



The Santana Center Times



An Annual Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 1 Winter 2006

Message from the President

Happy Holidays from the Santana Center. This year has been a busy one and we wanted to share some of the news with you. Thanks so much for your continued support of our activities.



President Kathy Castro with Kaito, Atti, Rio, Shiloh and Hot Shot.

Perhaps one of the most important messages I have to share this year is my growing appreciation for the types of relationships that exist between horses and their owners. I have seen the very best and then, unfortunately, I have seen cases where the welfare of the horse just doesn't count any more. I can only hope that through our continuing efforts of education, we can reach those owners and help provide good homes for those unwanted animals.

Featured Horse: Hot Shot Santana's Legacy

In June 2005, I learned about a group called MARISA and Horses Forever (page 3). They had just rescued 17 young saddlebreds from an auction in Iowa. Many of them were palominos. Seemed clear to me that one of them was to become mine.



Hot Shot's portrait painted by MARISA member, Roberta Stone.

So in August, up the driveway came this very large trailer with two big brown eyes staring out between the window frames. Hot Shot Santana's Legacy had arrived! He was all little boy with a streak of stallion in him. I started working with him, had him gelded and was working on getting him ready for his first ride when the dreaded unexpected nightmare happened. While working in the round pen, I heard a snap and he was on three legs. X-rays confirmed it—he had broken his long pastern bone in his right front leg. My options? Put him down or take him for surgery at Tufts Large Animal Hospital. So we were off for Tufts. The doctors there were cautiously optimistic and we decided to operate.



Hot Shot at Tufts with his cast.



First ride in August 2006!

He spent 4 months in a cast with stall rest. Then came the hair-raising hand walking and trips to Tufts for countless check-ups and IRAP treatment. Through it all, the staff at Tufts were caring and supportive.

Luckily, Hot Shot has fully recovered. I have been able to start riding him on short trail rides. I look forward to continuing with his training and helping Horses Forever in their mission.

www.thesantanacenter.org

Classes Offered

Help My Horse is Down!

Roger Lauze from the Massachusetts SPCA-Angell presented information about the Animal Care and Adoption Centers. Founded in 1868 by George Angell protesting the racing of two horses to death over 40 miles of rough roads, the MSPCA began with 1200 members. It has now grown to over 120,000 supporters from all 50 states and 27 countries.

This seminar covered basic rescue care and transport that you may need to know for your horse. We were able to practice on "Lucky" and the rescue sling, slide and equine ambulance.

Natural Horsemanship and Colt Starting

It started in the United States and it's called by many names – natural horsemanship, resistance-free training, join-up, etc, but it's created a whole new approach to training and horse/human relationships. We learned a lot from Mike Windsor about the history, how it evolved, who does it, why it works and how you can use it!

Horse Care and Horsemanship

This course was designed for the new or "about to be" horse owner. Participants received information about general horse



Practicing on Lucky using the slide.

care, feeding, stabling, trailering and riding. Participants got tips on how to reduce costs and maximize the joy of owning (or maybe leasing) your own horse - this hands-on workshop was about horse basics – vital signs, hoof and dental care, worming, feeding and basic tack; types of riding and general safety on or around horses.

EFT and Brain Gym

Emotional Freedom Techniques centers around the profound effects of the body's subtle energies using the theory that "the cause of all negative emotions is a disruption in the body's energy system." EFT is an emotional form of acupuncture with no needles. Instead, we tap with the fingertips to stimulate certain meridian energy points while the client is "tuned in" to the problem. Brain Gym includes targeted activities that integrate body and mind to bring about rapid and often dramatic improvements in concentration, memory, reading, writing, organizing, listening, physical coordination, and more. What great tools for riding! Thanks Bruce.

Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation

Update on Aurora

Aurora (our first horse project) is living in California with her guardian angel, Dyan. She is healthy and very loved!



Hot Shot showing the finer points of round pen training.



Left: Dr. E.J. Finocchio explaining horse care basics to the students. Upper: Aurora celebrating Christmas in her new home this year.



Atti and Lily

Atti and her mother Lily came to us in May 06. They had been abandoned and needed to be placed quickly.

Atti (now 15 months old) has grown into a beautiful and smart little girl. She is looking for her own little girl to love. Lily was adopted and now lives in New Hampshire! Atti is a sabino saddlebred and is a pleasure to handle.



Far left: Atti at 15 months looking for a playmate. Atti and Lily when they first arrived. Lily has been adopted.

Shiloh and Rio

These are Hot Shot's half-brothers who were not adopted right away from the auction. These bad boys went to live at a rescue in Pennsylvania for 8 months to be trained. They arrived to us thin, with worms and strangles in June 2006. The chestnut was extremely fearful and was not yet halter-broken.

They have come a long way in 6 months. They are fattened up, healthy and are ready to go to a loving home. They are both geldings now and Shiloh has been started under saddle. Rio is learning to long-line. They will be three years old in the spring.



Left upper: Shiloh on arrival; Lower left: Rio on arrival. Above: Rio and Shiloh in December 2006.

MARISA

MARISA is the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Saddlebred Association, They are a charter club of the American Saddlebred Association. The primary goal of the MARISA is to promote the versatility of the American saddlebred, America's first warmblood. For more information, check out the web site at: www.marisaonline.org

Horses Forever

Horses Forever believes that every horse deserves to live with dignity. Every horse deserves proper nutrition, adequate shelter, attention and love. Every horse deserves to be cared for and appreciated when their working days are done. EVERY horse.

For more information about Horses Forever, a 501 (c) (3) organization, please go to the website listed below.

<http://www.horsesforever.org/>

The Santana Center

Mission: The Santana Center is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to promoting safe and meaningful interactions between horses and humans through education and outreach activities.

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From the Santana Board of Directors

We would like to thank everyone involved with The Santana Center for their continued support. Kathy Castro has done an amazing job in launching and leading this endeavor and we applaud her efforts. To continue to serve the community we need your engagement - both financial and personal - to help us continue to serve the equine and equestrian community. We wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year. We hope to see you at our 2007 seminars. Remember, if you have any suggestions for a class topic we are always interested in hearing them.

Happy Holidays

The Santana Center Board of Directors

Remember your donations to the Santana Center are tax-deductible. To donate go to our website at www.thesantanacenter.org and use PAYPAL or send checks directly to the address listed at left.

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