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Spring Hill

Horse Rescue

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FOUNDER NOTES:

by Gina Brown


Welcome back! It's been a while since our last newsletter. Spring Hill had a very busy 2010. We took over 40 animals into our rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing program and found loving homes for many. We receive numerous calls from horse owners that no longer want or cannot afford their horses for various reasons. Sadly, we don't have the room to take them all in, but we DO use our resources to help owners find their horses new homes by networking with other organizations and by posting their information on our Petfinder.com database—we get over 8,000 hits per month!

Surprisingly, we have not had to take in any animals that have been seized through animal cruelty complaints in the past year. Many cruelty complaints are unintentional neglect rather than abuse. Some horse owners just don't have the knowledge to properly care for their horses. Sometimes it's a financial issue where owners are forced to cut care due to loss of income or other family tragedies. Our approach to these situations is reaching out to help. This might mean helping people re-home their animals safely, educating them about proper nutrition and care, or in some rare cases, taking temporary custody of the animals while the owners —get their lives back together. By helping the owners, we help the horses stay in a home where they are loved and will receive the care they need.

We are very lucky indeed to have once again received help in reaching our goals this past year. This past Spring we were blessed with a matching grant from the Vermont Country Store to purchase a much-needed truck to transport animals, pick up hay and perform other necessary farm work. We could not have gotten this grant if not for the matching support of many generous people. And thank you for your generous support this Fall in response to the Appeal Letter from Dorothy, our Spokeshorse. Spring Hill's Volunteer Program was also launched this past year. Brenna Wright, our part-time Volunteer Coordinator, has been doing a fabulous job recruiting and supporting volunteers to help not only at the farm but with organizational tasks such as special events

like the Rutland Halloween Parade, fund raising and cruelty response. In fact, this newsletter has been organized by Volunteer Ellen Mitchell, who also painted and decorated the Volunteer Room and Barn Bathroom. As they say, —it takes a village, and horse rescue is no different.

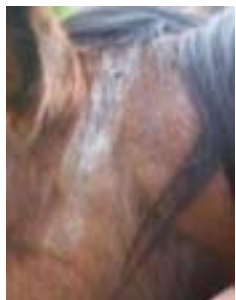
In the year 2009, my daughter Zoey was diagnosed with APML, which is a rare form of leukemia. Through aggressive chemotherapy and a strong will, Zoey was announced to be in remission in early winter 2010. Sadly, through a regular maintenance checkup, it was found that her leukemia had returned and she would have to have a bone marrow transplant. In early November Zoey and I headed to the Boston Children's Hospital for treatment and recovery, which is where I'm writing this from. Through the compassionate support of wonderful volunteers, donors and staff, Spring Hill has been able to function and carry out its mission with ease. Not only as the founder of Spring Hill, but as a mother and dedicated animal lover, I cannot thank you all enough for the tremendous support that has been given to this organization. It's allowed me to focus on the recovery of my daughter without worry. I would like to especially thank the Vermont Community Foundation for awarding Spring Hill a grant to hire extra help for the care of the animals while Zoey and I are off the farm.


We are hoping that by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, Zoey and I will finally be out of the hospital and her recovery will continue in the comfort of our own home. Thank you all so much for your continued, unflagging support. 

Update: Zoey and Gina are home. Yahoo.

IN THIS ISSUE:	
FOUNDER NOTES	1
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	2
THINKING CAP	2
THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS.	3
THANK YOU!	3
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.	3
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?	4
"WISH LIST"	5
FUNDRAISING	5
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!	6
VOLUNTEER / DONATION FORM	7
ADVERTISEMENTS & EVENTS	7
A TRIBUTE TO DIXIE.	8

ATTENTION! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.
Spring Hill Horse Rescue take in two horses from imminent danger...a third horse does not survive.



On Friday, May 20th, Spring Hill was asked by law officials to take custody of two horses who are involved in an animal cruelty case. Seneca and Happy are two mares who were reported to be starved and tied to trees out in the middle of the woods. A third horse, a gelding named Chance who was down and also tied to a tree, sadly had to be euthanized at the scene. No other information about the case can be released at this time. Seneca, especially, is emaciated and in need of careful nutritional rehabilitation to bring her back to health. This will take months, but Spring Hill staff is expert at rehabbing starved animals and we are hopeful that she will pull through. Both horses also required medical examinations and will need ongoing medication, supplements and hoof rehabilitation. Please make a donation today to help with these expenses. 

Raw sores around Happy's head are a reminder of how long she'd been tied to a tree. Seneca's rectum has sunk because there is no fat and barely any muscle left to support its correct position. Seneca's hooves are overgrown and riddled with painful abscesses. This is Seneca three days after arriving at Spring Hill. She has no strength to get up after lying down; we have to hoist her up with the tractor.

SHHR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gina Brown, Executive Director

Del Beebe, Board Chair

Brenna Wright Secretary/Treasurer

TBD: Board Member(s)

TBD: Vice Chair

THINKING CAP

Hot and Bothered:

Why Horse Lovers Say Neigh to Premarin

By Doe Dahm

Every year, the bay mare becomes pregnant. She spends eight months of her pregnancy tethered in a narrow stall. The space is so narrow she can't even lie down or turn her head. When she gives birth, she is put out to pasture with other mares and rebred. Her owners only allow her three months with her foal—instead of the usual six—before the foals are whisked away to market.

During the mare's pregnancy her owners collect her urine in a rubber cup strapped to her vulva. With it, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories produce Premarin and other hormone replacement therapy drugs such as PremPro, PremPac and PremPhrase, which provide some comfort to 9 million American women during their menopausal years. To her owners and the pharmaceutical industry the mare is a urine factory valuable only because she can become pregnant and pee.

Since research has proven that Premarin is linked to breast cancer and other side effects in women, there has been a decline in production of the hormone in the US and Canada. Unfortunately, rather than closing completely, there is a rumor that PMU farms are starting up in the UK.

Pregnant Mare Urine (PMU) farms breed about 40,000 foals annually, according to the humane society of the united states (HSUS). Rescue groups save some; a few become riding horses. Most are shipped to Canada, where they will be killed for human consumption in Europe and asia. When their mothers no longer produce estrogen-rich urine, they, too, head to the slaughterhouse.


But according to HSUS, despite efforts by various animal welfare groups, Premarin shows no sign of disappearing and approximately 500 PMU farms exist today in Canada's western provinces, North Dakota and Minnesota. —As millions of women from the Baby Boom generation enter menopause, it is likely that the number of PMU farms will increase proportionately, said HSUS in a press release.

Fortunately, hot-flashing horse lovers have options. Drs. Cheryl Gibson and M. Brooke Barss, both of the University of Vermont Medical School, recommend trying lifestyle changes before hormone replacement therapy. In their book, Menopause, co-authored with naturopath Lorilee Schoenbeck, they describe how a healthy diet, regular exercise and relaxation techniques may reduce or eliminate hot flashes. Studies also suggest that soy milk, tofu and other soy products

alleviate some womens' discomfort.

For women with severe symptoms, ethical hormone replacements exist. The FDA has approved synthetic and plant-derived estrogens to treat menopausal symptoms and to prevent osteoporosis and heart disease. Some physicians believe that these estrogens may be safer than Premarin. In the Wisdom of Menopause, Christine Northrup, M.D. explains that plant-based and synthetic estrogens are less likely to trigger unpleasant side effects, including bloating, headaches and sore breasts, because they more closely resemble human estrogen.

*For more info on the rescue of PMU and nurse mare foals, please see:
www.savinghorsesinc.com
www.pmuirecue.com
www.theanimalifarm.com
www.foalrescue.com
www.unitedpegasus.com
www.lastchancecorral.org*

Even if you're not menopausal, you can speak up for the thousands of horses on PMU farms. Share your knowledge with others, so they can make compassionate choices. Contact elected officials and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories to politely express your concerns about the PMU industry. The horses are counting on you. 

To respectfully protest PMU farms' abuses write to:

Robert Essner, President
Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories
P.O. Box 8299
Philadelphia, PA 19191

THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS


By Ellen Mitchell

Horse racing and breeding are businesses, Businesses in which the focus is to breed the perfect horse. But what happens to the horses that are less than perfect? At least with their good pedigrees, the horses that don't make the grade might be sold and utilized as hunters or eventers. Many times worse is the predicament of nurse mare foals.


In the breeding world, the very best mares are bred to the very best studs to produce the very best foals. The mares are bred and re-bred time and again, year after year, in the quest for perfection. In most cases, mares come into cycle again just days after giving birth. Not wanting to miss a possible opportunity for a new star to be born, the mare is taken away from her new foal immediately and sent back to a stud for re-breeding. Her new foal, a possible but yet undetermined future prize which might be injured in a trip with the mare, is placed with a different mare, one of low quality, who has herself just given birth and is producing milk—a nurse mare. Nurse mares are kept on hand at breeding farms and are re-bred themselves just to ensure that they produce milk to nurse another mare's foal. So the expensive mare is re-bred quickly, and the possible

new star with the best genes is well-fed and cared for by the nurse mare. BUT...if the nurse mare has just given birth, and is suckling the new brightest star, what happened to **HER** foal?

This poor castaway is called a nurse mare foal, a throw-away byproduct of this breeding system, which was intended to produce the needed milk only. Historically, these foals were killed because it is so difficult to raise them, especially in large numbers. Recently they have gained value...their hides can be used in the fashion industry as —pony skins and their meat is considered a delicacy in some foreign markets. Rescuing nurse mare foals is very expensive and risky. Depending on how small they are when they are rescued, many need to be bottle fed every four hours and the milk replacer is quite expensive. Some foals are severely compromised because they have left their mothers too soon and have not received any of the antibody-rich colostrum required to protect their immune systems, so IV fluids must also be administered and blood transfusions are needed in addition to the bottle feedings.

There are farms which specialize in rescuing nurse mare foals. If you know someone who loves horses, consider making a donation to one of these farms in their name as a special gift. There is no greater gift than saving a life, no matter how small that life is, no matter that he or she came from the wrong side of the tracks. 

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

We send our heartfelt thanks to all of the people and businesses who have sent donations or offered their services over the past year, especially to all the folks who came out on November 13 to make our Second Annual Cut-A-Thon a great success. Please see our website for all the businesses whose sponsorship helped make this event possible, and check out the video from WCAX. And a soft nicker and nudge to Sue Melon, who donated farrier care. A big thank you to Dana and Carol Newhouse for the donation of a truck and trailer. 

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Rescue & Rehabilitation: SHHR takes in animals from various situations. Many of them have either or both health or behavioral needs. Volunteers may partake in picking up animals, animal intake process, dietary evaluation and assessment, medical treatment and hoof care. SHHR staff evaluates the animals behavioral and training.

Horse Placement Assistance: Do you need to find a home for your equine friend? SHHR can help. SHHR will list your horse on our website and spread the word that a loving home is needed; your horse stays with you until a new owner is found. This program works

particularly well for horses with special needs, i.e., medical conditions, unrideable or blind.

Donated Horse Program: Our Donated Horse Program involves an owner donating their horse or the proceeds or a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their horse to SHHR; the owner can enjoy the tax benefits of the donation and can list their horse on SHHR's Petfinder.com page, a national database that receives over 8,000 hits per month. Don't turn to auctions or Craig's List to find a home for your horse and be VERY careful about screening buyers and giving away your horse. There are people that take in free horses and turn around and sell them to slaughterhouses or meat buyers for a profit. 🐾

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



SHHR Modoc

as a 3 month-old PMU at SHHR

and now with his mom and partner, "Calamity" Jane Crossmon, healthy and happy together.



SHHR Bucky's Story By Tamera McNamara



I had dreamed of having a buckskin horse ever since I was a little girl. When my husband and I arrived at Spring Hill in August of 2007, little did I know that my dream was about to come true.

We initially went to check out an older, trained mare, but fell in love with a scraggly 2 year-old buckskin colt who followed us around during our visit. The colt, aptly named —Bucky, had come to the rescue that winter a starved, sick little critter with a severe parrot mouth and edema. The staff of Spring Hill lovingly nursed him back to health and also started on his training, so in August we adopted an adorable colt who was very willing and trusting. We brought Bucky home, continued his rehabilitation, and he grew into a stocky 14-hand horse with a golden buckskin coat.

Over the past 3 years, with the help of an amazing trainer, Bucky and I have enjoyed a variety of adventures. We have enjoyed centered riding, dressage

and trail riding. Bucky received the high point horse of the day honors in our first dressage schooling show in April 2010. We enjoy pleasure rides and also competitive trail riding. In 2010 we completed both the MA and VT —Ride for the Cure in addition to the VT —Ride for Rescues, an ACTHA ride, in which Bucky received 2nd place for his division. We received 2nd place in the novice horse division in the North Brookfield Sportsman's Ride, where horse and rider are judged over a variety of obstacles. We attended a small local show in May 2010 and competed hunt seat in the green horse division for fun and came home with a 4th place ribbon. Bucky also ground drives, and lately we have been doing obstacle work and may even try gymkhana. Most important is that we are having fun.



Despite his lack of pedigree and rough start in life, Bucky is my dream horse! It is great to have such a versatile little horse and I cannot even begin to thank Spring Hill for rescuing this little guy so that he could be part of our family. You can follow Bucky's adventures on his blog at <http://sweetspotfarm.com>.

Molly the Mini

Adopted by Janet Sandler

Molly came back to Spring Hill last fall as her family could no longer keep her. Molly got to do fun things while back at SHHR; she got to ride in the Halloween parade with Annie the goat and Polly the cow; she got to play with Dixie the baby. Then her new mom and dad came and just fell in love with this sweet girl. Here is the new mom's story of molly.



All is very well with Molly. She had her spring vet visit yesterday for a physical and inoculations, and the vet was very pleased with her and behavior. (Who could not fall in love with her?) My farrier would like to steal her from me because he is also in love! She has an appointment in 3 weeks to have her teeth floated (I am not looking forward to that cause I hate tranquilizing any animal but it is necessary) Molly has learned to go over jumps. I have to tell you that I cannot imagine life without my little girl. She likes to be part of anything we do. She gets lots of exercise as she goes on any walk or trail ride we go on. She has bonded with the other horses quite well, and they get upset when we take her out without them.

If you have adopted or fostered a horse from SHHR, please contact Brenna Wright at bren@myfairpoint.net. We need your info and may print your story! 🐾

•WISH LIST•

We can always use and sometimes desperately need:

•Hay•

In square or round bales

•Grain•

Safe Choice Grain made by Nutrena

•Bagged Cracked Corn•

For other critters Spring Hill has rescued

•Equine Wormer•

All kinds EXCEPT Quest.

•Hay Stretchers•

•Muck Tools•

Including old boots

•Flashlights and Batteries•

•First Aid Kits•

For horses and humans

•Grooming Utensils •

Like brushes, curries, metal combs, hoof picks

•Office Products•

From copy paper to pens, dry erase markers, envelopes (white and manila)

•Ink Cartridges• (black and colored)

For a Kodak ESP 3250 AIO printer,

•U.S. Postage Stamps•

•Bagged Shavings•

•Tack•

Anything 'cause if we don't use it we'll sell it at tack sales

•Horse Boots•

All kinds, new or used, any size

•Duck Tape•

•Riding Lawn Mower•

•Triage Stall Equipment•

Like a large animal sling

•Heavy Duty Washer/Dryer •

For horse blankets

•Lumber•

Of all kinds for all projects

•Pellet Stove•


To heat our volunteer room

•Gift Certificates•

We are frequent fliers at tractor supply, but will use any GCs for the farm or as a fund raiser

•Anything of Value•

Donate your car, truck, four wheeler, boat, anything of value that we could sell.

We are a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation, so all donations, including these suggestions, are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. 

FUNDRAISING

Remember, SHHR is a not-for-profit corporation which is able to continue its good work only through the donations it receives. Please attend our fundraisers, or, better yet, participate in them. We need your help to make our events a success.

The **SHHR 2011 Cookbook** had some hiccups along the way with the printing. Please stay tuned. Please email your favorites to Brenna Wright at bren@myfairpoint.net. they will not make it for this year's cookbook, it would be great to have on hand for next year's edition. Watch the SHHR website for ordering information. This cookbook will contain lots of easy and tasty recipes and will be a great gift for Mom or anyone special in your life who likes to cook. All proceeds benefit SHHR.

The Animal Rescue Site sponsored a **Shelter Challenge** which was open to shelters who utilize Petfinder to list their adoptable pets. The contest ran until Midnite March 20, 2011. The winner of the challenge gets a pot of money, and shelters that make the top 10 in each State are eligible for a 'dark horse' prize. Thank you to all of you who kept clicking away. Although we did not win, we keep inching up a notch or two. There is another going on now. Please spread the word.

SHHR Logo Merchandise is fairly priced and available from our website. Wear a tee, sweatshirt or cap and when people ask about the logo, tell them about us and send them to our website for more information. We will have new items for sale soon.

Great Escape Tickets: Have fun and support a great cause all in one. We will be selling tickets to the Great Escape, Lake George New York for \$20.35 (\$19.99) plus tax of course. More information will be posted on our websites main page by no later than March 31st. On sale thru June 12th.

Tractor Supply Rutland: SHHR will be at Tractor supply in Rutland on Saturday June 18th for their customer appreciation day. There will be lots of vendors. Our official spokeshorse Dorothy will be there. Come down and say howdy.

Horse Clinics: There will be 3 horse training clinics being held at SHHR this summer. Gina Brown will be hosting the trainings on the following dates. Clinics will be held from 11-3 with a half hour lunch break.

Horse Psychology: Is your Horse a Left-Brained or Right-Brained Thinker? Deepen your understanding of the Equine Mind during this Workshop. Saturday May 21st

Round Penning Basics: Learn the basics of round pen training from desensitizing to "hide your hinny". on Saturday June 11th

Trailer Loading: Learn how to trailer load even the most difficult horse quickly and safely. Saturday July 9th

The clinics will be open to the public as well as volunteers. The cost is \$25.00 for non-volunteers and

\$10.00 for volunteers. All of the proceeds will help fund the care of our horses.


All of these trainings would be great for volunteers who are going to want to be involved with pre-site adoption visits up to the final adoption process for the horses when they find their forever homes.

Please contact Brenna Wright at bren@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Clinics are weather dependent. If a clinic has to be rescheduled it would be posted on our website the Friday morning before. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Again, if we need to reschedule we will update the event on Facebook.

Great Gatsby Party: August 5th at 6pm Summit Lodge in Killington. The event will be taking place during a lovely time of the year and will include a fun filled evening with live entertainment, dancing, delicious food, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. The Summit Lodge has wonderful accommodations which include an outdoor patio area, an indoor terrace with a nice gazebo bar, and a large great room complete with a dance floor! This is an event not to be missed. So dig out that costume attire and kick up your heels for an evening of fun, food and entertainment while helping to support a great cause! Prices are still being determined. More info to follow.

We need sponsors for this event. If you or someone you know would like to help by sponsoring this event please contact **Tara Williams** by email tarawilliams410@yahoo.com and she will send you the sponsor information.

Please monitor our website for more news and events. This newsletter is quarterly, and we are always finding things to do so check in often at www.springhillrescue.com. Or if you have an idea for an event or want to participate in one please contact Tara Williams. 

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SHHR WANTS YOU!

We know that time is a limited commodity for everyone but volunteering for a worthy cause such as SHHR doesn't require a huge investment of time or regular hours. It doesn't even necessarily involve working directly with horses or traveling out to the barn.

Can you take pictures?

We need someone to take pictures of available animals for posting and for our databases.

Can you perform basic or advanced carpentry?

We need help for various projects as they come up.

Can you create and monitor a computer database?

We need databases on our cruelty team, volunteers, available animals, sponsorships, adoptions, fosters, merchandise inventory and craig's list.

Can you perform basic barn chores?

Mucking, grooming, feeding, sweeping, painting, cleaning, weedwacking...you know the drill!

Can you offer your services or attend one or more of our events?

Monitor a booth at the Farmer's market or a table at a tack sale for a few hours. Ride on the Halloween float, distribute flyers, drop off bundles of newsletters, and pick up supplies.


Can you write well?

Submit a newsletter article, help with press releases, make signs/flyers for events.


Can you spread the word?

Purchase an SHHR t-shirt or cap from the website and wear it while you talk us up!

Want to help but don't know where you might fit in?

Contact Brenna Wright, Volunteer Coordinator, at bren@myfairpoint.net and she'll help you find a spot. Even an hour a month helps. 

****A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR****

Folks, please consider volunteering for one or more fundraising or publicity events sponsored by SHHR. There's always lots to do and something for everyone. I began volunteering for SHHR this fall after viewing the website. I'm over an hour away in New York, but have found a niche in helping with the newsletter via email. I've also offered to sit at the Farmer's Market in Rutland occasionally...once I figure out where exactly that is! There's a Volunteer Application available on the website to help you choose an opportunity. It's fun, you meet great people, and it's absolutely worth your time— one soft horsey nuzzle will prove that. E. 

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From Horses to Hamsters

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An Entertaining &
Informative Tabloid Published Monthly
In The Interest of
Domestic Animals & Their Keepers

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August 5th & 6th
Summit Lodge

For tickets or more information: www.springhillhorserescue.com 802-282-1292

I WANT TO HELP!

I would like to contribute to the following program(s):

- Guardian Angel Horse Sponsorship** (please monitor our website for particular horses needing help)
- General Donation** (feed, hay, facility overhead, etc.)
- Horse Care** (medical supplies, vet/farrier bills)
- Cruelty Response Team Pole Barn Fund** (we need a place to store our hay!)

In Loving memory of _____

In Lieu of a traditional birthday or holiday gift item, I am sending this contribution in the name of

Name _____

Address _____

(We will send a "thank you" card informing the above person of the gift contribution)

Enclosed is my check/money order for the amount of \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone/Email: _____

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. MAKE ALL CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO SHHR.

A TRIBUTE TO DIXIE

Dixie came to us in the Summer of 2010 with her mom Dancer, from a family who realized they had too many horses to care for, so they called us to see if we could help them find their forever home. From the start everyone fell in love with her. How could you not? Not only was she cute as a button, but she LOVED attention. She loved to give kisses, as long as you met her at her level. Her biggest game was to chase the dogs and Play the cat around the pasture when they happened to come in.

Spring Hill Horse Rescue lost a very special little girl on Saturday April 30th to colic. Everything was done to save her but unfortunately she lost her fight. Although she is gone she will never be forgotten and will forever remain in our hearts .We know she has gone on to greener pastures and is probably chasing other dogs and cats around and kicking up her heels with delight.



If you you would like to may a donation in memory of Dixie please mail a check or money order to Spring Hill with a memo : Dixie Memorial Fund. Anyone donating \$10.00 or more will receive a photo of Dixie so that her memory can also live on among others. All proceeds will benefit the horses currently in our care and others who may come to us in in the future in need of a forever home. 🐾

Spring Hill Horse Rescue
175 Middle Rd.
North Clarendon, VT 05759

