
The Inside Scoop



Summer 2024



Why you need a reputable rescue for your horse!

When your best intentions and efforts turn into the worst possible scenario, where do you turn?

Aimee was a victim of the method of training Tennessee Walking Horses called soring. It is a cruel and physically damaging practice designed to teach the horse to lift its feet in an exaggerated manner when it is walking. Although illegal, this inhumane technique is still practiced. (You are encouraged to Google “soring.”)

Aimee’s companion, Bellamy, was a BLM (Bureau of Land Management) captured mustang. Trained and used as a Border Control horse along the Mexican/US border, she is now retired.

A gentle soul rescued both mares and promised to give them a forever home. Sadly, her mountain property turned out to be too difficult for Aimee’s ruined hooves. The owner knew that Aimee could not thrive on her property. As Aimee and Bellamy were closely bonded, they would have to find a new home together.

The owner found a rescue in East Tennessee that promised to take care of her horses for life. In addition to charging a \$500 fee for each horse, the owner was then required to pay \$100 montly for

each. After six months, the owner was advised that both of her horses had foundered and were unadoptable. Therefore, both were to be transferred to another facility and would likely be euthanized by gun.

The shocked owner was horrified and asked that her horses be returned to her. Even a mountainous pasture is better than a violent death!

RCR was equally stunned and appalled. Of course, we made space for these two beautiful animals and they came to us in mid-April. Both are happy and healthy and have found different buddies in their shared pasture.

It is important to carefully screen any prospective rescue/sanctuary. In this case, the owner did the responsible thing and found a solution for her horses but the rescue turned out to be a scam. There is no magic formula in choosing a place for your horse. Verifying the rescue with the professionals that it uses (vet, farrier) is essential. Does the organization have professional memberships that guarantee transparency? Are they verified by donor organizations (cont’d p.2)

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such as Candid or Charity Navigator? Are their tax returns available for your viewing? Does this rescue have recommendations from people you know personally? Again, there are no guarantees of success, but at least you will have made a thorough search and done your best to ensure the safety of the horse. ❤️



Jesse is here

Spotlight on Staff



Nobody does it better! Lexi Parrish has been a vital part of Red Clay Ranch for the last two years. She is top notch with loving and caring for these horses.

Of course, she has children and that experience has no doubt cultivated her patience.

Lexi adds so much to our community with her kindness, not only to the animals, but to her co-workers. She sets an example for all who know her. She is a hard-worker and totally devoted to the welfare of the horses here at RCR. We are grateful that she is part of our team. ❤️

We welcomed an incredible Warmblood from Arkansas on May 5. Jesse is a young and beautiful animal who is completely blind. He gets along with everyone and is a dream horse. It is a tragedy that he has lost his sight but he seems to be comfortable in his new home.

His pasture mates are also blind and they live in a specially designed field that has no obstacles. They find their feed, hay, water troughs, and run-in shelters with no difficulty.

He has also had NO difficulty in finding a gal-pal. Jesse ran down a fence to get to Chloe and I must say that she is a wonderful mare. Alas, they will have to learn to kiss over the fence! We had to put Jesse back “next door”. ❤️

Where your donor dollars go!!



Gizmo comes home!



Gizmo came to us in January of 2013 from a breeder in Savannah. He had several Curly horses that he needed to rehome and we were happy to take 3 year old Gizmo. Giz was easy to gentle and became a true in-your-pocket horse. He loved humans and physical touch. He had no problem lifting his feet for the farrier and taking his worming medication. In short, he was the most trusting baby we had ever had and we came to love him dearly.

It was apparent that Gizmo, at his young age, did not belong in a sanctuary but we did not have a trainer. As we have done many times, we worked with a sister agency (Trinity Rescue) that did have a trainer and we agreed that Gizmo should go to Trinity, be trained, and then be adopted to a loving home.

Unfortunately, at the age of 13 his behavior began to change and he started to spook easily. His reactions included rearing and bolting. Gizmo's owners began to think that his behavior was becoming dangerous for riding.

Being diligent, the owners got veterinary care and to everyone's surprise and horror, they discovered that Gizmo was going blind.

Per our contract with adoptions, Gizmo had to be returned to RCR. No horse adopted out by RCR can be sold, leased, given away, loaned, etc. He must be returned to RCR. In Gizmo's case it was the safest possible scenario where he would be

protected for the rest of his life and no potential rider would be harmed by his reactions to advancing blindness.

While Gizmo's situation, apparently due to a genetic trait, was tragic, it also had a bright side. Gizmo would come back to us!! We were excited to have our boy back.

We couldn't believe our eyes when this fully mature horse jumped from the trailer. When Gizmo left us, he was still so young and here he stood, fully grown.

Gizmo is home. He has come full-circle and will be with us now for the remainder of his life. We could not be happier! ❤️



Jolene and Simon join RCR

Divorce is never pleasant and sometimes those who suffer the outcome are innocent bystanders. Such was the case with Jolene and Simon.

Dearly loved by their owner, these two incredibly beautiful horses fell subject to disposition when the now single owner could not afford to keep them. Her only joy in giving up her beloved animals was knowing that they would be safe for life in sanctuary at Red Clay Rescue.

Our plan had been to rehome them as both Jolene and Simon are rideable and reasonably young. Upon evaluation, we discovered that they were both lame and would probably do better in sanctuary. While they might have been able to tolerate light riding, it would not serve them well in the long run.

Our ultimate consideration in rehoming a horse is what is in the best interest of the horse. In deciding that Jolene and Simon would stay in sanctuary, we can guarantee that they will always be well cared for. ❤️



Upcoming Events at RCR

The **MANE Event 2024** will be held on Friday evening, September 6 from 6:30-10:00 pm at the Cherokee Town Club in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, ticket sales, or sponsorship opportunities, please email redclayrescue@gmail.com or call 404.964.5665. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we look forward to seeing you there!

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I cannot but think we have much to be thankful for, and more still to hope for in the future.

Churchill to David Lloyd George, 9 December 1918 (cited in Langworth, Churchill: In His Own Words)



Molly is adopted!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Molly has been adopted into a forever home where she will be loved and wanted for the rest of her life. It is bittersweet because we hate to see her go, but we are just over-the-moon happy that she will get the love and attention that she so richly deserves! ❤️

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