

# Hoofprints of Love

FALL 2014



## Welcome To The Farm!

Education Horse Navajo Greet A Visitor At The Rescue Ride

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*Hoofprints of Love* is the newsletter of Begin Again Farms, Inc., a 501c-3 equine rescue in Ellerslie, GA.

If you are not on our e-mail list for the newsletter and upcoming events, please contact:

[reusmannl@bellsouth.net](mailto:reusmannl@bellsouth.net)

# Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm

Hey There! Me, again, Max, spokeshorse for Begin Again Farms!

And here with me are my new mare and foal. (I think they may be miniatures; they are good company!)

So much to talk about, so much the Farm is grateful for, I barely know where the starting gate is.

Thank you to our volunteers for another enjoyable Rescue Ride! Visitors have no idea the amount of preparation that goes into the Ride—contacting people for the Silent Auction and picking up their donations; cleaning up the trails and filling any holes, posting trail directions; designing and improving the obstacle course, and setting it up; buying and preparing lunch; designing T-shirts and picking them up; seeking sponsors; designing flyers; seeking sponsors; contacting newspaper and other sources for publicity. And then the week of the ride—making sure everything around the barn is shipshape; moving horses to make room for parking cars and trailers and opening up paddocks for riders; preparing the wagon for the tractor and so much more. This doesn't even include the day of the ride—pony handlers; tractor driver; silent auction organization; traffic control; checking Coggins, giving out maps to the trails; raffle; T-shirt sales. I know I am forgetting so much more!

A huge thank you to the sponsors whose generosity provides care for horses for the coming year. The shelter would not be here except for the sponsors! Please check out the business cards in the newsletter (and your new T-shirts) and support those people and businesses. A special thanks to the people and businesses who donated to our Silent Auction.

We are thankful for community support, such as Logan's Roadhouse which gave us 20% of their profits from last month's dinner benefit, and who will do that again this month (watch your e-mail for the date and coupon); the Georgia Teen Work Program and the guys who worked hard to redo our arena, sanding and painting the round pen, and many other necessary chores; for those of our neighbors who offered their farms for our horses to graze on, and our wonderful neighbors the Fullers, who come at a moment's notice if we need them.

This spring when terrible winds destroyed two of our paddock sheds, Alice and John Sands stepped up and donated two new (and better) sheds for our horses.

And also, thank you to the American Association of Equine Practitioners and Merck Animal Health for providing Prestige V + WNV and Rabies vaccines for 50 of our horses! This is an enormous saving for the Farm.



## Coming Events

**NOVEMBER 15—TACK (etc.) SALE AT ELLERSLIE DEPOT**

**DECEMBER 6— HOUSE, STUFF A HORSE TRAILER AND WAVERLY HALL PARADE**

## So Much To Do....



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Refurbishing The Arena

## So Many Thanks for Our Volunteers!



Preparing The Trails



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“Horses are consistent and logical. The horse will do what is easiest for him. If you make it easy for him to buck you off, kick you and run away, that’s just what he’s going to do. And more power to him. But if you make it easy for the horse to be relaxed and calm and accurate — and also have it be a beautiful dance between you and the horse — it won’t be too long before he’ll be hunting for that just as hard as you are. Whatever you make easy for the horse, that’s what he’s going to get good at.” - Buck Brannaman

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### This is Why We Do What We Do

Scooby's surgery for cancer of the eye has been pronounced successful.  
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# RESCUE RIDE 2014



# HORSE SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

Please help us with a sponsorship for our unadoptable or education animals. We have four new sponsorships since our last newsletter, for Simon, Starbucks, Dancer and Misty.

Spend as much time or as little as you wish with your sponsored horse. All of our horses bloom when they have someone who regularly brushes them, gives them treats, and tells them they are beautiful. However, if you wish only to donate to their care in their name, you can do that too!

The following are still looking for their special someone:

## EDUCATION ANIMALS:

**PEANUT**—(*Pictured right*) The Farm's first education pony. Peanut visits schools, works the pony rides, participates in costume in the Waverly Hall Parade every year.

**HERSHEY, HAILEY and LILI**—Miniature donkeys. Very sweet natured. Lili has done some education work. Hailey and Hershey would love to be trained to do the same.

**WILBUR**—Described by the people who brought him as a "Miniature Shetland", this is a wonderful little guy who does pony rides and education.



## RETIRED HORSES:

**BLUE (Ghostwalker)** - An older gray quarter horse gelding. Loves to be groomed. He's currently living with his best friend, Stretch the steer.



**CLYDE** - (*pictured bottom left*) An older mule with tons of personality.

**HANDSOME**—Gorgeous white horse with major fear issues.

**IZZY**—Dun stallion, very good natured. Will never be able to be ridden due to foalhood injury.

(continued next page)

**Sponsorship Campaign—continued from previous page**

**POGO**—A darling older miniature horse. Loves grooming and treats.

**PRETTY BOY**—This tall, handsome palomino has pemphigus, an auto-immune disorder. While he is doing much better, he still has some occasional lameness. Gentle disposition, loves to be groomed and petted.

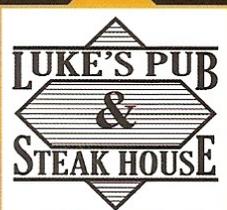


**RANSOM**—Older bay with the most gorgeous sweet eyes. Very gentle. Has Cushing's disease, which is most obvious because of his long coat.

**RHETT**—Black 22-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse, very shy.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPONSORSHIP—**

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# On the Trail....

*By Alice Stagg*

“Empathy for the horse is the capacity of a person to be able to feel what the horse feels, to read a situation the same way and to have an understanding of what the horse is going to do in response to that situation. That’s empathy, or feeling with the horse and it’s a real effective way of learning from the horse. Even before the horse does whatever he’s about to do, a person who’s this way [empathetic] is going to understand the reason a horse does something. It takes time to get that deep knowledge of horses.” - Bill Dorrance.

“The thing you are trying to help the horse do is to use his own mind. You are trying to present something and then let him figure out how to get there.” – Tom Dorrance

For this article, and probably for the next few articles, I am focusing on what my mentor, Jeff Moore, calls “Horse Think” or “Psychology of the Horse”. This is not a startlingly new idea, though I am frequently surprised at how unfamiliar the concept is to many people when I bring it up. Brothers Bill and Tom Dorrance, born in 1906 and 1910 respectively, are considered among the founders of the modern natural horsemanship movement. This approach rejects abusive training methods and aims to develop a rapport with the horse, emphasizing “feel” and observation of its responses to its handler. They were a strong influence on Ray Hunt and Buck Brannaman, two more giants in the world of horse training.

The Dorrances did not corner the market on this concept either. I read not long ago that the California Vaquero style of riding and training holds that the journey is traveled in phases. These phases build a strong relationship of trust between horse and rider. Cooperation rather than the use of force characterizes this relationship and each phase contributes to the future. There are no shortcuts in building the relationship gradually. The concepts of mañana (“tomorrow”) and poco a poco (“little by little”) are the foundation blocks on which everything depends. Time means nothing and the journey is as important as the destination. There can be many paths that lead to the same goal, and the path taken will vary with each horse and rider.

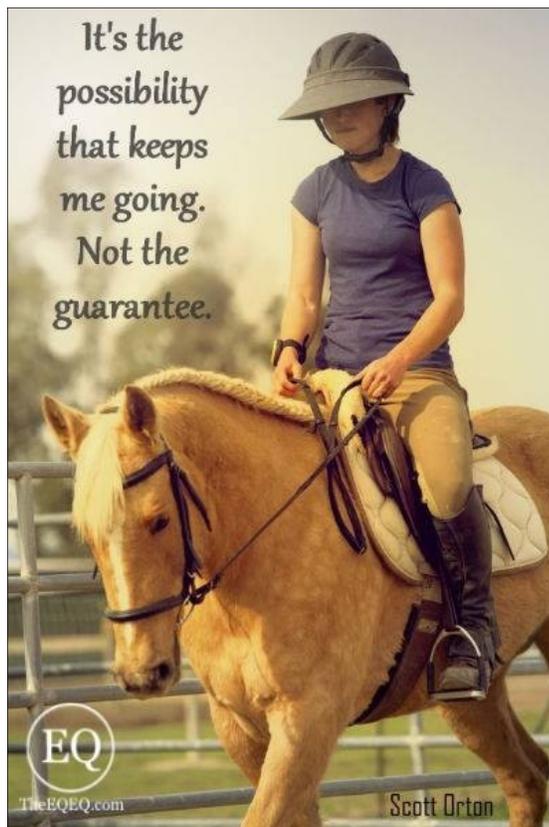
Learning to think like a horse is essential when working with them. It is hard enough to try to access the mind of a horse that has had a “normal” life, but when we are dealing with horses, mules, donkeys and ponies who come to Begin Again from a background of abuse, neglect or just plain bad handling, another layer of difficulty is added to our job, as we try to figure out how to reach them and build trust. With these animals, we are starting at a point lower than zero – in the negative, and have to work our way back to zero in order to progress. It is a time consuming and patience draining exercise, but having a window into the horse psyche gives us a leg up on the task.

I have learned from my mentor, Jeff Moore, the following truths (or at least they have proven true in the work I have done with horses and mules). Other well known trainers think similarly, though they may word their statements somewhat differently.

Horses DO:

Think linearly only, not out of the box. They do not say to themselves “Well, if I do this, I wonder if so and so will be the result?”

- Learn retrospectively
- Learn responses by patterning and experimentation



## On The Trail (continued from page 11)

- Startle easily
- Become defensive easily (which many call being “resistant” and which term I do not accept)
- Experiment (if not distracted or made defensive by other things we do, or do too soon)
- React or respond to “noises” as opposed to specific language or words
- Accept inevitability (principle of “sacking out” or “desensitizing”) if presented consistently
- Anticipate, for better or worse
- Try to make themselves comfortable – by adjusting the rider OR adjusting themselves, whichever is easier and works best for them

### Horses DO NOT:

- Have a clue what we want. They only figure it out after the fact, only by experimentation, and only then if we are good enough at consistent patterning. We cannot provide them with pre-knowledge, akin to giving them a daily outline, such as “today we will work on X, and it is to be done as follows...”
- Have the slightest interest in pleasing us OR displeasing us. This is a hard one for women especially to accept. Of course there can be aberrant exceptions with brain damaged animals, but generally we must not get tangled up in the myth that a horse lives to either make us happy or make us unhappy.
- Think laterally or outside the box
- Seek out information
- Cope with complicated or indirect thought processes – muddled commands are confusing
- Change mental gears easily or associate an accomplishment in one direction or at one gait with performing the same way going in the other direction or at another gait.

The most important lesson for the horse is that it must Learn How to Learn. In nature, the horse mainly only needs to learn four things:

1. His place in the herd (pecking order)
2. To flee to just out of kicking or biting range when confronted with body language or threat of a horse higher in the pecking order
3. To flee from danger (potential predators or pests) – much further flight than just out of kicking range, and sometimes done mindlessly without heed for bodily safety
4. Bear with fortitude those things that cannot be changed (inevitability)

What we expect from horses amounts to calculus for them. We must teach them how to learn to:

1. Distinguish between what is to be borne with fortitude and what is to be reacted to
2. Experiment until they discover what suits them, for their own purposes, to make their situation better, within the parameters we set – make choices that we set up for them to try

*(continued on page 13)*



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## On The Trail *(continued from page 12)*

3. Go through memory and experiment to see if any previously learned lessons will do as an answer to a new, different or unclear influence
4. When none of the previously learned responses work, experiment, don't go numb, shut down, or get frantic. This is a hard one for horses.

Determine when things are as good as they are going to get, and stop experimenting. This is where the horse's response can be rewarded and encouraged verbally and physically when there is only a tiny glimmer of the desired response initially.

So, what is the most important intellectual lesson the rider/trainer has to learn? The answer is to EMPATHIZE. The most important questions you can ask yourself are "What is the horse making of this?" and "How can I clarify it for him?" Women tend to SYMPATHIZE and muddle instead of empathize and clarify. Men tend toward forceful management and annoyance instead of empathizing, causing the horse to shut down mentally and/or react physically in an undesirable manner when the flight or fight syndrome kicks in. When empathy is lacking, we tend to attribute to the horse all sorts of behaviors, intents and motives of which they are often not even capable, and therefore we treat for the wrong disease. An example of this would be treating a horse that becomes defensive as willfully trying to displease us. Without empathy, sympathy is usually misplaced and counter-productive. Similarly, without empathy, applying forceful methods due to loss of temper or becoming impatient will only destroy any trust that may have been built as of that moment.

Laying the foundation for understanding the psychology of the horse and giving yourself over to empathy is the essential basis for developing trust between you and the horse. I plan to continue in this vein in future newsletters and along the way pull in other topics that can contribute to the horse's responses, such as improperly fitted tack, how the rider's balance and posture can influence the horse's performance, and how to position yourself as the Alpha in the herd of two.

---



Horses Checking  
Out Their New  
Pasture Shed -  
A Replacement  
For The One  
Blown Down In  
The Spring  
Windstorm

## Adopted & Sponsored This Quarter

Dillon



## Sponsored This Quarter

Simon  
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Misty (*pictured right*)

## Adopters send their pictures:



*Battle AKA Durango*



*Dillon*

# Horses for Adoption

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURE HORSE:

### JUNIPER

Juniper is a lovely bay pinto Welsh pony x Quarter Horse mare. She moves beautifully, has striking coloration and a sweet personality.

Juniper has been a hunter/ jumper pony, and has done some trails. This past summer she worked with the children at Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center.

She is well mannered and loads well into a trailer. She is looking for the perfect home that will love and care for her.



*(continued on following page)*

## Horses for Adoption *(continued from previous page)*

**BBR BITSY CUTTER**—chestnut Paint (Tob-overo) mare, who despite her name is not small. Super nice, stands for farrier and fly spray, loads. Needs experienced rider.

**BINGO**—handsome sorrel Quarter Horse gelding, 3-year-old. Leads well. Will mature into a small horse. From cutting stock, but no papers. Accepts deworming paste and behaves well in herd situations. The best deal for Bingo is a knowledgeable and confident horse person who will understand his rough start in life. He came to us very suspicious of people, but has made great progress.

**BRAYGORN**—8-year-old quiet bay Thoroughbred gelding. Off the track, used for trail riding. Has been Par-elli trained. Only drawback on this horse is he is a cribber.

**CHAMP**—bay 3 year old Quarter Horse gelding. Ready to start training and can go in any direction. Has basic ground manners, accepts deworming paste and fly spray. Behaves well in herd environment. Socialized.

**CHARLIE**—Beautiful Chestnut Tennessee Walking horse gelding. Has Flaxen mane and tail. Sweet disposition.

**DON'S BLESSING**—*(pictured right)*

Chestnut Welsh pony/Quarter Horse mare, 17 years old. She has done work with English and Western riding. Great on the trails. Worked with children at Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center this summer.



**LADY**—Eye-catching bay Quarter Horse mare, one blue eye, 3 years old. Accepts deworming paste, fly spray. Behaves well in herd environment. Socialized.

**LENA**—Paint mare with no training. Has been a brood mare.

*(continued on page 12)*

## Horses For Adoption *(continued from previous page)*



**LUKE**—(*pictured above*) bay Holsteiner gelding. Some English training, has done low-level eventing. Minor arthritis in hocks so he will not be able to jump. Needs experienced rider.

**LW CATALENA KATESBUCK**—registered buckskin dun breeding stock Paint mare.

**MOSES**—(*pictured right*)

Handsome young mule. He was abused before coming to us, so has some trust issues. Prefers women. He does enjoy human company (especially if they are bearing treats). Takes treats very gently.

Moses needs a mule-savvy person who will work with him one-on-one until he regains his trust.



## Horses for Adoption *(continued from page 9)*

**PEANUT II**—Chestnut Tennessee Walking Horse gelding. Loads, stands for farrier.

**PEPPER**—Nice black large pony mare, good for riding. Worked with children at Good Shepherd this summer.

**PICKLEENA**—registered bay Quarter Horse mare, 21 years old and going strong. She's had tons of training, but can be cold-backed. This mare knows a lot. Experienced rider only.

**RW DUALLYS MAIA JANE**—really cute registered chestnut Quarter Horse mare. Small, wonderful personality. Has lots of potential for a knowledgeable person.

**SCOUT**—*(pictured right)*  
Scout is a beautiful chestnut Paso Fino cross gelding, large pony size.

Scout has been started under saddle.



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**RW FRECK'S FANCY LENA**—bay Quarter Horse mare, sound, unbroken. Freckles Playboy, One Gun, Doc O'Lena, Smart Peppy on papers. Spirited and beautiful.

**RW PLAYBOYS ARROWLENA**—registered chestnut Quarter Horse mare, 14 hands. Friendly, quiet and sound. Unbroken with lots of potential for a knowledgeable person.

**RAIN**—Chestnut Tennessee Walking Horse gelding.

**REP aka REPLICAS IMPRESSION**—Over twenty-year old quarter horse gelding, full of pep. Ex-roper. Very experienced rider only. Has saddling issues.

**SIERRA WAKAYA ONEGUN**—Beautiful 9-year-old black paint mare, blue eyes, 15 hands. Friendly, quiet and sound. Stands tied, has basic ground manners, accepts deworming paste, trailer loads, socialized. Behaves well in her environment. Wakaya is green-broke under western saddle, has been worked in round pen. No known issues with haltering, bridling or saddling.



**SIROCCO**—Handsome six-year-old registered Palomino Morgan gelding. Athletic, conformationally correct. He needs a firm but fair owner providing consistency in riding and ground work. He has been ridden both English and Western, and has the potential for advancing in any discipline.

**TINY TIM**—Small chestnut Quarter Horse/Paso Fino gelding. Three years old. Loves people.

**TIZZY**—This beautiful Quarter Horse mare has permanent lameness issues from being struck by a car. She's a nice horse, and would love to be adopted as a companion horse.

## DID YOU KNOW...

You can find out more about any of our horses for adoption by going to [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) or Purina's A Home for Every Horse.

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## October \$2,000 Contest and \$5 New Member Bonuses Mean Bigger Donations for Begin again farms, inc

Hi Alice,

Fall is here and we're looking forward to the holidays. What better time to help **Begin again farms, inc** just by sharing. Tell your friends, even friends who support some other cause or charity. Each person who joins iGive in October for the first time can mean **\$5 automatically donated** to his or her cause ... no purchase necessary! All they need to do is try the [iGive Button](#) through 1/15/15.

The person who gets the most new members to join iGive in October and try the Button through 1/15/15 **earns \$1,000** for his or her cause - **no matter what cause or charity the new members they invited choose to support**. \$500 prizes go to the second and third place winners' causes.

Share your [special Tell A Friend link](#) to get credit for the contest (it's the *only* way to get credit).

Go get the special link from:

<http://www.iGive.com/html/tellafriend.cfm> .

At your [Tell A Friend](#) page you'll also be able to see which of your friends are helping you win Begin again farms, inc one of those sweet prizes.

### Why share with your friends? -

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As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at <http://support.iGive.com>

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Betty and the entire iGive Team

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**For more information about how you can help support these extraordinary equines, please contact:**

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All in-kind items donated are tax-deductible. As Begin Again Farms, Inc. is a volunteer organization, your donations go to the horses and the foods and items to make the horses' lives happier and healthier!

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are essential to Begin Again Farm's continued good work. Begin Again Farm LOVES volunteers. And volunteers have a lot of fun while doing worthwhile activities with the horses! Currently we need the following:

**Morning and evening horse care** volunteers: fill gaps in the schedule feeding, refilling water, cleaning stalls. No experience necessary; we will train.

Persons experienced in **training** and handling horses to help prepare them for adoption.

**Fundraisers:** Volunteers will help plan and carry out various fundraising events for BAFI. These events include benefit trail rides, silent auction, etc.

**VOLUNTEER WORK DAY—The Second Saturday of Every Month.** Help with special projects around the farm, including painting; fence construction or repair; cleaning the tack rooms, barn or trailers; trail clearing; or whatever needs to be done. We will send out e-mails in advance. *If you are not on our e-mail newsletter etc. list, please contact reusmannl@bellsouth.net*

If you wish to volunteer for any of the above, or just want to be on our list for odds and ends (fence building, painting, selling T-shirts), please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945.

## PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Volunteer photographer wanted to take pictures of new horses as they come in and after they have been returned to health. Pictures of adoptable equines should be suitable to be featured on Petfinder and A Home For Every Horse.

**THE MISSION OF BEGIN AGAIN FARMS is to rescue imperiled, retired or abandoned hooved animals; provide a safe refuge; promote rehabilitation and return to full physical ability; provide safe adoptions for rehabilitated animals; and expand the knowledge of equine science, training and horsemanship through association with community groups and leaders.**

**Begin Again Farms, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization**

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Cheryl Fullick	Phillip Authement
Debbie Snead	Thomas Camp, Jr.
Eileen Manseau	

**Looking for an easy way to help  
Begin Again Farms?**

**Print this newsletter and hang a copy  
in the break room of your office of  
workplace (or any waiting room)!**

**Spreading the word about Begin  
Again Farms is a huge help to us!**