

# Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary SPECIAL EQUINE EDITION

October 2009 Newsletter



## All About Horses!

This special equine newsletter edition talks about:

- our many rescued horses
- the desperate need for *adoptive* homes
- how to qualify as a horse *foster* home
- helping out by sponsoring a horse in need
- a wish list of horse-related items for the sanctuary



# How to Adopt A Horse!

Due to the overwhelming need for Happy Trail's services regarding horse cruelty, neglect and abandonment cases, *and* the popularity of our Amish Horse Retirement Program, Happy Trails is in need — *now more than ever* — of both adoptive and foster homes. Adoptive homes are our ultimate goal. It is our focus to find these horses the most permanent homes possible. We anticipate a busy winter in regards to requests for our assistance in equine cruelty cases, and are in hopes of opening up space in order to continue to help those most in need of safety and healing.

Please help us spread the word that many truly wonderful rescued horses are now available for adoption! **Perhaps you would consider opening up your heart and an empty stall to a rescued horse who is need of TLC.**

Have a chat with a Happy Trails Equine Adoption Counselor to find out if the horse you are looking for may waiting for you in our program! **It is our goal to match the right horse up with the right person or family.** Proper care of that particular horse and the safety of those involved is our top priority. Some horses with special health or emotional needs may have an additional set of adoption requirements. You may wish to review their health addendum which outlines their special needs and/or any other issues they may have, and then decide if you will be prepared for the special needs of that particular horse. Once adopted, the rescued horses are not allowed to be sold or sent to an auction, used for breeding purposes, or exploited in any way such as roadside zoos, rodeos, circuses, etc.

**While at Happy Trails, all horses are updated on their vaccinations, are wormed every eight weeks, have their hooves trimmed every six weeks, have their teeth floated, and are vet checked.** Adoption fees vary for each horse.

After you talk to an adoption counselor, he or she can help you obtain an adoption application.

**HOW TO ADOPT A**

## HORSE

**STEP 1:** Fill out an adoption application that tells us about yourself, your references, your veterinarian, information about your facility, shelter and pasture area, etc.

**STEP 2:** An adoption counselor visits your facility, and together with you, reviews a home safety check list to assure appropriate shelter, fencing and a safe exercise/turnout area. **Barbed wire fencing is NEVER approved.** All horses require a minimum turn-out of eight hours per day, weather permitting of course. We do not approve barns where horses stand in their stalls continuously and are only allowed out an hour or so per day. A horse needs to have time to enjoy their freedom and to exercise and develop their social contacts with other horses — they are herd animals.

**STEP 3:** When your facility is approved, submit the adoption fee and signed adoption contract. The adoption contract states, among other things, that if you cannot keep the horse for any reason, you are required to return it to Happy Trails. We offer a two week trial period to allow the horse to get settled in. During that time you may return the animal for a complete refund of your adoption fee. We do not set up "payments", nor do we offer refunds at any time after the two week trial period.

## SPECIAL NOTES

- In our follow up program, a Happy Trails representative will periodically check on the animal and its condition.
- We do not "hold" animals. **If you are not ready to adopt a horse at this time, please wait until you are ready to actually take the horse to your facility to begin the adoption process.** Once you are approved, you are expected to pick up your horse within two weeks. We do not "hold" horses until you are ready to adopt them at a later date.
- We *do* adopt out of state. In that situation, a humane officer from your local Humane Society would conduct the site visit to your facility to approve your home.

- **Please DO NOT DROP BY just to see the horses.** Happy Trails does not have a paid staff, but rather operates on all volunteers who dedicate their time to the care of the animals at the sanctuary. **Many horses are out in foster care.** Please call for an appointment with an adoption counselor.



# Butch Whitefeather

**Ten year old Percheron draft horse gelding, Butch Whitefeather, is a real sweetheart to work with!** He came to Happy Trails through our Amish Horse Retirement Program (*see details about this program in this issue*). Butch Whitefeather worked as a plow horse on an Amish Farm in Fredericksburg, Ohio, until his sight failed him and he could no longer earn his keep. **Nearly blind, he does amazingly well and his foster home has nothing but praise for this extremely handsome gentleman!** He doesn't mind being ridden, but we've kept him in an arena when riding. Otherwise, he spends his days in the



pastures with his herd-mates grazing, napping, or playing as his mood dictates. He is very confident for a nearly-blind horse, and absolutely loves attention from his human friends. **He will stand patiently to be brushed and groomed and fussed over.** If you've ever considered adopting a draft, Butch is the guy for you! He is gentle and kind and great to work with. He is the ultimate pet and is smart and adaptable to his surroundings. **We simply can't say enough good things about Butch Whitefeather!** His adoption fee will be waived to an approved home!

**For More Information About  
Horse Adoption, Call Happy Trails  
At 330-296-5914.**

## Blanca Dulce

A very pretty 10 year old flea-bitten grey mare who we named Blanca Dulce is sound and sane and ready to train! After recovering from a situation of neglect, and having obviously gotten her rear leg caught in some nasty fencing, she is now happy and healthy and truly loves to have people around! She's great with ground manners, but it appears that she hasn't been taught a whole lot under saddle. She was fine when we lead a bareback rider around the arena, and she even allowed him to walk and stop her by himself. She just didn't seem sure of what was going on. Will she be easy to train? We think so. Is she easy to love? Definitely! Blanca Dulce will steal your heart in a second! No vices — she doesn't crib, bite or kick. **She's polite, has no health issues, and is like a big pet dog!** The more attention you give her, the more loving she becomes! Her personality is priceless, and she will be sure to blend in well with some lucky family! Adoption Fee: \$350



## Hurley...

... is a big, beautiful baby!!! OK, well, he's not a baby baby! He's a yearling, a gelding, who is growing up to be strong, handsome, and quite the little mover! Hurley was born while his mother was in Happy Trail's rehabilitation program. He is a Quarter horse — maybe a mix, maybe not. Mr. Hurley has really some pretty good ground manners for a baby, and he does really good getting his feet trimmed! His foster mama has handled him so very much that not

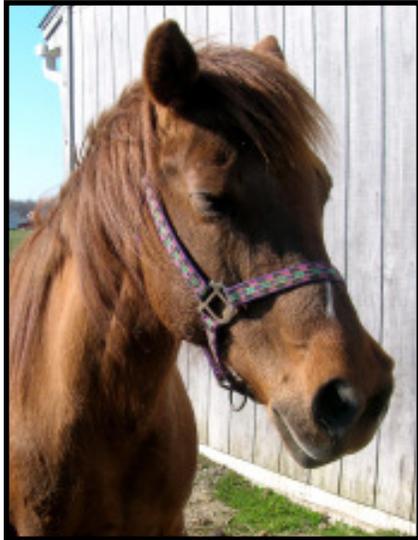


much excites this youngster! **He is the perfect candidate for next year for training when he's a two year old.** Adoption Fee: \$250

**For More Information About Horse Adoption,  
Call Happy Trails At 330-296-5914.**

## Solera

Solid as a house, this short and stocky chestnut mare named Solera is picture perfect! Not only is she pretty, she's had 90 days professional training. She



will make the perfect horse for someone who knows how to ride and wants to spend some time in the saddle. **Tons of show prospect here, as we**

**believe she's been shown in the past!** Solera arrived at Happy Trails as an abandonment case. She likes to rule the roost as many mares do — nothing new there. She's easy to lead and to work with, and is a willing partner. With daily attention and someone she can call her own, she'll simply thrive in the right household! Pretty from the front, pretty from the side, she's sound and healthy and ready to ride! Adoption Fee: \$450



*"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man."*

*Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)*

### Get Involved In Horse Rescue!

*To adopt, foster or sponsor a rescued horse, call Happy Trails today at 330-296-5914.*

[www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)



## Callie

Very sweet, small and petite, this tiny little 15 year old Arabian mare has an knee injury that prevents her from being ridden. However, **she will make a great pasture mate for some lucky horse!** This friendly little chestnut mare is like a puppy, and simply adores attention from the people who adore her! Incase you're looking for two pasture pals, Callie is great friends with Nick, a big Standardbred gelding (see Amish horse page). Adoption Fee: Waived To Approved Home



**If you like draft horses, check out...**

## **Luke**

**Luke, an 8 year old Belgian draft horse gelding, is all heart!**

Though he has Wobblers Syndrome, he walks very well and he has not been unsafe regarding his gate or balance. His eyes are very kind and he is a gentle giant at 18 hands tall. He is currently recovering from hoof issues and white line disease, but in the past Luke has been cooperative to ride. Luke needs an experienced handler.

Adoption Fee: Waived To An Approved Home

## **Tuscany**

**Tuscany, a 4½ year old gaited mare, was saved from a meat-buyer's truck with only minutes to spare.**

As a malnourished, frightened, three year old, she was

run through the slaughterhouse auction. I lost her in the bidding process, but was able to talk a meat buyer into letting me take her right before he loaded his trucks.

Tuscany has now gained weight, gained confidence,

gained trust in her foster mom, and is healthy and ready for training! **Being gaited, she has a beautifully smooth trot!** She is about 14.1 hands and is rather fine-boned so she will need a



smaller to medium-sized rider. Now sound and healthy, she is hoping to be chosen as the love of your life! Adoption Fee: \$350.

## Are Palomino's your thing?

### Pal

**He's hot! Former show stud, now turned into an easy-to-work-with and laid-back gelding, this 20 year old Appy boy knows his stuff.** He's incredible on a lunge line and a beautiful mover. With a little work, he's an excellent riding or show prospect. Pal's foster

home thinks the world of him!

Pal was one of the horses rescued from the Deerfield neglect situation last Spring. He has gained back a great deal of weight and he is now healthy, sound, and big and round, and finally ready to find a home of his own!

Adoption Fee: \$350



## What about a buckskin?

### Newt

**Newt's a survivor!** He, too, was removed from the Deerfield neglect case, and has gained an incredible amount of weight. His personality makes him a dream to work with according to his foster mama. Newt has weak hind quarters that can slowly be built up over time. The vet recommends a smaller, more petite rider for Newt. Newt isn't the brightest bulb on the line under saddle, but **he's a willing learner and doesn't spook or act crazy.** He simply doesn't know a whole lot. He should make someone a nice back-yard kind of boy to play with and love on. Adoption Fee: \$250.

**Adoption fees in no way reflect the true value of the rescued horses. They are simply a small token fee that will help us rescue the next horse when we receive a severe abuse or neglect call.**

# What Is The Happy Trails Amish Horse Retirement Program?

Happy Trails is located between Ohio's two biggest Amish communities. **When Amish buggy and plow horses are no longer able to serve their families, they are often sent through a local auction where they are picked up by meat buyers and sent to slaughter.** Happy Trails created a retirement program especially to help these horses. If an Amish family willingly donates their horse to our program, we provide it all the medical and rehabilitation attention it may need, and we attempt to place them in a home where they can experience love and care for the rest of their natural lives. **Many of the Standardbreds we have are former buggy horses.** Some can serve as a Pasture Pal only, a friend to another horse. Several can still handle light riding. All are wonderful to work with and very manerly. **If you simply need a good lookin' handsome buddy for your lonely horse, consider Nick Knack,** a solid black, 15 year old, very nice yet energetic gelding with poor suspensory tendons. (Sorry, Nick can't be

ridden.) **If you want to do some light arena work or ride around your backyard, consider 25 year old Juliette or 18 year old Hurricane Jenny!** Adoption fees for these three horses will be waived at this time to an approved home. In leu of an adoption fee, a donation made in their honor to help the next horse abuse case would be very much appreciated.



Hurricane Jenny



Nick Knack



Juliette

# How to Foster A Horse — What's Involved?

## **Foster homes are actually an extension of Happy Trails.**

Foster families provide the daily care, handling, provide medications and treatments, and give the horse as much TLC as possible, on a temporary basis until we can find a permanent home for that horse. Some horses are more adoptable than others, and a foster situation has lasted as short as five days and others have lasted up to five years. Unfortunately there is no way to tell how quickly a horse will get adopted.

**Right now winter foster homes for horses are definitely needed.** We are actively seeking both emergency as well as routine foster facilities. We are very realistic regarding the amount of rescued horses that we can take in here at the sanctuary, and we rely on our foster families to step in to take the overflow. Though we hope to someday have a much larger tract of land to operate with, right now we are only able to rescue the mass amount of horses that we do through approved foster homes.

## **Routine Foster Homes**

You would receive a horse that has already been quarantined, up-to-date on vaccinations, has been wormed, and has had it's hooves trimmed regularly. These are horses that have already recovered and are simply waiting for a loving, caring family to come along and adopt them. They need daily interaction such as leading, grooming, and general handling to stay socialized and friendly

enough for the average person to handle safely.

## **Emergency Foster Homes**

When we get that call about horses in a severely neglected condition and they need removed from their situation right away, often we have no room at the sanctuary and we rely on our emergency foster homes.

Emergency foster home usually need to be able to quarantine a new horse at least 30 feet away from other horses for a period of 30 days, just to be safe. They would need their own turn-out area, and the foster homes agree to follow a health plan that we write up for that particular horse to meet it's rehab and recovery needs. Emergency foster homes often need to have the time to meet with a veterinarian and blacksmith on a regular basis until the horse is on it's way to recovery. It usually needs to be watched closely for colic and it's eating habits monitored according to instructions.

We work closely with emergency fosters to teach the correct way to rehab the horse and how to safely and slowly bring it back to complete health, and how to address any health issues that may arise.

**If you would like to open your home and barn to become a foster home in any capacity, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914 — we'd love to answer your questions and talk to you about getting involved in horse rescue!**

Evita



Here comical Evita gives her very best smile! Evita is a petite 16 year old chestnut Arabian mare. She bonds instantly with a favorite horse friend, but has some muscle issues that prevent her from being ridden. Evita will make a great Pasture Pal for some lucky horse! Adoption Fee: Waived to an approved home

***“What is man without  
the beasts?”***

***If all the beasts were gone,  
men would die from great  
loneliness of spirit.***

***For whatever happens  
to the beasts,  
soon happens to man.  
All things are connected.”***

**Chief Seattle  
American Indian  
Duwamish Tribe**

# In Recovery...

On August 19th, Happy Trails helped the Trumbull County Animal Welfare League remove a group of horses from a horrific neglect situation. Some of the stall gates were actually

horses themselves reflected their environment and their extreme neglect. Three of these horses have now been signed over to Happy Trails, each one needing to gain back about three hundred pounds.

**These horses are on the road to recovery,** and after they gain more weight, will be available for adoption. We are now accepting applications on these truly

neck. **Crecensia** (below) also dealt with an extremely painful skin condition. Both mares were emaciated beyond belief. They are incredibly sweet to work with and deserve a home where they will be truly be cared for in the very best way possible for the rest of their lives. **Casanova** (right), an older flea-bitten grey gelding, is just as sweet also. He is a special-needs boy, but he is happy and healthy and



wonderful horses. **Phoenix** (left) a chestnut mare, was completely

nailed shut, indicating that the horses hadn't been let out of their stalls for a very long time. The conditions of their stalls were horrendous, and the condition of the

covered in feces. Her skin had begun to rot off her body across her back, sides and





BEFORE

comfortably lay down in at night. They now have the luxury of being a horse, of being turned out in areas where they can walk or move about and socialize with each other. And, they

## There's more...

There were four other horses that were removed from this sad situation, who are now in the custody of the Trumbull



County Humane Society. (Above) This photo demonstrates the facility conditions *inside* the stalls. Happy Trails is helping the Trumbull County Humane Society to place the other four horses also. Pictured below is yet another one of the rescued horses. Please contact us for additional adoption information.



**Casanova**  
IN RECOVERY

will make a great pasture mate with his laid-back attitude and easy-going manners. At the direction of the veterinarians, we will wait until they gain more weight and then have their teeth floated. All three need this done as soon as possible. Their hooves have now been trimmed and taken care of, and they have all been safely wormed. We are letting them simply relax and enjoy having constant hay, regular meals of nutritious grain and supplements, and a thick bed of straw to

appear to be extremely grateful that their basic needs are being met. Until they completely recover, we don't have any idea at this time if any of these three rescued horses will be able to work or ride in any capacity. **If you are considering adopting one of these absolutely amazing horses, we'll be glad to talk to you about them and where they're at regarding their recovery at this time. For adoption information, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.**



## Appaloosa Mares...

## Brandy

Many of the horses rescued in the Deerfield case in April have recovered and have been adopted. **There are still a few mares in need of loving, caring, permanent adoptive homes.** Some are special-needs girls, and some will be healthy enough to ride. All need patience and kindness in their lives.

## Sierra



**Sierra** is a 10 year old Appy mare who, after time, has shown us her soft and gentle side. She is going to be a dream for whoever takes the time to work with her, and she is healthy enough to



ride. Her hooves have recovered from having grown into “elf shoes”, a hideously long hoof condition due to extreme hoof neglect. She is one of the lucky ones to have recovered fully!

**Brandy** (right) is one hot-lookin’ beast of a mare! This gorgeous 14 year old red-roan needs a no-nonsense handler and a professional trainer. She is extremely opinionated and needs as much attention and handling

as she can get. She’s healthy, sound, a very nice mover, and with some professional guidance is sure to make someone a great riding horse!

**Sage** is a pretty and petite 10 year old spotted Appaloosa who survived near starvation. She has gained back approximately 265 lbs. at this point, and still needs a few more to finish filling out. Cute as a button, she has tons of potential to ride as long as she gets some professional basic



training. She’s not a very big horse, and will do best with a smaller to medium-sized rider. Sage, you’ve come a long way, baby!

**Dixie** (top of next page) has the best personality and has gained back all her weight and then some!

## Sage



Other than being nearly blind in her left eye, this 11 year old mare is now sound

and healthy and ready for some basic training. Keep in

## Dixie



mind that these horses have been left to stand in their stalls for extremely long periods of time, so their muscles have been weak and atrophied due to lack of exercise. Getting them slowly back into shape and fit for riding will be the secret to a long and happy

## Peanut



life with one of these gals!

**Peanut**, (bottom left) a 6 year old mare is truly a special-needs young lady. She can be somewhat shy, and has suffered from extremely weak stifles. Now after regular rest, proper nutrition and daily exercise, she is thriving! However, she will not be able to ride and plans to have a career as somebody's personal family pet — someone who has a lot of love and patience to extend to her!

**Please remember that ALL the horses that come to the Happy Trails rescue and rehab program come from abusive situations.** It's easy to rescue an animal that's friendly and cooperative and pretty and can serve us in some way. **It takes a compassionate heart and a connected spirit to reach out to a horse who needs to learn how to trust and how accept love and handling.** The abused animals arrived at Happy Trails through no fault of their own, and by the same token, it's not their fault if they can no longer work for a human owner. It's still our responsibility to step up to the plate and provide them with proper care, shelter, nutrition, and a soft word and an understanding heart.

## Happy Trails Wish List For Rescue Horses

*Can't adopt or foster?*

**You can still help us help them! Here's what we need for their care!**

- **Straw** — used for bedding in their stalls. It provides more warmth in the winter for a starved horse than flat sawdust does.

- **Hay** — and lots of it! We go through incredible amounts of hay! We can use round bales or the smaller square bales, but neither can be more than a year old or moldy in any way.

- **Monthly sponsors** — As a monthly sponsor of a horse, you help us to pay for veterinarian expenses, medications, joint supplements, grain, hoof trims (which they receive every six weeks), paste wormers (which they receive every eight weeks), teeth floating, regular vaccinations, and any other needs that might be unique to that particular horse. See information on sponsoring on next page.

## Sophie

Sophie is a beautiful 17 year old Standardbred mare who is excellent on trails. She rides without a bit, using only a sidepull. Due to a previous ankle injury,

Sophie needs a smaller to medium-sized rider. Her ankle may swell occasionally, and then she gets the day

off. Otherwise she is sound and healthy, and is fantastic to work with! **As shown here, Sophie is an all-weather girl, so if you like to ride in the snow, she does too!** She's a tall mare standing about 16 hands high. **She is Parelli trained and would be great for an intermediate rider.** Sophie is simply a great all-around horse, well trained and very mannerly! Adoption Fee: \$350.



## Getting Involved In Horse Rescue — Why Sponsor A Rescued Horse?

**Why indeed?** After all, why should we care about the problems someone else created?

**Animal abuse affects us as a society, as a community, and as a culture.**

What's in the headlines today are many stories of cat hoarding and dog

fighting. Though it's very important that stories like these are brought to the public's attention, it's also equally important that we realize and acknowledge the extent of abuse and neglect that is uncovered daily regarding farm animals and horses.

**Rescuing these horses from their situations of severe neglect, abuse and abandonment is only part of the picture.** Telling their stories to shed light on a difficult and heart-breaking

subject and to bring to public awareness the depth of cruelty that is often discovered right in our own backyards, brings our communities together and provides healing for the animals at the same time.

**If you don't have the time or space to actually adopt a rescued horse, sponsoring a horse is definitely the next best thing!** To help bring the community together for a common good and to provide an opportunity to educate folks about animal abuse, **consider organizing a sponsorship fund through the business where you work, the kids in your school, the patrons at your bar, the employees at your hospital, or the folks at your church.** As the sponsor of a horse, you (and your group) will not only receive their story and their photo, you will also receive an invitation to visit them to make the sponsorship real and personal. **Being able to touch, pet and otherwise interact with your sponsored horse brings that story home in a way that will truly touch your heart!**

## What Expenses Do Horses Cost Happy Trails?

**Hoof Trims:** \$25 per horse every six weeks, \$35 for draft horses. This doesn't include any special shoes a horse may need to correct hoof problems

**Teeth Floating:** \$135 per horse, once or twice a year, depending on the severity of the mouth and teeth problems

**Straw:** \$28 per month per horse. This is used for bedding in their stalls.

**Hay:** \$60 per month per horse

**Grain:** \$60 per month per horse

**Medications & Vet Care:** Each horse has very different needs. The best word to describe our basic medical care costs in general is...phenominal.



*Kachina, a baby mini horse, takes regular trips to OSU in Columbus to have her hoof extensions re-formed and to get updated x-rays.*

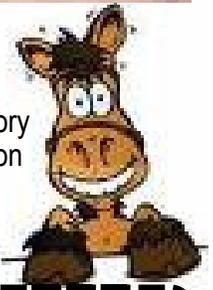


*Kachina can now walk on her own!*

# Horse Sponsorship Form

**Make a difference in the life of a rescued horse today!** Or, to honor a birthday, wedding, graduation, retirement, anniversary, or other special occasion, give that special someone a horse gift sponsorship!

You or your gift recipient will receive the horse's photo, story and a special invitation to visit the horse that is being sponsored!



## HORSE SPONSORSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to sponsor a rescued horse for one month as a gift for:**

Name/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Occasion** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Gift recipient will receive a gift card from you along with their sponsorship packet.)*

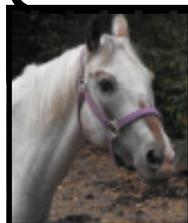
**I would like to sponsor the following type of horse for a month.**

**Please send me (or my gift recipient) their photo, story, and a special invitation to visit them!**

- Draft Horse: \$75                       Any-breed Rescued Horse: \$50  
 Retired Amish Horse: \$50             Mini Horse: \$50

- I (or my group) would like to become a monthly sponsor.  
 Please send me a monthly sponsorship packet!

Please return sponsor form and check or money order payable to Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc., 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266.



Horse sponsorships greatly help offset the costs of rehab and care for each rescued horse at Happy Trails!

**Thank You For Caring!**





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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## Collecting Used Horse Tack

*Ready to toss out the old horsey items and get your trusty steed some new "stuff"? Well, don't throw it away for heaven's sake!*

Box it up and bring it to Happy Trails!

**Happy Trails regularly collects used horse tack and related horse items.** Any items that are not able to be used here at the sanctuary are then sorted out and taken to auction, thanks to professional equine trainer, Ken Aberegg of Alliance! The proceeds from these items help provide funds

for our equine rescue programs, and help us to provide medical and veterinary care, shelter, transportation, recovery, rehabilitation and adoption services for Ohio's worst-of-the-worst horse abuse cases.

**Drop off times are:** Saturdays and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Items may be placed in the large wooden container in front of the office, and if you wish to receive a tax



*Suvali, a 10 year old mini mare, is one of the rescued horses at Happy Trails. She is neurological and is a special-needs girl. Proceeds from donated tack sales help pay for her special nutritional supplements.*

receipt/thank you letter, please fill out one of the donation forms which can be found inside the wooden box.