

Milestone Equine Rescue gives horses hope

As many horse lovers are, I am a huge supporter of equine rescues. Without them, far too many horses would go without loving homes, losing their lives to abuse, neglect and slaughter. Since 1995, I've been a supporter of Mylestone Equine Rescue, a non-profit, all breeds horse rescue in Phillipsburg. Over the past 12 years, they have saved hundreds of horses from terrible fates, and continue to do so only through the help of hard-working volunteers and loyal sponsors. While many sponsors choose to donate on a monthly basis, others are only able to at certain times during the year. As we start the holiday season, Mylestone Equine Rescue (MER) has implemented its annual holiday sponsorship program.

If you're like me and have friends and family who are horse enthusiasts, this sponsorship proves to be the greatest gift you can possibly give them. The recipient receives a beautiful holiday card with a photo of their sponsor horse, along with his or her biography. When they receive it, the gift recipient is notified that you have given a donation on their behalf, which is in turn providing one special horse with grain, hay and loving care.

This year, MER horses which



Diana Tuorto

HUNTERDON HORSE BEAT

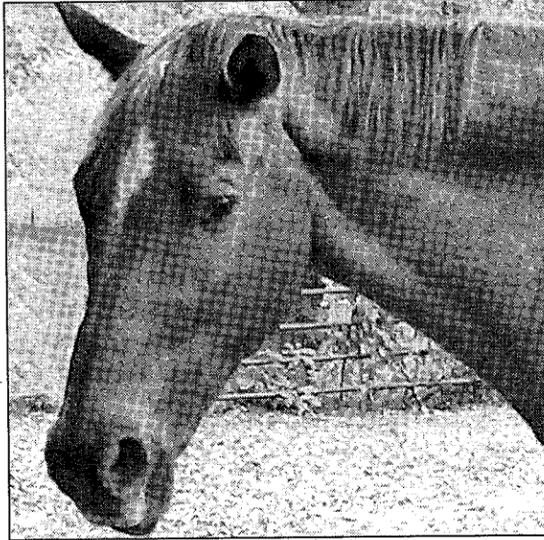
The writer, a resident of Stanhope, owns a Morgan mare and spends time volunteering with equine organizations. In March 2006, Diana self-published her first collection of poems and in 2008, Desert Sun, Diana's first children's novel, will be published. She runs the Web site at <http://horsecelfare.8k.com>.

are available for holiday sponsorship include:

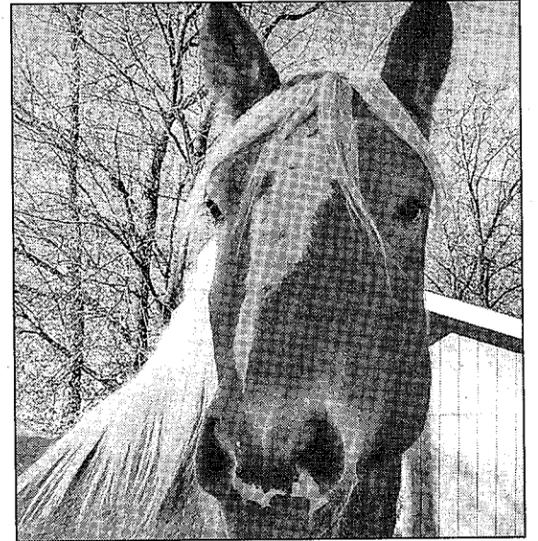
Blue

Blue is a 15-hand Arabian/Quarter Horse gelding that was badly starved. At the time of his rescue, he was about 250 lbs. underweight and had horrible muscling wasting from severe neglect. Despite his weak condition, Blue was forced to give riding lessons. When Blue was originally rescued, he was reluctant to eat and didn't seem to understand that the food would indeed continue to come to him.

Since Blue had no previous dental care and has facial muscle



Livy is a 6 year-old Belgian filly lloking for a home.



Bobbie is a 27 year-old Thoroughbred gelding.

damage, he is unable to chew grass or hay. For the rest of his days, he will require approximately eight meals of bran mash a day to keep weight on him. Blue will live out the rest of his life as a sanctuary horse with MER, so long-term sponsors are needed to supplement his care.

Yaz

Yaz is a 7 year-old 14.3-hand Morgan/Paint cross from Canada. He was a Premarin foal rescued back in 2000. If MER had not saved him, he would have been auctioned off to slaughter for meat. Yaz loves to be fussed over

and is well-mannered. Yaz was originally adopted from MER, but his owner had to surrender him after a job relocation left her unable to keep him. He is currently recovering from Lyme disease, but MER is hoping to eventually find him a loving new home.

Livy

Livy is a 6 year-old Belgian filly. When MER rescued her mother from an auction, they did not know she was pregnant with her at first. Livy is rideable, but needs a patient, experienced trainer. She is also easily attached to other horses and has become particu-

larly close to another rescue pony named Tommy. Livy is looking for a quiet, gentle owner who can give her a permanent home.

Cleo

Cleo is a 15 year-old bay Thoroughbred mare. She suffered a permanent knee injury while racing as a three year-old. Cleo was also leased out as a test mare before MER saved from slaughter. When she first arrived, Cleo could barely walk off the trailer. After years of care and rehabilitation, Cleo now runs around the field, but is not rideable. She is available for adoption as a companion horse only. Cleo gets very attached to other mares and is timid at times. She is deserving of a home with someone who will be patient and understanding.

Sunny

Sunny is a 25 plus year-old palomino gelding. He has a very sweet and gentle demeanor with people and horses alike. He was once a show horse, but ended up in a lesson barn where his care continued to decline. As he couldn't compete with the other horses for food, he lost considerable weight. Since Sunny has developed Cushings Disease and arthritis, he will remain a MER sanctuary horse and needs sponsors.

Bobbie

Bobbie is a 27 year-old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding from Pennsylvania. His elderly owner was unable to care for him, which left Bobbie underweight and neglected. Thankfully, a vet intervened and Bobbie was surrendered to MER. Bobbie is a real sweetheart and is now available for adoption.

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as a companion horse.

For more information on Mylestone Equine Rescue and their holiday sponsorship program, visit their Web site at www.milestone.org or call (908) 995-9300. Sponsorships are \$35 per card/packet (includes priority mail delivery) and must be received by Monday, Dec. 17, in order to be delivered by the Christmas holiday.

What Do You Do In Winter?

Winter can be a hard month when caring for your horses, with the elements making turnout difficult and sometimes impossible. The cold, icy weather is oftentimes a miserable experience for both horses and their humans. We'd like to see what you, as horse owners and riders, do to provide the best care for your horses in the winter. Are there any special measures you take to make sure that your horses are more comfortable? Email any feedback to Diana Tuorto at lunar_aradia@yahoo.com by Friday, Dec. 7, and check this column for your answers in late December. ▼

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