



Photo courtesy of Philippe L./Shoot Miami

RANCH ROUNDUP



Newsletter | Third & Fourth Quarter 2014

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and adoption of abused, neglected and abandoned horses and other large animals in Miami-Dade, Florida.

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www.helpthehorses.org



When people hear of the criminal abuse we encounter in most of our horse rescues, they have a hard time believing that humans can be so inhumane. Our supporters want to know, how did this happen and did you bring the culprits to justice?

If we find the abusers, we do take them to court but that is no guarantee that the guilty are punished. I have testified many times on behalf of our rescued animals and typically if there is a defense attorney they attack me and my credibility. Over the years, my confidence has grown as I become more experienced on the witness stand. Yes, I have been threatened and intimidated but knowing that no one else is there for these horses keeps me determined and usually, we prevail.

The number one priority is that the horses are signed over to our custody. It can take up to six years to get a conviction but as long as we have possession of the horse we can begin rehabilitation and hopefully re-homing to a worthy owner. There are some occasions where a horse ends up in limbo, though. We have a couple of horses on our ranch now that cannot be adopted because of legal issues. This is all part of the process of rescuing horses in Miami-Dade County. It's not easy and yes, it can even be dangerous. I am thankful to all our supporters who help us do what it takes to rescue and advocate for those animals in need.



We are still awaiting legal custody of Justice (L) and Susie (R), rescued July 7, 2013. Until then they cannot be adopted.

In this issue we continue to highlight our rescue and rehabilitation stories to keep you connected and share the work we do at SFSPCA. Remember, we can't do it alone and we rely on your support to continue to fight for justice for abused and neglected animals.

- Laurie Waggoner

Executive Director's Update



South Florida SPCA welcomes the talents and commitment of our newly elected board members **Alvin Davis, Nancy Piacentino, Julie Shelton** and **Jan Walters**. Their addition to our board will go a long way towards strengthening our ability to fulfill our mission and vision. The board of directors is refining the roles of its members with the creation of formal committees dedicated to improve the board's handling of governance, finances, marketing, program/education, financial development, facilities maintenance and improvement, and advocacy on matters of animal cruelty.

The board and administration are currently engaged in the expansion and refinement of its policies and procedures. This more robust policies and procedures document will properly and accurately define all that the organization does in meeting its commitment to fulfill its mission.

Finally, during the past quarter we have devoted time and resources to improving the recordkeeping of our donor database with implementation of a tested software program used by thousands of nonprofits across the country. This will assist us in maintaining accurate donor information and enable us to access it more precisely and to respond to donors in a more timely manner.

I am pleased to report that the thrust of these improvements is focused on strengthening the South Florida SPCA's ability to meet the challenges of serving a growing number of animals who desperately need the care and services provided by the organization. We're making great strides, but we still have much work to do. The support of all who value the saving of the animals in our care is needed now, more than ever. - *John P. Capurso*

Jeanette Jordan Retires

The Board of Directors of South Florida SPCA accepted Jeanette Jordan's notice of retirement at its meeting in June and recognized her for the many years of devoted service to the organization's mission. Subsequently, the board appointed her as a member of its Honorary Board. Although not officially connected with the organization in a working capacity, Jeanette can be expected to remain involved in the welfare of the animals served by the South Florida SPCA.



Photos: Jeanette Jordan with her horse Foolish Treasure, adopted from South Florida SPCA; and plaque recognizing Jeanette's many years of service and dedication.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Capurso

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The South Florida Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating under the guidelines of Florida State Statutes Chapter 828 which defines animal cruelty, abandonment and neglect. It is not part of or supported by a national or governmental agency, nor associated with the A.S.P.C.A. or any other agency or charity. Operating funds come from the donations of money, services and personal efforts of private individuals and companies.

2015 CALENDAR!

South Florida SPCA's 2015 Calendar will be available early November! Each month features one of our beautiful rescues printed on heavy-weight glossy cards that fit neatly in a CD case that flips open and converts to a display stand. At \$15 each, it's a great holiday gift for horse lovers! The calendars will be available to purchase at the ranch and at our upcoming events while supplies last.



SPCA's A Day at the Races Moves to Gulfstream Park!

Sunday, December 14, 2014 • 11:30am check-in, 12:35 first post

South Florida SPCA is delighted to announce its annual A Day at the Races will be held at Gulfstream Park on Sunday, December 14. Traditionally held at Calder Casino and Racing in October, the event venue and date was moved in order to accommodate more guests and to bring supporters together during the holiday season. Attendees will enjoy a lavish buffet luncheon in a private area of the VIP Clubhouse and an afternoon of horse racing, along with a chance to buy raffle tickets for fun prizes and to bid on incredible silent auction items.



Tickets are \$65 per person and include:

- Unlimited buffet luncheon with multiple carving stations, salad bars, lunch entrees, pastas, desserts and more, one glass of wine, and coffee/tea
- Air-conditioned trackside seating
- Daily race program (\$3 value)
- \$2 betting voucher per person

Laurie Waggoner noted, "We make it a point to partner with organizations that share our values and actively pursue and enforce policies for the humane treatment of horses. Gulfstream Park and its owner, The Stronach Group, have implemented the strictest standards for humane treatment of Thoroughbreds both during their racing careers and in retirement through the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care (TRAC) programs. By working together, we better the lives of many horses."

Proceeds from A Day at the Races benefit South Florida SPCA, and a portion of the proceeds from race sponsorships will be donated to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF). For more information contact Kathleen Monahan at 786-351-2632 or kathleenm@12thwardproductions.com.

**HORSES
WIN!!!**

Buy Tickets, Reserved
Tables & Sponsorships at
www.helpthehorses.org

Annual Rally at Robbie's

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Huge thanks to our friends at **South Florida Trail Riders** and **Robbie's Feed & Supply** for continuing their tradition of holding their annual rally for SFSPCA. This year's outstanding raffle event was held on August 16th and raised over \$7700 for our rescues! It was an all-day event and everyone had fun while they were helping our horses. Every penny of the money raised goes directly to SFSPCA. Congratulations to Ofelia Rodriguez of Homestead for winning the \$500 Robbie's gift card. Nice work SFTR and Robbie's Feed & Supply, we appreciate your generosity and our thanks to all who attended!



South Florida SPCA officers and South Florida Trail Riders with Robbie (seated, center).

Parkland Hunter Derby

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Horses and riders took to the open field at Parkland Equestrian Center for the **Second Annual Parkland Horseman's Association/Millpond Farm Hunter Derby** on a beautiful September Sunday. Amateur adult and youth riders competed in 2'3" and 2'6" classes, and professionals preceded them in the 2'6" Open Class. Spectators not only enjoyed the equestrian action, but also the gourmet food truck and ice cream cart, an array of vendors and the silent auction benefiting South Florida SPCA. Our sincere thanks to all of the organizers, donors, sponsors, bidders, vendors, and of course riders, who participated!



Monique Calhoun and I Walk The Line



Volunteers Adela, Yube & Susie with Maggie's Shamrock



Amanda Muir and Double Trouble



Samantha Merz with Paul McKesson of Clever Jumps & Trunks who donated a custom jump to the silent auction. Dani Bunge on Maggie's Shamrock (behind).

Adoption News: *Forever homes found!*

Our congratulations and thanks to those who opted to adopt! Since our last newsletter, Alice and Ally, Amber, Ash, Charlie, Charm, Dino, Johnny Rocket, Liberty, Molly and Mocha, Peaches, Hope, Sally and Skittles have found their forever homes. We are especially thrilled to announce after three years and three months, mother/daughter ponies Alice and Ally were finally adopted, together! (Full story on our website's blog.)



Hope and Susie.



Sally (now Sapphire Blue) and Adela.



Skittles and Emily.



Alice and Ally.



Charlie and Charlie.



Amber and Lisa.



Molly and Mocha (now Sugar and Spice) at Miami International Riding Club with Celia and Daniela Bunge.

Save a Horse, Ride a Rescue... ...and join South Florida Trail Riders!

For decades, the South Florida Trail Riders club has partnered with South Florida SPCA, volunteering grooming, exercising and training time, helping with fundraising, equipment and building repairs; and many have gone the extra measure for these horses – they have adopted them! Through the years, countless SFTR members have chosen a SFSPCA rescue over all others. Providing nourishment and TLC, and a safe meaningful life for them - the rewards have been amazing.



Some of the many rescued horses that have begun new lives with the SFTR include **Carrie H's** mare, **Royaliza**, who has proudly carried a SFTR flag in parades. **Linda R's** faithful **Hero** has conquered his fears and loves swimming in the ocean. **Mike G** hosted and lead a club ride on his trusty **Boomer**. **Darlene P's** lucky steeds saved from slaughter, **Breezy and Vincent**, have ridden costumed in the SFTR annual Jingle Bell Jaunt mounted holiday toy drive. And junior member **Hannah S** is currently training **Pistol** for trail riding. The list continues, each with a story of an abused horse rescued by SFSPCA and adopted by a Trail Rider - each pair with camping trips, trail rides, lakes, parades and sunsets to enjoy.



So when you visit the Redlands and see SFTR members on their weekly rides weaving through groves, farm fields, Everglades pinelands or canal greenways, realize it could be you riding there, too! Join the SFTR, help them continue to help SFSPCA, and consider adopting a rescue horse.

Save a horse, ride a rescue ... you'll be glad you did!

For more information, or to join the South Florida Trail Riders, visit www.sftrdade.org. - *Bonny George, Jr.*

AT THE RANCH

Rescue: Answering the call for help

As the heat index rose this summer, so did the number of horses in our care, reaching 70 at the beginning of August then climbing further to 73 as this goes to print. The majority of our rescues are Paso Finos (40%) but we are now receiving more Thoroughbreds, currently we have 11. Through social media we've been able to connect some horses with previous owners or breeders, notably the breeder of off-the-track Thoroughbred Silver and Smoke. We also took in a pig and a young male goat, and rescued one very lucky steer from an illegal butcher in the East Everglades. *For more details and photos of our rescues visit our website, Facebook page and Twitter account.*



Silver and Smoke, rescued August 3.



Taffy, rescued with seven other horses July 29.



Benji, rescued September 25.



Flattering Irene and an unidentified Thoroughbred stallion rescued with eight other horses and a steer on October 6.



Steer rescued from illegal slaughter on October 6.



Bringcheckcharlie, rescued August 3.



La Seductora de Venari, rescued October 10.



Volunteer Orientation Classes
OCT 11 • NOV 8 • JAN 10

Volunteering: Get Involved!

We love our volunteers! We are grateful to the support of so many, from those who have served for many years to those who have recently joined. Over the summer we welcomed over 70 new volunteers who work hard to keep our rescues healthy and happy, and the ranch clean and safe. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, *click "Get Involved" at www.helpthehorses.org or contact Samantha Merz at sam@helpthehorses.org.*

Education & Outreach: Sharing our mission

We were delighted to welcome the **Blue Water Farm** summer camp kids on June 19! They learned, toured, lunched, and of course treated and bathed several rescues. Owner Lynn presented a \$500 dollar donation collected by campers, and parents pitched in additional funds. Thank you Blue Water! September 14 was a picture perfect day when members of **Shoot Miami Photography Club** came out to photograph our horses and capture ranch life. We'll be using many of their photos on our website and in other communications (one is featured on the cover of this newsletter...*thank you Philippe*). View images online www.meetup.com/shootmiami/photos/24506312. On September 19, students from **Johnson & Wales University** visited us for their annual "Join! Work! Unite!" volunteer day, and mucked, shoveled, bathed and groomed. Many want to come back as volunteers, and to contribute their culinary skills at future events! Looking ahead, we will host **Wicker, Smith, O'Hara, McCoy & Ford, PA** on November 9 for a corporate outing, and the **FAU Equestrian Team** is coming to visit the ranch and work with our horses on November 16. *Interested in a day at SFSPCA? Contact Susie Martell at susie@helpthehorses.org.*



Shoot Miami Photography Club. Photo © Sina Photography



Johnson & Wales University students.



Blue Water Farm summer campers.

Sanctuaries: *Permanent retirement for rescues*

South Florida SPCA is designated as a “rescue operation,” meaning that its goal is to rehabilitate abused, abandoned or neglected large animals and then match them with adopters. However, some of our rescued animals are difficult to re-home due to advanced age or other factors. For such cases, we turn to sanctuaries that provide rescued animals with a home for life.

For over 20 years **Retirement Home for Horses (RHH) at Mill Creek Farm** has graciously accepted many of our seniors, most recently Archie, Knox and Sophie. RHH was founded by Peter and Mary Gregory in the 1980s to provide a safe haven for retired police and military horses that have outlived their working years. Over 100 horses enjoy their retirement on the 300 lush, beautiful acres at RHH in North Florida. Visit www.millcreekfarm.org to learn more.

Windhorse Sanctuary was there when we needed them soon after our rescue of Paso Fino Estrella de Amadeus, a two-time National Champion Performance Filly/Mare found abandoned in the East Everglades on July 8. We thank Bobbie Burnes and everyone at Windhorse for restoring Estrella’s health and magnificent beauty, and for surrounding her with lifetime human, horse, and other animal friends including our blind kitten, Comet! Check out this wonderful organization at www.windhorsesanctuary.org.



The Commissioner, or “Commish,” now at Rooterville.



Sophie at Retirement Home for Horses/Mill Creek.



Estrella running free at Windhorse Sanctuary.

And then there is Frances, Phyllis and The Commissioner. Not horses, but pigs! We are grateful to **Rooterville, A Sanctuary, Inc.** for giving our sweet swines a forever home with their own kind. Elaine and Dale West created a sanctuary for rescued pigs and other critters several years ago and have grown to a 30 acre facility in Central Florida. In addition to providing a safe haven for their rescues, Elaine and Dale are dedicated proponents of the vegan lifestyle. Pay them a visit at www.rooterville.org, and tell them SFSPCA sent you!

**YOUR DONATIONS
HELP SAVE
HORSES’ LIVES!**

DEFENSE TEAM: September 14, 2014
PHOTO © 2014 Carlos Carreño

DEFENSE TEAM: February 18, 2014

How to help? *Here are 5 fun ways!*

1. **Attend or Sponsor South Florida SPCA’s A Day at the Races on December 14 at Gulfstream Park:** www.store.spcasofla.org/searchresults.asp?cat=1828
2. **Love Thoroughbreds? Passionate for Paso Finos?** Donate to our our Crowdrise fundraisers in honor of both breeds: www.crowdrise.com/SFSPCATBRescue and www.crowdrise.com/SupportSFSPCAPasoFinos
3. **Holiday shopping on Amazon.com? Sign up for Amazon Smile and designate SFSPCA as your charity of choice.** Learn more at: www.spcasofla.org/help-the-horses-with-amazonsmile. **While you’re there, shop our Wish List:** www.smile.amazon.com/gp/register/wishlist/?ie=UTF8&cid=A1KR7RITM7IMXD
4. **Give our beautiful 2015 CD Calendar to all the fellow horse lovers in your life!** (See pg. 2 of this newsletter for details.)
5. **Shop at or donate items to Designer Thrift for Animal Aid in Davie.** Sales proceeds benefit SFSPCA! Visit www.designerthriftforanimalaid.com for details.



NEW ROOF!

Thank you Julie Shelton and Joe Ward Roofing for helping us provide even safer shelter for our rescues!

Honor Donations

In Memory of Peter S. Dokuchitz
from Matt Hege

In Memory of Vern Gutterman
from Carol Brito

In Memory of Venus Robinson
from Michael Stahl

In Honor of Brad and Joy Martin
for their endless efforts to help animals
from Spicey and Candy

In Honor of Mary Rembowski
from Lynda Nagle

In Honor of Ellyn Robinson
from Leslie Fiur

In Honor of Laurie Waggoner
from Claudia Roussel, "Kiwi's birthday gift
to SFSPCA for all the help provided to her."

Happy Anniversary to Ken & Jane!
from Margaret Kurtzman

OUR THANKS TO THESE MAJOR DONORS FOR THEIR RECENT GENEROSITY!

The Emily Vernon Foundation
The Gould-Shenfeld Family Foundation
Julie Shelton
The Frederic R. Coudert Foundation
Paso Fino Horse Association
Sun Capital Investments
Miguel Guerra
Kathleen Monahan
Monique and Kevin Calhoun
Angellinna Greaves
South Florida Trail Riders
Gloria Killingsworth
Monique Ogden
Maria Moreja
Mango's Tropical Cafe
Paulina Gould
Claudia Roussel



YES! I WANT TO HELP THE HORSES!

Please use my tax-deductible contribution indicated below to positively impact the lives of South Florida S.P.C.A. rescues in need, and help provide safety, shelter, food, veterinary care and training.

\$1000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$10

Check Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Charge my Credit Card:

CARD NUMBER

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

EXP. DATE

SECURITY CODE

PHONE OR EMAIL

Birthday or Memorial Donation? Print Honoree Name
and Message Below:

ONLINE donations accepted at: www.helpthehorses.org



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A DAY at the RACES

Join us on Sunday
December 14, 2014
at Gulfstream Park!
DETAILS INSIDE!



GRETCHEN, RESCUED APRIL 29, 2014

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and adoption of abused, neglected and abandoned horses and other large animals in Miami-Dade, Florida.