

Redefining rescue stereotypes at ReRun

Many horse owners are happy to make a donation to a horse rescue, but are reluctant to actually adopt a horse. Horses available for adoption are usually offered at very reasonable rates, but many horse people still automatically assume that a rescue horse will be old, lame and unrideable. While some rescue horses are older or cannot be ridden, it's wrong to assume that the majority are beyond use as riding horses or companion animals.

Today, most horse rescues charge themselves with finding homes for horses of various breeds and disciplines. Many equines have been abused or neglected and just need a second chance.

Other times, a horse is no longer rideable and needs a safe haven in which to live out their lives. But in many cases, rescue horses are completely rideable and can go on to become showhorses, jumpers or pleasure/trail mounts.

One of the horse rescues that often defies the stereotype of having only old or unrideable horses

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, "My Desert Sun," Diana's first children's novel, will be published. She runs the Web site at <http://horsewelfare.8k.com>.

is ReRun, Inc. Based in Helmetta, New York and Kentucky, ReRun was founded in 1996 as a non-profit Thoroughbred adoption program.

Their mission is to help ex-racehorses find a second career by placing them in adoptive homes. ReRun promotes the versatility of Thoroughbreds in all types of riding disciplines and makes every effort to match physical and mental conditions of ex-racehorses with the experience and desires of approved adopters.

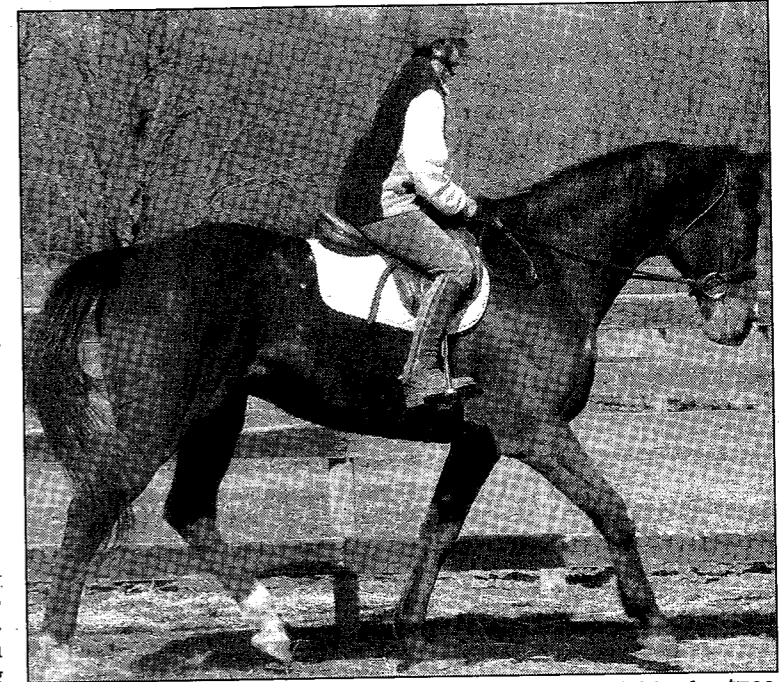
Over the past 12 years, ReRun has placed hundreds of ex-racehorses in adoptive homes as suitable hunters, jumpers, dressage horses, and companion animals. Like all rescues, they strive to match their horses with lifetime homes.

A Forever Owner

One example of such a home was provided by Sue Robichaud of Stockton. In 2002, she adopted Buddy, a now 10 year-old chestnut gelding. He was an undistinguished racehorse (he didn't win races) whose owners wanted him to find a good home. At age five, Buddy was donated to ReRun.

Contrary to the stereotypical "high-strung" Thoroughbred, Buddy is easy going and laid back. Sue has even used Buddy to teach her friends how to ride. According to Sue, Buddy is eager to please, very trusting and has a sense of protecting his riders. At the same time, if an experienced rider gets on-board, Buddy is a talented jumper and loves to run. Buddy willingly navigates chest-high water and other obstacles, which can cause other horses to shy away. To Sue, Buddy is the epitome of a Thoroughbred with heart, sensitivity and courage.

Sue feels that adopting a horse (as opposed to buying one) from



Cannonsburg, an 11 year-old 17.1 hand gelding, is available for \$500 to a qualified home.

ReRun was an advantage because the ReRun staff have a commitment to their horses, volunteers and resources and always steer a new owner of an ex-racehorse in the right direction.

Sue is currently developing an Equine Equestrian Retreat at her Stockton farm. She's also not ruling out adopting from ReRun

again; she may need another horse to fulfill the needs of her equestrian guests.

Take Me Home

ReRun has dozens of horses like Buddy who are currently looking for new homes. Two rideable horses that are boarded in Cookstown are Vitrify and Cannonsburg.

Vitrify is a petite and pretty 11 year-old, 15.1 hand mare. Vitrify raced at Penn National, making 70 starts in her career before she entered the ReRun program. She descended into low level claiming races and became one of thousands of unwanted horses. Vitrify is sound, friendly and would be suitable for a variety of riding disciplines, including hunter/jumpers or trail riding.

Cannonsburg, or Conrad, is an 11 year-old, 17.1 hand gelding. He has had some dressage training and is a beautiful mover. Conrad is a handsome and flashy horse. Due to some pastern issues, he is suitable for flat work, but not for jumping.

While riding horses are wonderful to enjoy, it's important not to overlook horses that can no longer be ridden. Horses are herd animals and greatly benefit from having company in their fields. Consider adopting a companion horse to not only share a pasture with your horse, but to add a loving pet to your home.

One example of a great companion horse is ReRun's North Flash. Boarded in Jobstown, this beautiful 7 year-old chestnut geld-

Today In Hunterdon

Thursday, March 13, 2008 PAGE 11

HORSEBEAT FROM PAGE 10

ing has screws in his front ankle from a racing injury and is under evaluation. North Flash is currently available only as a companion, but may be capable of light riding/trails in the near future. He is an extremely well-behaved and loveable horse.

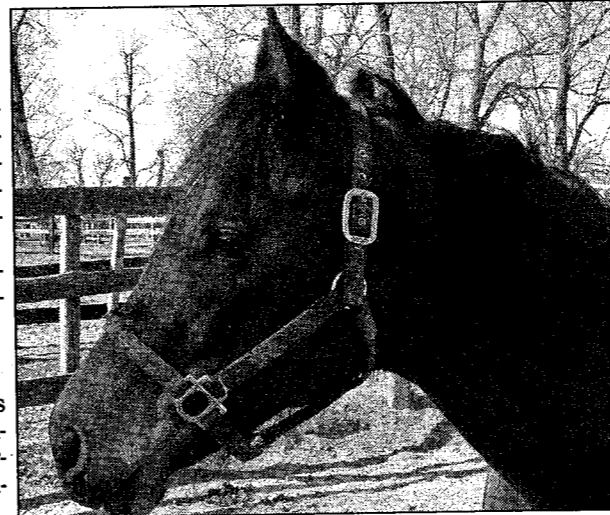
Both Vitrify and Cannonsburg are available for an adoption fee of \$500, while North Flash is being offered for \$100 to a quali-

fied home. For more information on any of these ex-racehorses or ReRun, contact Laurie Lane at rerun-nj@verizon.net or (732) 521-1370.

You can also visit ReRun's website at www.rerun.org.

Contact Us

Send your comments and suggestions for upcoming columns to Diana Tuorto at lunar_aradia@yahoo.com. ▼



Vitrify, a petite 11 year-old 15.1 hand mare, is available to a qualified home for \$500 at ReRun. The mare was a veteran at Penn National.