

Hoofprints of Love

**BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER
MARCH 2025**



**SPRING MEMORIAL RIDE—Saturday, May 17, 2025
FALL RESCUE RIDE—Sunday, October 26, 2025**

HORSES ADOPTED

CHANTILLY (bottom)

GIA (top)

BISCUIT

BUDDY

ROCKY

ANNABELLE

HENRY



***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:

josiereus@bellsouth.net (same editor, different email)

MEMORIAL RIDE MAY 17, 2025

We are in process of planning the next upcoming ride—trails, obstacle courses, swag, etc. If you have **suggestions**, please call Rhonda at 706-315-6945.

We have a **new lunch caterer**—Sloppy Pig Catering. Our lunch for the ride will be grilled chicken leg quarters, green beans, cheesy potatoes and brownies. It will be delicious!

ART FOR THE T-SHIRT CONTEST—Want your artwork on the front of our T-shirt? Submit your design to Shelly Till—Katyandchispa@aol.com

RESCUE RIDE OCTOBER 26, 2025

Start Thinking About Costumes For You And Your Horse!



FOCUS ON THE FARM

By Lisa Palmer

BAFI survived the great snowfall and cold weather in January. We had already blanketed the older horses and put out lots of round bales ahead of the storm and luckily had no frozen pipes. Rhonda and another volunteer with 4WD trucks made it out safely midday to feed and all was well.

Horses have been enjoying the mild weather in February, nibbling on the grass that greened up after the snow and ice melted. But here comes another cold blast (we knew winter wasn't really over yet) and so we spent another morning blanketing again before the rain and cold temps arrived.

We have had more young volunteers lately, so we have had lots of help with feeding and cleaning stalls. The girls were taught how to put on a rope halter, how to lead a horse safely, how to pick up a hoof and use a hoof pick, how to groom and on one Saturday, got lessons in ground schooling to "send" a horse first in one direction then the other. This is always much harder than it looks, but practice pays off. We love having young people come out and learn how to care for horses. It builds their confidence and leadership skills which always pays off in the future, whether they stick with horses or not.



We have dismantled a shelter that was coming apart which was dangerous and are in the process of rebuilding it. Due to weather events and other hold-ups, the uprights are in place but not much else. The roof will be put up soon however and we then can use that small area again, which is mostly used for isolating a horse for special care and feeding.



Focus On The Farm *(continued from previous page)*

On a good weather day recently, we were able to burn off a very large pile of tree limbs (remnants of another winter storm a few weeks ago). With the ground fairly wet and more rain coming in soon, it was a good time to get that done.

Since three of our minis were adopted and that area is not currently being used, we took down the small shelter that was built in that area. The high winds of the latest storm had flipped it right over, but luckily the design of cattle gates, metal tubing and tarps survived with no damage. It will be stored for now and likely put up in another area.

One of our older horses with mobility issues went down in his stall recently (they are only stalled during feeding time) and was cast, meaning in a position where he couldn't get up on his own. Fortunately, on that Saturday morning we had lots of helpers. Three people with experience went into the stall to assist the horse, who was able to stand again within a few minutes, and no one suffered any injuries. The new volunteers got a lesson in how to help a horse who is cast as well as how to keep the humans safe in that confined space with a large wobbly animal. Everything was discussed before action was taken and each person knew what to do and where they could move to stay out of harm's way if needed. Communication and staying calm to keep the horse calm is key!



It won't be much longer before we start planning and gearing up for the spring trail ride. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 17th. We hope to see you all there!

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The greatest compliment you can give is a referral



HORSES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com



Maia
Scout
Terramon
Arrowlena
Finale
Bella
Mark
Midnight
Lulu (*pictured left*)

Sirocco
Chiquita
Blaze
Princess
Luna
Ben
Rico
Mocha
Neon (miniature)
Little Bit (miniature)

All horses available for adoption are also available for sponsorship until they are adopted.

ON THE TRAIL

By Alice Stagg

When I read the Facebook post on 1/11/25 from Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue, Inc., it really resonated with me. Being involved to a degree with Begin Again's mission for many years, I know that many of the equines who are taken in by BAFI come with "baggage" of various types. This baggage can be physical, mental or both. Healing an animal's physical pain, or at least easing it to the point where they can still have quality of life, is usually a huge challenge and never cheap. Dealing with the mental issues can be even more of a challenge. Horses can have PTSD just as humans can. Sometimes they never can overcome the traumas and sometimes they can be reclaimed and restored. BAFI does everything possible to bring that quality of life back to those it takes in.



Very often I think, "What in the world was done to that animal to make it the way it is now?" The message from Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue, Inc. touches on a reason that doesn't often get the attention it deserves. I believe our tendency to want instant gratification leads many people who bypass the foundations of good horsemanship and husbandry in their rush to get on and go "do". If you want to ride a bicycle for the first time without instruction and help, you may skin yourself up and even damage your bicycle, but it was your choice and the bicycle isn't going to suffer from your mistakes like a horse would. The bicycle isn't going to go hungry or thirsty because you didn't know how to provide what it needed to thrive. It isn't going to suffer with poorly fitting tack, or struggle to chew due to teeth problems that are not regularly cared for by a professional. It isn't going to go lame from lack of hoof care or over exertion. It isn't going to catch diseases or worms due to lack of vaccinations and a worming plan. Eventually you will probably develop some bike riding skills by blundering along and learning by trial and error. No harm, no foul to the bicycle in the meantime. Most importantly, the bicycle isn't going to develop undesirable or dangerous habits as a result of whatever is done to it that wasn't correct. When the horse gets to the point where the owner no longer wants to deal with what they have most likely created, rescues often are called upon.

(continued on following page)



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On The Trail *(continued from previous page)*

Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue, INC

Turning a Beginner horse into a dangerous animal; the story of too many “first, second and third” horses: What you need to know about the difficulty and expense of horse ownership before you take the next step.

Did you know one of the most common reasons horses end up discarded, neglected or with behavioral problems traces back to a buyer / owner who had far too little experience (but probably believed their 3 trail rides during vacations meant they were excellent riders) and / or too little ability to cover the enormous costs of owning and caring for a horse?

If you are truly a newbie, please, for the love of a horse, do not buy or adopt or pick up a free horse without investment in lessons and a trainer first.

Taking a few lessons at 12 years old doesn't mean you're not a total beginner. Riding horses on trail rides at stables while on vacation for 1 to 10 years also doesn't mean you have any real experience. Feeding 1,000 carrots to horses next to your grandfather's house as a child doesn't count. Cleaning stalls as a job as a teenager. . .nope. Not super helpful.

Sometimes the stars align allowing total new owners make it work. It is rare, and it is too rare and typically too harmful for us to recommend it.

We've saved too many who bear the scars of “newbie” owners.

They have been mishandled, their bodies and minds misused, usually through sheer ignorance.

If you cannot afford lessons, you cannot afford a horse.

Unless you've ridden and cared for a horse under a trained eye and hand, you will not likely do the horse any positive service.

Did you know even a beginner safe horse can end up damaged and dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced person or family?

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On The Trail *(continued from previous page)*

Beginner safe really doesn't "usually" mean any untrained person can do anything with the horse long term. It means, at best, a beginner can ride the horse under supervision and be safe.

No giant animal with a prey instinct is truly safe for just any new rider / handler without a trained eye looking on and offering instruction forever.

You have lucked out with a rare creature if you've found an exception, but it is luck only you're working with in these cases. Regardless, if you're a real novice and have found a tolerant and kind horse, you owe the horse something better.

I once heard a trainer talk about how horrible it is when a novice turns a perfectly well-trained, safe horse into a dangerous animal with their mistakes, and the fact is, this happens far too often.

Horses are very expensive and complicated.

They are extremely complex and sensitive.

They aren't gold fish (Heck, even fish are awfully hard to keep alive).

Horses require a disposable income of several thousand dollars a year each, even if you live in a very inexpensive area and keep the horse on your own property and do not need to keep the horse shod or treat any ailments beyond trims, de-worming, vaccines and teeth (all of those things ARE a must).

Horses require knowledge. A lot of it. You also have to continue to learn. . .

Forever and ever.

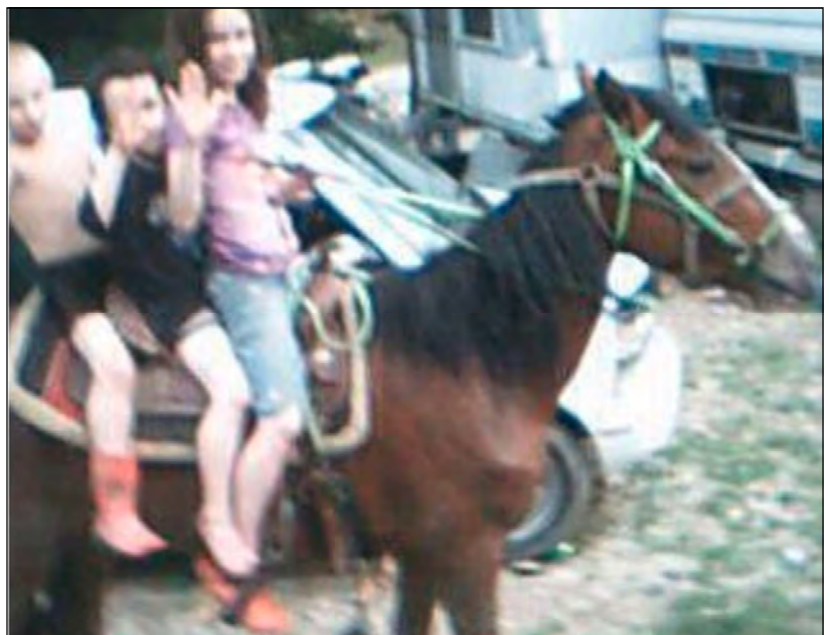
First. . .Lessons.

Then. . .a horse of your own.

Later. . . More lessons.

Any other order generally puts a horse at great risk of ending up with lasting training problems, injuries or worse. Never mind that it isn't safe for people to do it another way.

(The horse in the original image is from a craigslist ad of a horse I rescued on my own before Heart of Phoenix many years ago. He was also fairly emaciated.)



HORSES AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com

A few of the newer horses and ponies may be moved to adoption after they have regained weight and/or been evaluated.

Levi
Pickleena
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Max
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Maia
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Wish List

Horse Supplies:

Feed: Senior Feed
Tasty 10
Shredded Beet Pulp
Probiotics
Buteless Pellets
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray
Salt Blocks

Tools and Equipment:

Any kind of yard tools
Steel T-Posts—6'
Any Size Gates
Hog or Horse Wire
Treated Lumber any size
Power tools
Wooden fence posts

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Table Umbrellas

Volunteer Help:

Plumber for minor repairs
Electrician for minor repairs
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair
Carpenter for repairs
A.m. or p.m. feeding one or more days per week
Drag pastures weekly
Misc. maintenance of property and fences
Knowledgeable horse people who want to get their horse fix brushing horses and giving them attention
Photographer to help horses get adopted

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ALWAYS THINGS TO BE FIXED



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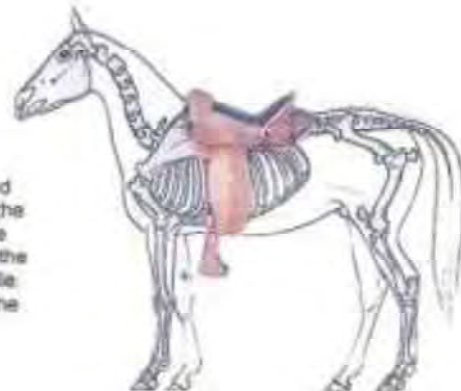
English Saddle Position

Saddle Bar lies at about 2" or finger widths behind the scapula. The tree stays supported by the rib cage. The girth is well back from elbow.



Western Saddle Position

The girth rigging should be about one hands width behind the scapula, and the lowest point of the saddle should be over the 15th vertebrae.



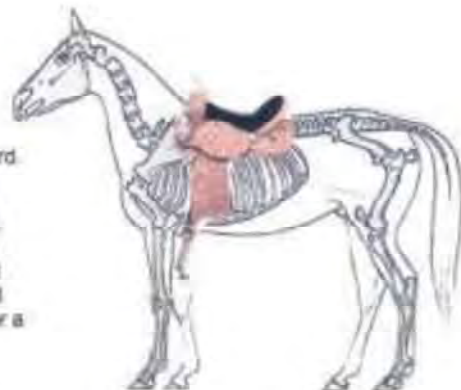
Correct

In both English and Western saddles the deepest part of the seat should lay in the center of the saddle. Ideally 3" behind the stirrup bar.

Too Far Forward



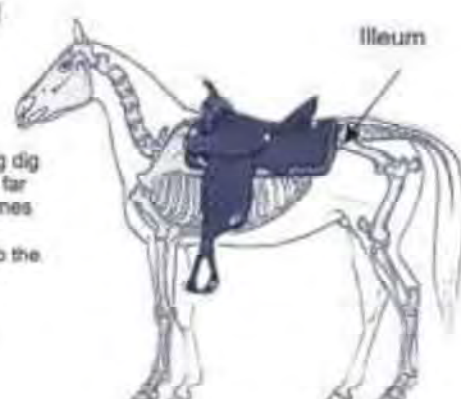
Saddles too far forward. Scapula movement hindered. Riders are thrown into chair seat. Girth lies on sensitive skin at the elbow and constricts the pectoral muscles all making for a short strided sore backed horse.



Tree Too Long



Trees that are too long dig into the loins if placed far enough back. Sometimes the long skirt on the western saddle will rub the ilial flare of the pelvis irritating the horse particularly on turns.



**Begin Again Farms, Inc.
Equine Shelter
PO Box 242
Hamilton, GA 31811**



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**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!**