working hands-on with DEFHR’s rescue horses. Topics differ each month, but in each session, students participate in classroom instruction followed by hands-on activity to reinforce the lesson.
  - **Horse Care Education.** This is a series of clinics designed to teach long-time horse owners as well as people new to horses such topics as how to bond with your horse, how to know when your horse needs a doctor, treating hoof abscesses and common ailments, etc.

I encourage you to go to the website to see if there are classes that peak your interest. I promise they will be worth your time and effort. 🐴

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**Legacy Camp Unfolds**

Participants in DEFHR’s Legacy Summer Camp will be spending time at the farm helping care for our horses, playing games on horseback, learning about equines and their needs, while bonding with horses and making friends.

**Welcome 2018 campers!**
A Polish Arabian Mare Named Udaya
by Fred Glueckstein

During the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, public attention in the United States focused on the Arabian Horse breed. At the time, each country in the world was invited to participate and exhibit, and Turkey chose to show 45 Arabian Horses in a “wild eastern” exhibition. Among the imported Arabians presented were the mare Nejdme and the stallion Obeyran. Both horses subsequently became foundation animals’ No. 1 and No. 2 in the Arabian Stud Book of America, which was later changed to the Arabian Horse Registry of America.

One hundred and twenty-five years after the Chicago World’s Fair, a Polish Arabian horse, a 12-year-old mare named Udaya [pronounced U-day-a] came to the attention of DEFHR. A neglect case from Talbot County, Maryland, Udaya arrived at DEFHR in June 2017.

The mare was severely emaciated and had neglected hoofs. Udaya’s condition was scored under the Henneke Body Condition Scoring System. Scores range from 1 to 9 with one being poor and nine extremely fat. The ideal range for most horses is 4 to 6. Udaya had a Henneke score of 1.5.

The Arabian Horse is one of the world’s oldest breeds. The story of Udaya’s type of Arab, the Polish Arabian, began in the 16th century. Writings in Poland then mentioned pure-bred Arabians used by the army, which were taken from the Turkish army as spoils of war. In 1699, a truce between Poland and Turkey allowed Poles to travel to Arabia and purchase Arabians. The horses were used to improve local stock. Its progeny were used for the Polish cavalry, farming and drawing carriages. During World War I, the Polish Arabian studs were almost annihilated. It has been written that of the 500 Arabian broodmares in Poland in 1914, only 25 were alive in 1918. In 1921, Poland regained its independence, and a new Arabian breeding program was established at Janów Podlaski Stud.

In the 1930s, a small number of Americans, notably Henry B. Babson of Chicago and J.M. Dickinson of Tennessee, imported Polish Arabians. World War II saw Poland lose 89 percent of its broodmares. The Janów Podlaski Stud was severely damaged and 80 percent of its horses perished. Some Polish Arabians, however, were saved by Polish horsemen, who continued to breed them.

In the late 1950s, British breeder Patricia Lindsay bought Polish Arabians for her own program, and became a purchasing agent for Americans. Today there are three state Studs as well as private ones in Poland.

Arabians are described as having a “dished profile with small muzzle; widely spaced large eyes; graceful curving neck; sloped shoulders; withers not prominent; short, strong back; deep girth; high set tail; hard, clean limbs; well-shaped feet, and silky mane and tail.”

At DEFHR, after Udaya was completely rehabilitated, she was evaluated and began training with DEFHR’s Head Horse Trainer, Sara Strauss, with the ultimate goal of finding the right person and situation to adopt Udaya. This required outlining short- and long-term goals for working with Udaya.

Sara explained, “short-term goals included teaching her how to be caught in the field; round penning; lunging; desensitizing with tarps, training sticks and flags; obstacle work using bridges, mailbox, kiddie pool, ball, jumps; accepting tack and rider; learning steering, stopping, backing; learning to lower the poll and engage the hind end.”

Short-term goals also included trotting over poles under saddle; trail riding; trailer loading; clipping; tying; bathing; and walk/trot/canter work under saddle. At the time of this writing, Udaya has had about 40 sessions since she was initially evaluated in September 2017.

A lot has been accomplished during these sessions, leading to physical and mental changes. “When we first started,” said Sara, “Udaya was quite wide-barreled [the barrel is the big round area of the horse’s body below the back where the ribs are located.], but now she is starting to lose the hay belly look and gain a topline [topline is the entire top of the horse from poll to tail; when a horse has no topline it means it has no muscle there] and neck muscles.”

While the body is being transformed, the mind is being molded as well, becoming more relaxed and willing. “She is now able to be groomed and led by less experienced horse people,” said Sara.
Udaya Today
Thanks to the dedication of DEFHR staff like Sara and volunteers, Udaya continues to make impressive strides. One day soon, Udaya will be adopted and be given the love and affection that she was cheated out of, before regaining it at DEFHR. as well, becoming more relaxed and willing. “She is now able to be groomed and led by less experienced horse people,” said Sara.

According to Sara, “Udaya was a bit difficult to learn how to ride as she has an extremely springy trot! Her canter is beautiful and comfortable to ride. She was able to lead the first trail ride that she went on, and she was extremely confident and happy to be out in the woods. She was brave about leaving the other horses and even if she did see something that concerned her, she would pause and then continue happily on. Udaya is going to make a wonderful partner for someone who would like to dabble in a little dressage or enjoy the trails.”

The individual who is fortunate to adopt Udaya will acquire a wonderful horse who deserves a new life. For the future owner, he or she will also be fortunate to acquire a Polish Arabian, a member of the famous Arabian breed that is a part of the long illustrious history of the horse.

NOTE: The history of the Polish Arabian is from The Polish-Arabian Horse: A Very Brief History by Justine Jabionska.

A Chincoteague Pony Named Rizza
by Susan Gordon
People the world over know the story of the Chincoteague Pony Swim, made famous by Marguerite Henry’s Misty of Chincoteague published in 1947.

This year, Wednesday July 25, marks the 93rd year of the annual Chincoteague Pony Swim. Up to 50,000 spectators will be gathering to watch saltwater cowboys swim the ponies across the Assateague Channel and come ashore on Chincoteague Island for the auctioning of the foals. Many of them will wonder how this special breed got to Assateague Island in the first place.

It was the legend of the ponies coming from a Spanish shipwreck centuries ago that lured Henry to the island in 1946. Historical records show that on September of 1750, a hurricane-damaged Spanish galleon called La Galga ran ashore on Assateague near the Maryland-Virginia border. Whether horses were on board is a mystery.

In fact, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the “custodians” of the horses today, have discredited the notion. Both agencies say that the horses were sent over to Assateague by mainland farmers to avoid fencing laws and taxation of livestock. This is the narrative found on their websites and tourist literature.

The story is ongoing, however. Researchers have more recently found that there is a “close genetic resemblance between the Assateague Island horses and the Paso Fino breed which descended from animals brought to the New World by the Spanish.” And archaeologists continue to search for remains of the ship and its holdings. Who knows? Maybe a tiny horseshoe will be found.

Since their discovery in the 1700s, the original beach ponies have been interbred with other horses that had been brought periodically over from the mainland. After a hurricane in 1750 decimated the herd, they recovered thanks to the addition of other horses such as the Shetlands. To reduce inbreeding, introduce colors and improve breed conformation, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department deliberately introduces different breeds.

Each year people intrigued with the Chincoteague Pony take part in an event that spans several days. They come to watch saltwater cowboys round up adults and their foals, swim them across the channel, and lead them on the beach walk and pony parade. Some with winning bids take foals home with them.

Rizza is a Chincoteague Pony impounded from a farm in Frederick County, Maryland. She and 11 others were brought to DEFHR because they were starving, and several were pregnant, including Rizza. She gave birth to a filly five weeks later.

Rizza’s herd mates, two other Chincoteague Ponies, a Quarter Horse and six miniature horses, are now getting the best care possible and are expected to be available for adoption once they are fully rehabilitated.

A Miniature Horse Named OkiDoki

OkiDoki on arrival at DEFHR.

Six of the equines from the Frederick County impound on April 17th were Miniature Horses. OkiDoki is one of them. He is a stallion who was starved. He was also full of lice, which caused rough coat and mane, itching and hair loss. He will be castrated once through rehab to address the over-population of horses without homes.

Did you know . . .

• While miniature horses may be considered very small ponies due to their height (usually less than 34-38 inches), many retain horse characteristics and are considered “horses” by their respective registries.

• There are over 30 different registries for miniature horses. Some breed standards prefer pony characteristics such as short, stout legs and elongated torsos; others prefer ordinary horse proportions.

• Small mummified equines have been found in the rich tombs of Ancient Egypt. Mini horses were first developed in Europe in the 1600s, and by 1765 they were seen frequently as the pets of nobility. In France, the mini horse dates back to the Renaissance, and in 1650 were at the Palace at Versailles where King Louis XIV (The Sun King) kept a vast zoo of unusual animals. In Spain too the royal infants were offered the first small Argentin horses as gifts.

• The first small horses in the United States date to 1861, when John Rarey imported four Shetland ponies, one of which was 24 inches (61 cm) tall. Additional small British horses, as well as small Dutch mine horses, were brought to the U.S. throughout the late 1800s.

Mini horses are generally bred to be friendly and to interact well with people, and are often kept as family pets. They are also trained as service animals to assist people with disabilities, for driving, equine agility, and other competitive horse events.

Days End Farm Horse Rescue

A Pony of the Americas Named Daytona

The Pony of the Americas is an official breed that began in 1954 when a horseman lawyer bought an Arabian/Appaloosa mare who had been bred to a Shetland stallion. The resulting colt was white with what looked like black paint smears all over his body. He named the colt Black Hand, got together with breeder friends to launch the Pony Of the Americas Club, and set the foundation for a new breed registry.

To be registered as a POA, a pony has to be between 46 inches and 56 inches. The head needs to be small and dished as the Arab; the body muscled as the Quarter Horse; and have Appaloosa coloring. Today the breed is known as being gentle, durable, intelligent and easy to train.

Dales’ Daytona Dream came to DEFHR in October 2017 from Caroline County, Maryland, along with four other horses. She has a very sweet personality and would be great for endurance or competitive trail riding. Daytona is 19 years old, 14 hands and has experience with obstacles and ground work, including bridges and tarps.

Rescue horse Daytona on the trail.
**Waiting for Adoption**

**Indiana**

Fondly known as “Indy”! She has taken her time to showcase her potential, slowly building her trust in our trainer and learning how to develop into a good citizen. Indy loves showing off her smooth, lovely gaits on the lunge line while trotting over poles. She has shown off her intelligence by being able to do most of the groundwork off-line and enjoys following the trainer around at a trot.

She is learning how to continue to develop the correct muscles for under saddle work and has been working hard to please. Indy is currently going walk/trot/canter and has started riding in the open field and seems to rather enjoy that. She is learning how to tie and to accept that vaccinations only sting for a second! She ground ties well, enjoys a warm bath and comes when called (most of the time). Being the smart (and sometimes opinionated) gal that she is, she really needs a special human to continue her training and give her a structured home, but also continue to work on the ground with her as she really shines when playing at liberty.

Indy has shown her versatility under saddle by going either western or English. She is also learning how to ride with just a neck rope! She has a great whoa and a lovely back up along with some beautiful turn on the forehand and haunches. She is trying to show that she wants to be a dressage horse by working on stretching into contact and even trying out a little bit of leg yielding, shoulder-fore and haunches-in.

**Country**

Country is an older gelding looking for the perfect retirement home! He has a fun personality that will make you smile and laugh often. Country loves bath time, and all the attention he can get! He would make the perfect companion for mares or geldings, and can be kept in a stall or out 24/7. His in-your-pocket personality entertains for hours on end. Let’s just say... He’s a ham! Can you give Country the forever home he deserves?

Specialty T-shirt sales helped raise awareness of the number of rescues across the U.S. during DEFHR’s Help A Horse Day campaign.
Dressed in “equestrian chic” cocktail attire, 230 people attended DEFHR’s Wines & Equines Gala at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland, on April 7. Equine Ambassadors Eddie and Isaac were on hand to greet party goers before they went on to cocktails and a wine pairing dinner, followed by a sometimes raucous live auction. The event raised $150,000 thanks to attendees and sponsors. DEFHR was delighted to meet many new supporters at this year’s event.

Pictures are courtesy of Sherri Holdridge Photography (sherriholdridgephotography.com).
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GRANTORS

- ASPCA
- Bernice Barbour Foundation
- Mars Foundation
- Maryland Horse Industry Board
- Mary Jo and Hank Greenberg Animal Welfare Foundation
- Ray Rowe Trusts for Animals
- The Paul L. Stine, Sr. Memorial Fund/Community Foundation of Frederick County
- Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Foundation
- Watershed Animal Fund/Right Horse Initiative

NEW ARRIVALS:

- Alicat, Beatrice, Clover, Darby, Evelyn, Finnigan, Gretta, Harlow, Ivy, Josie, Kerry, Lawrence, Maple, Netti, OkiDoki, Pride, Quizno, Rizza, Shawnee, Trinket, Unity, Vinni, Windy, Ximen, Yittle, Zipurah, Ariel’s Assateague

Adopted

Sequoia’s Shade, Kalarime, Tia, Montego, Rocky, Gaston, Uber, Trixie, Voyager, Quincy, Nalani, Taylor’s Tune, Jericho, Veda, Marilyn Monroe, Chloe, Puzzle Pieces, October Orchid, Kitkat, Kaboom, Autumn Afternoon, Georgia’s Graceful Gait, Udaya, Unique Udelle, Farrah’s Fortune and Fame, Outback Osbourne, Kit Kat, Belmont, Nike, Yaharia, Lisbon, Windsor, Ilena, Berkeley, Kandy Kisses

RETURNED

Baja Blast

RIP

Alicat, Netti, Baja Blast, Josie, Ximen, Maple, Ivy

WISH LIST

For the Horses
- Ivermectin/Praziquantel dewormer
- Waterproof rain sheets and lightweight blankets (sizes 69-81)
- Triple Crown Senior feed (Southern States)
- Electrolytes
- Cosequin
- Plastic pitchforks
- Gift cards for Southern States and Farmer’s Cooperative
- Timothy/orchard grass 2nd cutting

For Education Programs
- Walkie talkies
- Stethoscopes
- New desktop computers
- Lamination sleeves
- Clipboards
- Dry-erase markers

For the Office
- Copy paper
- Forever stamps
- Paper clips
- Pens

Special thanks to:
Rebecca Gaffney, Contributing Editor
and
Bette Dolan, THE OUTER OFFICE,
for printing this issue of “Horse Talk.”

"A horse is the projection of peoples’ dreams about themselves—strong, powerful, beautiful—and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence.”

~ Pam Brown
YES! I want to help the horses!  

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Friday Kick-Off Party  
September 28, 6pm-9pm  
19th Street Band, Hops for Horses Beer Garden and BBQ from The Town Grill

Saturday Festival  
September 29, 11am-4pm  
Vendors, children’s games, pony rides, food, beer garden,  
live music by The Rusk Shakers,  
and of course the horses

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Thank you for your support.  
Together we are protecting horses and educating people!

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