

Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

Horse Rescue & Adoption

*"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must never forget it.
You remain responsible forever for what you have tamed."
- Antoine de Saint Exupery*

Dear Valued Friends:

November 26, 2018

Blue Rose Ranch has experienced a great year and we have much to be thankful for. We have also noted that "the times they are a changing". Like in our society, our horses are getting older and therefore our responsibilities are changing and expanding. Aging horses require more specialized care, which requires more labor, equipment, time and monitoring. In this newsletter, we thought our friends and supporters would enjoy learning about the day-to-day rhythm of caring for the horses.

Horse Care

Blue Rose Ranch currently has 50 horses under our care. The average age of our horses is 16.5. We have 17 horses (35%) over the age of 20, nine of which are around 30 years old. Only 9 horses (18%) are under the age of 10. Well cared for horses live to be 25-30 years old, but they can live much longer.

The growing number of older horses at Blue Rose Ranch require supplemental feeds. We have three special feeding protocols: Level One is for basic weight maintenance. This is for older horses that are starting to have trouble maintaining muscle mass and they need help to maintain weight. Level Two is for horses that are usually quite old and need serious help to maintain weight. Senior Level is for horses that can only eat specially prepared diets because they can no longer graze and they usually have no teeth left. These horses are healthy in other respects and all systems function well, they just can't get needed nutrition from grazing. One type feed we include in these supplements is a product called "Black Gold". This feed is made 100% from sunflower seeds, has very high protein and is produced in Lamar, CO at Colorado Mills. Rick Robbins, CEO/General Manager of Colorado Mills, has been a wonderful friend to Blue Rose Ranch with donations of "Black Gold".



Older horses blanketed for a cold night



Color coded feed buckets prepared for horses requiring supplements

Our Horse Division Foreman, Zak Feeley, is in charge of daily horse care. Supplemental feed starts as grain and pellets, and is soaked in water to form a mush. Zak has a system to prepare and deliver the feed to individual horses during the day. All horses are weighed weekly to monitor their weight and feed is adjusted accordingly. Some of the horses require daily pain medication for arthritis, lameness, injuries, etc. Zak carves out horse cookies where he places the medications for these horses. They love him! Zak also treats wounds and ailments that horses experience. In addition to being an experienced horseman, Zak is a trained RN, and those skills are valuable in treating horses at Blue Rose Ranch. Zak routinely performs some procedures for us that usually require a veterinarian.

Those of you who have visited know that we operate on two ranches. Both have hundreds of acres for horses to roam in herds and enjoy “just being a horse”. The main ranch is the location of our incoming horse area, the hospital area and the special needs horse facilities, training facilities, the indoor riding arena, hay barns, ranch maintenance workshops, volunteer clubhouse, tack rooms, and the ranch office. The outlying ranch we refer to as the Canyon Ranch because it has four canyons that meander through sections of the property. The Canyon Ranch is twice the size of the main ranch, and has lighted shelters, corrals, and pristine water. Horses that do not need constant medical or dietary supervision are rotated between the two ranches. Many horses enjoy the vastness and freedom of the Canyon Ranch, and some prefer the more “hands on” human interaction at the main facility. Horses that need special feed or medication remain on the home-base facility where it is easier to care for them.



Late fall on the prairie and an overflow pond on the Canyon Ranch



Unloading 4x4x8' bales of oat hay. Each bale weighs just under a ton

The horses thrive on the pasture grasses on both ranch properties. We supplement grazing with large bales of hay on both properties. The large bales weigh about a ton and are moved by tractor.

When inclement or winter weather is forecast, preparations are made to insure the horses are safe and well cared for. Large bales of hay are placed in feeders in the main corrals and all horses have access. Large bales are delivered to the Canyon Ranch as well. Horses generally are not bothered by cold weather if they have shelters to block the wind and they can stay dry. When horses have access to hay to munch on throughout the day and night, their bodies stay warm. Some older horses and those who have not grown adequate winter coats do need and receive horse blankets. Automatic waterers and heated water tanks keep water open for horses to drink. The large tank on the Canyon Ranch has a “bubbler” powered by solar that keeps the water moving in the horse tank so that it does not freeze over.

Demographics and Changes for Horse Rescue

The number of horses being “surrendered” by aging Baby Boomers is rapidly on the rise. These are people who have often owned horses all their lives but now find themselves having to move off of their farm, ranch, or horse property to go into assisted living themselves. Some of these seniors have lost a spouse, their kids have their own lives, and these long time horse owners need help with what to do with their old horses. Thousands of horses nationwide are now coming into the system from this group.

Our organization is impacted because of the necessity to care for our aging horse population. This is a challenge for all horse facilities, especially for horse rescues like Blue Rose Ranch who do not euthanize horses when they start to get old.

The Graduates

Lakota and Windsor spent the fall at Lamar Community College. Haley Burch, student at LCC and volunteer at Blue Rose Ranch, selected these horses to use in her classes. Haley was named “Horseman of the Year” at LCC last spring. Lakota is young, strong and spirited. Though Lakota was previously trained, he benefitted from advanced training at LCC. Windsor, who is a rapidly growing colt, was enrolled to receive “colt starting” training. One of the most important things for horses is quality training. People looking to adopt a horse want horses ready to be ridden for pleasure, for show and competition, or ready for ranch work.



Windsor, Haley, and Lakota

Regarding making donations to Blue Rose Ranch

There are many avenues to donate to Blue Rose Ranch this holiday season. We are participating in “Colorado Gives Day” (Tuesday December 4th this year), and you can donate via their website. You can also designate Blue Rose Ranch as your charity of choice through “Amazon Smiles” when you shop on Amazon. Throughout the year you can donate with links from our facebook page and on our website. And, of course, you can mail a check directly to the ranch.

A special on-going opportunity to support Blue Rose Ranch: You can Remember or Honor an individual or beloved family pet with a memorial plaque to be displayed in our indoor riding arena. Please see the enclosed form. If you would like to donate a plaque as a Christmas Present, Blue Rose Ranch can provide an acknowledgement “gift letter”.

We wish you Peace and a Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

John and Cheryl Webb
Executive Directors

30997 US Hwy 287, Springfield, CO 81073 / 303-796-7739 / www.blueroseranch.org / directors@blueroseranch.org

Fall at Blue Rose Ranch

Horse Chiropractor



Just like people, horses can have something out of place that hurts and restricts movement. Adjustments helped Moonwalker's back and Annabelle's Poll (right behind the ears).



Shelby's project measured height and the slant of a horse's shoulder to the length of a stride.



Science Fair Projects at Blue Rose Ranch

Jaycee's project measured heart beat at rest, after walking, and after trotting on varying ages of horses.



Our handsome Palomino colt is adopted! Thor has a great new home, wonderful horse facilities, and a devoted stablemate.



Elmer knocking on the Ranch Office door



Zak Feeley, our horse foreman, is more than just an employee. He has demonstrated a passion for his work at Blue Rose Ranch. Zak has truly distinguished himself and we were delighted to award him with the Blue Rose Ranch silver buckle.



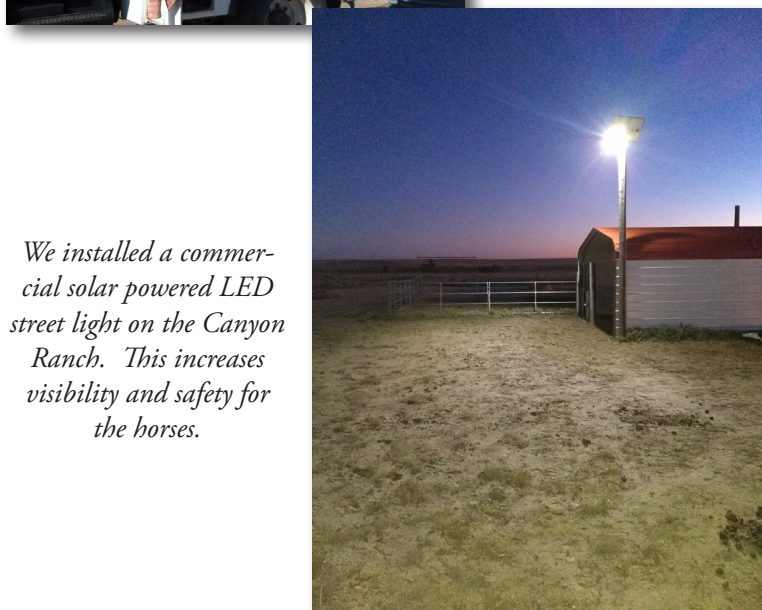
Zak performing for guests at the ranch on his mustang.



Thank you to Peery Electric who donated and installed new powerful LED lights in the corrals and incoming horse areas on the main ranch. Peery Electric is located in Lamar, CO.



Riding bareback helps balance and seat position. When it is cold, bareback also keeps legs warm!



We installed a commercial solar powered LED street light on the Canyon Ranch. This increases visibility and safety for the horses.



It takes a team sometimes! DonkeyXote was not cooperative having his feet trimmed. Once finished, he discovered the trim helped him walk more comfortably.

Plaques in Honor or In Memory

We would like each of you to know about an opportunity that is designed to help raise funds to pay off the remaining balance of the Blue Rose Ranch Indoor Riding Arena. The inside of the arena is beautiful. The fabric material of the building allows light and warmth to permeate and the ceiling gives the space a cathedral feeling. The arena interior has a white equestrian railing for safety. We will be accepting donations in honor of or in memory of individuals or beloved pets, whose names will be mounted on this rail. The plaque is black steel, with a brass engraved name plate. They are beautiful. The cost of a name plaque is \$100.



To make a tax-deductible donation for this campaign and designate a name plaque, please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$100.00 to **Blue Rose Ranch, 30997 US Hwy 287, Springfield, CO 81073**

Name of the individual/pet to be engraved on the plaque:

i.e. Joe and Betty Smith

i.e. Cinnamon

Please write clearly

Your name and contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If you have questions please call the ranch at 303-796-7739 or email: directors@blueroseranch.org

Gift Notification Letters

Name of person to receive the letter: _____

Their address: _____

Special message for your gift letter:

i.e.: As a holiday gift, John Doe has made a contribution to Blue Rose Ranch, Horse Rescue and Adoption, in your honor. A beautiful plaque with your name will be placed in the indoor riding at the horse rescue to recognize this contribution.

Your Special Message:

Blue Rose Ranch would like to thank the following Foundations for their support:



Alice Jenkins Foundation
Animal Assistance Foundation
Anschutz Family Foundation
ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
Build-a Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation
Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance
El Pomar's Hambrick Fund
El Pomar's Sally Beck Fund
Equus Foundation
Merck Animal Health
Rutherford Foundation
Sally Beck Foundation
Southern Colorado Community Foundation
William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation
Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign