



The HSF Herald

Holy Spirit Farm Horse Sanctuary Newsletter

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Getting Started: A Thank You

Well. We finally did it. After two years of getting the ball rolling, 2019 was our big year – the year we officially opened to the public.

Over the course of these past 9 months, we have begun to institute new policies, apply for accreditation and verification, join other horse rescue networks, and provide a larger array of services. We've seen the barn grow almost exponentially, and it has not slowed down. In fact, we are snowballing!

We are absolutely thrilled to have a reader base that we can now share our comings-and-goings. It is just another indicator of how much we are not only expanding, but how much our work matters. Our work that would not be possible without you.

At Holy Spirit Farm, we have received more support, and have seen more good in our community, than we ever would have dreamed to be possible. We are incredibly grateful to every person who has donated a piece of themselves in some way, even if just by reading this newsletter. Throughout the coming days, months, and years, we hope that we live up to, and exceed, your expectations for an animal rescue, in addition to remaining a place where everyone feels connected and welcomed.

- The HSF Team

Vendors, games, food, wagon rides, and more!

Join HSF for its first annual fall fest, a festival aimed at raising money for Holy Spirit Farm Horse Sanctuary. Please call or email us if interested in being a vendor.

Fall Fest is a fun, community based event that is open to the public. There will be activities and games, wagon rides, food, and vendors galore. There may even be a few horses up for adoption!! Our second annual Fall 50/50 raffle will be drawn this evening, in addition to winners of our first annual HSF Costume Contest (there will be three - one for ages infant-5, one for ages 6-16, and one for adults (17+)). We hope you have your spook on!

Participate in
a Spooktacular Costume
Contest!

Do you think that you have what it takes to win our Halloween Costume Contest? Then enter if you dare! There will be age – appropriate categories.

Entry: \$5
Prizes will be awarded!

Join Our Advertising Army!

HSF's Fall Fest is fast approaching and we need your help to make it HUGE. Cut out the flyer below and hang it in a local store, workplace, or restaurant. If interested in helping us advertise in other ways, reach out to us to learn how you can volunteer.

October 26, 2019

Holy Spirit Farm Horse Sanctuary

Fall Fest

- 🍷 Halloween Costume Contest
- 🍷 Craftsmen, Businesses, and other Vendors
- 🍷 Wagon Rides
- 🍷 Unicorn Photo Shoot
- 🍷 Food
- 🍷 Games
- 🍷 Our ANNUAL 50/50 RAFFLE!

General Entry

\$20 adults (13 years and over)
\$15 children (12 and under)

Meet a Team Member

KATHY REEDY: The Woman, The Myth, The Legend



Our barn manager and matriarch, Kathy is an experienced horsewoman who dabbles in everything equestrian. Growing up, she and her younger sister enjoyed riding anything and everything, as their mother was frequently employed as a barn manager. Now, when she's not trail riding or retraining her OTTBs and rescues, Kathy is ensuring everything runs smoothly at our facility and having fun while doing it.

Outside of the horse world, Kathy is a musician and entrepreneur. She combined her love of music with business wit and opened Penn Avenue Music, a successful music store located in Berks County, Pennsylvania. An outdoorsman and athlete at heart too, Kathy also thoroughly enjoys swimming, fishing, playing softball, and being active with her friends and family.

Photo: Kathy rides Richie (Call In Rich), her personal trail horse, in HSF's "Actual Fun" 2019 Fun Show.

Your Photo

Hannah W. (17), from Berks Co., PA, captured this sweet moment while taking resident-steer Milkdud, on a walk around the farm. As the story goes, Milkdud couldn't resist stopping to smell, and then trying to eat, the flowers! Thank you for sharing, Hannah!

If interested in having your picture highlighted in our newsletter, email your photo to us (holyspiritfarm@gmail.com) with a brief description, your age, and general location.



HSF's Fun Fact

At Holy Spirit Farm, we go through 400lbs of 12% sweet feed (grain for the horses) each week! In addition to sweet feed, we also purchase specialty grains to help regulate sugars, fats, vitamins, and minerals within some of the horses on our property.

STUDENTS



New student, Pearl, spends some time bonding with Ginger. Romeo is jealous.

A New Start: Updates to the Program

As of September 1, 2019, we will now require that students book 4 lessons at a time. Lessons must be paid for in block format, with a new cancellation policy being instituted as well.

Lessons will now need to be cancelled 24 hours prior to the scheduled lesson, unless a sickness or emergency arises. Failure to cancel within this time frame will result in funds being drawn from the pre-paid lesson block.

In addition to the new cancellation policy, students will have 6 months to use the funds within their individual accounts. Failure to schedule or withdraw funds will result in all remaining deposits being donated to the farm.

Student Highlights



Lexi loves Jack despite their rough lesson.



Aubrey rides Funny Fox in a halter as a warm-up for a pony ride event.



Mouser gives Annie, the younger sister of a student, a pony ride around the farm.

PA Horse World Expo 2020

HSF students will once again be welcome at the PA Horse World Expo (2/27-3/1/20) as volunteers, in addition to their parents. Slots per day will however be more limited this year, so please reach out to Becca at your earliest convenience to begin scheduling.

Now Scheduling!

We are now scheduling students for the 2019/2020 year. Students can be of any age over 4 years, with experience ranging from beginner to advanced. To discuss if our program is a good fit for you, reach out today!

Upcoming Events

HSF Scavenger Hunt

CANCELLED

September 13, 2019
\$7 per Person
\$5 per Barn Member

Magical Moments

Mini Unicorn-Photography Shoots

Featuring ES Equine Photography

Sept. 28,
2019

Contact us to
book today!



We regret to inform all that the HSF Scavenger Hunt has been cancelled for familial reasons. We thank you for your understanding!

Make your dreams come true with Magical Moments, a series of mini-photography sessions with Cree, our unicorn! We are partnering with ES Equine Photography for these stunning, 15 minute sessions, which will include props and 4-5 digital copies, with the option to purchase prints. This is an all ages event, but you must book a slot. Call today for pricing, and to schedule your fairy tale today!

October 26, 2019

Fall Fest

- 🍁 Halloween Costume Contest
- 🍁 Craftsmen, Businesses, and other Vendors
- 🍁 Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 🍁 Unicorn Photo Shoot
- 🍁 Food
- 🍁 Games
- 🍁 Our ANNUAL 50/50 RAFFLE!

General Entry

\$20 adults (13 years and over)
\$15 children (12 and under)

HSF's Fall Fest is a family-oriented open house designed to bring the community together in a fun way while also showcasing the rescue's work. Not only will all of the above be available, but horses for adoption and lease will be present on the property!

Bring your kids, friends, and anyone who likes to have a nice time. And don't forget to participate in our annual 50/50 Raffle (tickets will be available at the event) and our first-annual Halloween Costume Contest!

Call, or visit our website, for more information!

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser, or want to collaborate with us for your event? Call us today to chat!

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH...



Ollie the OTTB



Ginger the Appendix



Fox the OTTB



Peaches the AQH

Adopt the Chestnut

Our chestnuts are teachers. Patient, kind, and brave; they make the perfect lesson horses.



Our chestnuts are bold. Goofy. Playful. Intelligent.

Our chestnuts are loved and understood.



Our chestnuts are not the negative stereotypes that we hear the moment we enter the horse world, and yet, we have a harder time adopting them out than any other color horse (believe us, we usually have more of this color at the farm than any other). While it would be easy to state that the “crazy horse” ideologies are the only reason people are slow to adopt this color, experience has taught us that chestnuts aren’t as favored in a ring setting too. Could this be another factor?

We think so. Combine the antiquated ideology surrounding chestnuts’ personalities with the show factor, and you have a recipe for stagnation. We’ve seen that our chestnuts go mainly to experienced project homes, or homes that don’t intend on spending a lot of time gunning for ribbons. Even when healthy, sound, and trained, many people find excuses to not adopt this amazing color, all of which range from, “My trainer said this about chestnuts, especially the mares,” to “My friend rides a chestnut and never wins anything. I’ll stick to bays and grays.”

Whatever the reason, they’re ultimately a weak argument. To first address the stereotypes, you must first look at the people who own and work with the horse, the level of training, and the people who are perpetuating the myths. In January 2016, a study (The relationship between coat colour phenotype and equine behaviour: A pilot study, Finn *et al.*) conducted by a team of equine behaviorists compared adverse reactions between bays and chestnuts.

Their results concluded that chestnuts were no more likely to display erratic or errant behavior than bays. The data did show some differences between the colors though – chestnuts were bolder in the sense of courage (something any chestnut owner could tell you). They were more likely to approach foreign objects first, and were more exploratory. If out on the trails or in a new setting, this is a character trait that is usually preferred, as this horse is less likely to be unpredictable. Just like riding, it may be the people that are causing the issues; not the horse.

Some of the world’s most notable horses were chestnuts. Secretariat, Zippo Pine Bar, Man o’ War, Wando, Muscat, Raise a Native, etc. To say they may not score well in a ring is yet another reflection of the rider or that individual horse’s training. Chestnuts can be flashy, athletic, and winners when matched with the right rider who provides consistent training. This concept is not breed specific though. An untrained bay or a novice rider, may not show as well as the grand prix rider on a professionally trained chestnut, and that is OK. In this scenario though, the color is not the reason for the success or lack thereof. Instead, it is the same myriad of reasons that affects every single rider and every single horse.

The next time you’re considering adoption, or even purchasing your next horse, we implore to take a look at the chestnuts. Their personalities may just blow you away, and you may discover the perfect partner for you or your program. After all, the only way these stereotypes will fade away is if the general public begins to interact with this color more, and believe us, these horses deserve it.

Left: Hannah and Cupid (AQH)
Right: Mikala and Wanda (OTTB)

Remember to leave reviews
or a message on Facebook,
Google, or Yelp!

We are proud to be sponsored by...



HSF NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of
sponsors.

Do you know a company
willing to help us? Perks
include free advertising
online and at all events,
merchandise, reduced-cost
services, and entry to barn
events!



We could use:

- Double-sided clips
- Carabiners
- 75 gallon water trough
- Hay Stretcher
- Purina Senior Horse Feed
- Beet Pulp w/o molasses

Brighter together

Holiday
WISHES
GRANT CAMPAIGN



Have you adopted a pet from us?

Help us earn up to a **\$100,000** lifesaving grant
award from @petcofoundation by sharing how
your pet brightens your life! Follow these steps
to submit your story to
petcofoundation.org/holidaywishes by **Sept. 23!**

#BrighterTogether #HolidayWishes

**Don't forget to buy
50/50 Raffle Tickets!**

After last year's successful 50/50, we are
pleased to announce that we will be holding
our second annual raffle! The only change
this time is that there will be 1 winner,
opposed to the 3 of the last year.

Goal: \$20,000 (\$10,000 ea.)

Tickets: \$20 ea.

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www.holyspiritfarmhorsesanctuary.com