



Speak Up For Horses

www.speakupforhorses.org

Fall 2009

Newsletter

We are excited to announce that Ed Brockman has accepted our nomination as president of Speak Up for Horses, replacing Paula Drake of Cincinnati, OH.



Not only are we adding our first male board member but a solidly convicted believer in our mission. His enthusiasm and dedication to support our efforts is both inspiring and heartwarming. A 13 year long loyal friendship and his unsurpassed sense of integrity are just some of the important attributes he is bringing to the team. And of course, he LOVES horses!

Annie Haag has accepted the position of vice president and her priority will continue to be the welfare of all horses. Education about responsible horse ownership and debunking the myths of horse slaughter play a huge part in her convictions. She will also continue to work with local trainers at the track to safely re-home their charges after their racing career has come to an end.

Our first board meeting following the reorganization of Speak Up proved to be extremely productive. With a strong new leadership in place we will finally be able to move forward towards our goals. Besides brainstorming about new ideas we also reflected on the issues at hand that are detrimental to our horse population.



Mission Impossible????
We need your help!



With the economy hitting everyone hard and feed prices going through the roof, some horse owners are finding themselves in dire straits. Even for well bred horses the bottom has fallen out of the market. Kudos to the breeders that have decided to re-assess their business practices, shame on the ones that ignored the warning signs and continue to produce foal after foal with no buyers in sight.

Cases of neglect are increasing throughout the state of Kentucky, even with pastures available in the summer months. Too many horses grazing on too little land to sustain them. With winter coming on fast, we predict the numbers of neglected horses will increase drastically.

At this time we are trying to assist several owners who are relinquishing their horses to avoid these animals ending up starving to death come winter. In doing so, we need funds to help with expenses that may occur when these horses are being moved to local rescues and foster homes. All donations are tax deductible.

In the not so distant future, we will be doing the same for a group of approximately 45 Quarter Horses that will be either released to or seized by the county in which charges were filed against the owner for animal cruelty.



Speak Up For Horses Training Program

Shelly and volunteer Karen spent the summer traveling from east to west and south and north through our beautiful state of Kentucky. 50 separate counties have now benefited from our "How To Recognize Abuse And Neglect" education program. 70 more counties to go.

We have met a lot of fantastic law enforcement and animal control officers as well as some that definitely need to learn more about horses, neglect and the law that allows them to prosecute offenders to the fullest extend.

Shelly and board member Terry were invited to speak at the University of Ohio's Equine Program and the attending students raised many good questions. What a fantastic group of horse lovers.



A senseless act

Last month we were contacted by a new Kentucky rescue: She woke up to find a starving horse dumped in her front yard. This poor animal was too weak to eat or drink. Attempts to hydrate him failed. The attending vet made the difficult decision to recommend euthanasia after she determined his age to be around 30 years old and suffering from cancer. Even she was in tears over this unspeakable cruelty to an animal. Who would abandon a dying horse? Speak Up For Horses was able to assist with half the vet costs incurred. The sheriff was contacted and charges will be filed if the owner can be found. Flyers have been distributed throughout the area in hopes of someone recognizing this horse.



If you see a neglected horse, please contact your Animal Control and Sheriff's Department immediately!



Happy Owns The World

It most certainly is time for an update on our wonderful boy Happy.

After a year and a half, he is still not complaining about his special treatment and now graces the home page of our [website](#). Check it out and then take a trip to his very own special page with updated pictures from the hot month of July 2009.

Your continued financial support for Happy is most appreciated. Not only does he continue to eat like there is no tomorrow, but the awful wound on his leg still needs daily attention and frequent visits from his vet to assure it is healing without complications.

His number one fan Miss Jamie spoiled him rotten not only with carrots and apples during her last visit, but she also sent him the most fantastic Christmas gift ever: His very own leather halter proudly displaying his new name, which says it all: Happy.

Keep Them At Home Hay Fund

Once again we are gearing up for calls from locals who have been hit by a temporary economic setback like the loss of a job, looking for help with providing for their horses short term. Last year we were successful in keeping several owners from having to give up their beloved animals. If you would like to help us be prepared to keep horses at home with responsible owners, you can send donations for our hay fund via paypal or by mailing a check to our address. All donations are tax deductible.



From The Track To The Beach

by Annie Haag

Long before I became involved with Speak Up For Horses, I fell in love with the thoroughbreds I was introduced to at Churchill Downs.

Trainers and owners alike welcomed this curious female who ignored the chuckles coming from the male onlookers as she was walking from stall to stall placing little kisses onto the noses that would pop out to investigate the "newbie" on the block. Did I have carrots? Peppermints? Silly me, kisses wasn't what they were looking for. But they humored me and eventually seemed to enjoy exchanging new means of attention that didn't involve just special treats.

My mornings on the backside on the weekends made life all that much better. Already having two retired race horses of my own at that time, it was clear that life after the track wasn't a given for these magnificent yet sensitive creatures. Before long I was networking for them. Networking to find appropriate caring homes with a future away from the track, with people who would make the horses' welfare their number one priority.

Tremolino Trick was one of the beauties I was able to help into a new chapter of life. His trainer Troy, who I adore and admire, wanted nothing but the best for this funny character of a horse. One has to realize though, that not all horses have such caring trainers nor do all thoroughbreds end up in a better place after racing.

Thanks to the invention of the Internet, networking is no longer limited to the same county or even the same state. Friendships have been formed via a cable from the wall or small antennas sticking up from a wireless modem. What a concept.

Tremolino Trick's search for a new home hit the waves. At lightning speed he spiked the interest of many. Who can resist a silly face like his.



References, pictures and much more was filling up the inbox until a new caring owner was found. Not long after, Tremolino Trick hopped on a trailer and was on his way to Arkansas; not to Oaklawn Park to run another race, but to start a new career as a pleasure horse.

What a world traveler he has become. Via several other stops and over the years, he finally ended up in beautiful California. Thanks to the Internet a new owner was able to track me down and send an e-mail asking if I remembered Tramp, as he is now lovingly called. Of course! I remember all the horses that have touched my life. I may have no memory of some people that I have met in the past, but a horse? Ha!

His new owner is using Tramp for "Mounted Combat" and naturally I had to ask, what type of discipline that is, LOL.

She sent pictures and explained that a group of young horse enthusiasts take their mounts to renaissance fairs and dress up in costumes and pretend to protect the kings and queens of earlier times.

Now that sounds like a lot of fun!



Horses are smart and they can learn a new discipline at most any time in their lives.

Racehorses who were speeding down a track at 30 miles an hour can be calm and unflappable on a trail or compete strongly in a hunter/jumper circuit.

Little miss pony who has been lugging the kids around the backyard can be taught to pull a buggy around the neighborhood.

That draft horse that was plowing a field can take rather quickly to a saddle and rider.

If you are planning to add a new horse to your life, remember there are many looking for second chances and willing to learn "new tricks".

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters and hope you will continue to travel along with us on the road to a better future for our horses.



With winter approaching, don't forget to check out our sweatshirts to help keep you warm. Please send an e-mail to info@SpeakUpForHorses.org for availability of colors and sizes.



Ed, Shelly, Annie, Terry, Paulette and Happy

