



The Santana Center Times



An Annual Newsletter

Summer 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I had the opportunity last year to visit a rescue in Colorado called *The Denkai Animal Sanctuary* (www.denkaisanctuary.org). It is run by Floss, a vibrant kind hearted woman who has dedicated her life to providing safe temporary shelters for homeless animals including horses, dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, etc. I saw first hand how easy it is to be overwhelmed with good intentions and love. She had 60 horses! I suddenly understood all those warnings my friends had given me about getting overcommitted. I realized how important it is to plan, and stick to that plan no matter what pulls at your heart.



*Kathy and Hot Shot
(now 6 years old)*

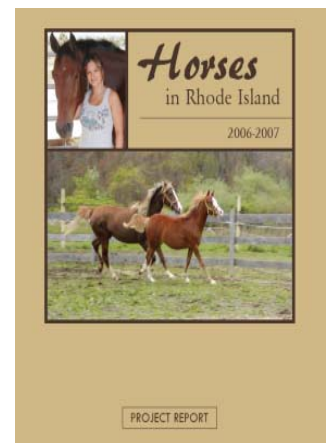
So we continue to evaluate our role in Rhode Island. We don't have the funds or the capacity to hold many horses, nor do we have the time to train more than one or two. But we do have the ability to work at other levels - we can develop the information base on horses in RI (The Horse Survey), we can provide educational opportunities and develop new opportunities for collaboration and partnerships (The Horse Summit). As we turn 5 this year, we are slowly finding our place.

There are many ways to assist those that are trying to help: give a little cash, volunteer or attend a fundraiser, offer to brush some horses or unload hay, sometimes just a kind word (like thank you) goes a long way. In a perfect world, there would be no need for a rescue, but we aren't living there yet!

Please join us as we continue to contribute our efforts to help the horses and horse owners of Rhode Island!

RI HORSE SURVEY COMPLETE!

The horse report is out! In 2006, we received a grant from the RI Foundation provided by the Virginia B. Butler Fund and the Helen Walker Raleigh Animal Fund to conduct a baseline horse survey for Rhode Island. We partnered with Dr E.J. Finocchio, director of the RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA) and Dr Scott Marshall, the RI state veterinarian. When we first started looking for information we read estimates ranging from 5000 to 25,000 horses were living in Rhode Island! We interviewed veterinarians and surveyed horse owners to narrow down the numbers and to see what owners were doing and thinking. We determined that the number of horses in Rhode Island ranged between 6814 -7301 in 2006-2007. Because the state is so small, the density of horses may be one of the highest in the country!



The Horse Report is available for download on the web site.

Horse owners raised several areas of concern: access to safe riding areas, sufficient number of qualified veterinarians and farriers, horse neglect and abuse, costs of feed and supplies, unrealistic fire regulations and emergency preparedness.

There are many state, federal, public and private organizations working on aspects of large animal issues. We have a disconnect between those that need the services and those that provide them. We determined that a next step would be to convene a RI Horse Summit to bring together

horse owners and service providers to begin a discussion about the future of horses in RI. We recently received a grant for this Summit from the RI Foundation (see story this page).

HORSE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

Rio

Rio is an amazing horse with potential for anything, especially jumping and/or dressage. He is light on his feet and loves to run. He is sensitive and very aware. He needs a quiet light confident touch. He is being ridden walk and trot in a ring environment. He is almost 16 hands. He lunges, long-lines and stands quietly for the vet and farrier. He is 5 years old.



Kathy and Rio

Caeser

Caeser is approximately 26 years old and was part of a larger rescue that occurred many years ago in New York.



Caeser needs a home!

He has been in limbo for a long time and it has taken a toll on his body and mind. He has moderate DSLD (degenerative suspensory ligaments) in his hind legs and gets fearful easily. This

horse deserves a home where he will be loved with compassion. He is very obedient and is fine with another older horse. He is not rideable. Please consider sponsoring him with a few dollars a month (See our sponsorship program on last page).

Update on Aurora, Atti and Lily

Aurora continues to be healthy and happy out in California with Dyan her loving owner.

Lily is living in New Hampshire and her new owner Nancy loves her. They are best friends and a great match. Her daughter Atti, now called Maggie, is living with her new family in Foster RI.

GRANTS OBTAINED 2009

RI Foundation - Rhode Island Horse Summit

We are the lucky recipients of an Animal Welfare grant from the RI Foundation this year to get us started with planning the first ever Rhode Island Horse Summit. The goal of this summit is to bring together people and organizations interested in horses to discuss common problems and to create solutions by forming partnerships. Our hope is to use the Summit as our starting point to develop a horse community that will continue into the future. Our first step is to convene an advisory committee of partners to develop the format and content of the meeting. The meeting will be scheduled for next year.

If you would like to be involved in the advisory committee, please let us know!

Funding 101

The Santana Center won a phone session to talk with consultant Bonnie Marlewski-Probert (From Horse Tales for the Soul). We spent 2 hours talking about the Santana Center, non-profits and how to take our activities to the next level. It was wonderful to hear her stories and advice on how to avoid burn-out, how to focus on where we want to be in 5 years and how to



Go Shop icon on web site

get there. We now receive a monthly list of tips in her newsletter called Funding 101. She introduced me to an on-line shopping site called *Go Shop* where we can earn money if people shop under our name. There is a link from our web site. Try it out!

Some other things I learned:

-Focus on how your business is going to be rather than how it is right now and visualize success.

-Tips on how to make your organization attractive to donors.

FUNDRAISING

Cassandra (our volunteer) and her daughter spent a recent July 30 evening hosting a fundraiser for the Santana Center at UNO Chicago Grill in Warwick, RI. Their program is called "Dough for Dough" and all you have to do is show up and eat with a fundraiser announcement, 15-20% of what you spend is given to the non-profit. Many restaurants offer this type of fundraiser. Additionally she was



able to obtain some wonderful raffle prizes. Thanks to all that showed up to eat that thursday night. We raised almost 300 much needed dollars!



Volunteer Cassandra and her daughter, Michaela, at the fundraiser

RECESSION HITS RI HORSE OWNERS

After the conversation with our non-profit consultant, we heeded her advice and redesigned the web site. We added the "Media Page" so that reporters writing about horses could easily find information about us and the rescue. Shortly after posting the new page, I received a call from a reporter from the Providence Business News, Andy Smith. He was interested in the horse survey and wanted to know more about the situation in Rhode Island. We were able to give him names of people to interview and information for his article that appeared on July 4, 2009. If you want to read the whole story, go to our web site under NEWS and click on the link.

2009 VOLUNTEERS

We have two wonderful volunteers working with us this summer : Alyssa and Cassandra. They are both now experts at manure removal and riding the small tractor! Alyssa is a URI student getting her Masters degree in Library Science. Cassandra works at a local business and helps keep their website and fitness center up and running. She helped organize the fundraiser !



Volunteers Cassandra working hard (left) and Alyssa (above) with board member Gretchen Deitch.

And special thank you to Robin Kesslen (Hoballin Designs) who continues to keep our web site up to date, even when we don't have the money to pay her for all the time she puts in! Thanks for your donated time.



AG DAY AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

The Santana Center set up a booth at the RI State House for Ag day to highlight the results of the horse survey. We had lots of visitors and lots of questions about horses.



Board member, Malia Schwartz checks over the display for any last minute touch ups.

