

The Story Of Kate And Pippa

Beating The Odds Of Ending Up At The Horse Slaughter Auction

Two mares arrived together at Happy Trails on Thursday, January 5th, 2011. Exactly one week to the day before these girls arrived at Happy Trails we welcomed Sonyador, a big, sweet, Percheron-Standardbred-mix mare, who was experiencing the same situation. A fellow rescue worker heard of these three Amish horses in Pennsylvania that were in the possession of a horse broker, a person who takes unwanted horses by the trailer-full to the horse auctions where they are purchased by the meat buyers and sent to slaughter. All three were destined to be shipped to Sugarcreek, where they would be quickly run through the sale and in a matter of hours loaded onto a transport truck heading to a slaughter house in either Mexico or Canada. Sonyador was the first lucky one to have her rescue arranged by the rescue worker, and it was set-up to have the other two mares arrive at Happy Trails the following week.

They arrived in the dark of night and like Sonyador,

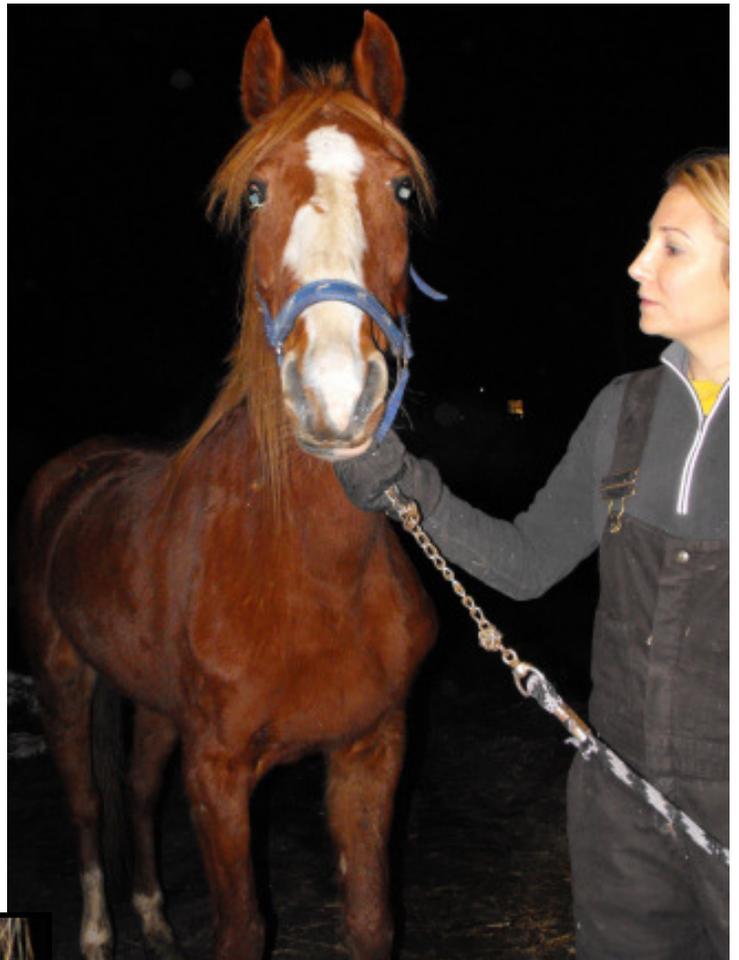


were unloaded onto the road in front of the sanctuary, the transport truck too large to even attempt to enter the front gates of Happy Trails. The two girls cooperated fully as Happy Trails volunteers anxiously lead them to the back of the sanctuary for an examination and to be fitted for blankets. They seemed to trust us well enough and stood fairly politely after their long, stressful ride with the broker.

We immediately fussed over them and

tried to make them feel at home. **And everyone gets named at Happy Trails.** “What would these ladies like to be called?” I asked no-one in particular. Immediately we heard the perfect names. “Kate and Pippa,” Gabrielle blurted out. “Perfect! Kate and Pippa it is! So which one is which?” “The one with the blaze is older, so she should be Kate,” Gabrielle reasoned. And so it was.

Pippa’s tail (see photo below) was a mass of those prickly things that get stuck to your gloves and can turn a light, fluffy tail into a 15 lb. mass of sharpness. Volunteer Gabrielle Nickel spent time working the kinks out of Pippa’s tail using vegetable oil and lots of it. After the mission was completed, Pippa now had the use of a fluffy new tail to swish at her leisure.



Happy Trails Board Member Gabrielle talks quietly to Kate and helps her to be calm in her new environment

Kate was oh-so-sweet, and we felt very sorry for her. She had a huge chunk of skin and fur missing from between her eyes. She let us examine her injury closely, but it did not seem infected, thank goodness.

Pippa had some discharge coming from her nostril, most likely shipping fever or so we thought. **Just to be safe, the two mares were placed in a quarantine area at Happy Trails where they would not be near the other horses.** As the week progressed, Pippa’s discharge seemed to get worse so our field service vet, Dr. Randy Alger, made a farm call and gave her an anti-biotic to help clear up whatever she had going on.





Veterinarians Dr. Piggot (left) and Dr. Belknap (center) work cooperatively on giving Kate her lameness evaluation at OSU (Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center) in Columbus.

down to OSUVMC (Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center) in Columbus on Wednesday, January 18th. They underwent lameness evaluations and had radiographs taken. Kate was vaccinated, had her teeth floated (filed), and had her hooves trimmed. Pippa still had a runny nose, so additional testing was conducted for her, and both were brought back to the sanctuary. We going to wait to do any of the routine maintenance on Pippa until her test results were back. Both horses were easy to work with, lovable, and seemed to be doing great. The cost for the vet visit for the horses at OSU was \$491.64 for Kate and \$610.10 for Pippa, which didn't include the \$95 worth of gas to haul them to the equine facility. So our initial veterinary expenses came to a total of \$1,196.74 for the two new mares. To help Happy Trails cover the medical cost of care for these new animals, you can become a sponsor by sending any amount in their name to Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. We will send you their photos and an update as to their progress and recovery. Due to being underweight, they both need to gain about 200 lbs.

But then Pippa got some unfortunate news. Her nasal swab test came back positive for Strangles, a typical horse illness that most horses coming from an auction carry. The signs are nasal discharge, a fever, swollen lymph nodes and sometimes abscesses located underneath the jaw bone area. It can be pretty contagious to other horses, so we took Pippa back to OSU to be placed in a strict quarantine until she would completely heal.

We also suspected that Kate might have some old injuries that we'd need to address. She seemed to be sickle-hocked and rather weak in her hind quarters.

Pippa was all legs and then some. We had a good laugh since her short horse blanket didn't cover much of those long legs, and it looked like she was wearing a mini-skirt.

All of their health issues were addressed when we took them

Just today, several weeks later, we received word that Pippa has once again tested negative for Strangles and she is permitted to come “home” to the sanctuary. Kate has been missing her friend terribly, and I’m sure she will be absolutely thrilled when Pippa walks through the gates once again. Happy Trails volunteer, Bentley Hudson, is on his way to OSU to pick up Pippa as I write this update.

Though this was a costly endeavor, we felt that for the safety of all the rescued horses involved at Happy Trails, including the elderly and those in recovery, that it was definitely best to place

Pippa in a place where she would be professionally cared for, very strictly quarantined, and would receive the very best in treatment and care. However, this treatment was not inexpensive, and our expense for this quarantine and intensive care period was an additional \$2,022 on top of their initial vet visit mentioned previously, definitely an unexpected strain on our veterinary budget.

Your kind donation toward the veterinary expenses for these rescued mares is tax-deductible and no matter how big or small the donation, it will indeed help us cover the necessary costs of quarantine a sick horse for the overall good of the herd of rescued horses at the sanctuary.

Donations can be sent to Happy Trails at 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Along with your thank you and tax receipt, we’ll make sure to send you a photo of the mares along with some information as to how they’re doing!

Both horses need groceries. Due to malnutrition, they are both somewhat weak and have some recovery time ahead of them. Their care expenses include one bag of grain per horse per week (a 50 lb. bag of grain costs about \$14), a bale of hay per day (\$4.25 per bale), 6 bales of straw per week for bedding at \$4 per bale, and Pippa will now need her teeth floated (\$135) and vaccinated (\$85).



At OSU in Columbus, veterinarian Dr. McClelland (left) holds the end of a tube being used to clean out Pippa’s guttural pouch (in her nasal cavity area),

These two wonderful horses now know love and care. It is our goal to find them a permanent home who can continue this friendship and experience the love these mares have to share with some lucky individual or family.

We will be accepting applications for the mares in hopes of finding them a fantastic home who will welcome them with open arms! Though these two mares came in together, we are pretty realistic about the chance that we could find them a home together is rather slim. If you are interested in adopting either mare, please contact us at 330-296-5914.

Many thanks to Pat O'Brien Chevrolet for the truly wonderful and warm horse blankets that they had especially embroidered for Happy Trails last year. We saved several of them blankets back for this winter, knowing we would indeed offer refuge to horses in various stages of starvation and hypothermia.

We are very grateful that Kate and Pippa have crossed our paths. It is truly heartbreaking to know that literally hundreds

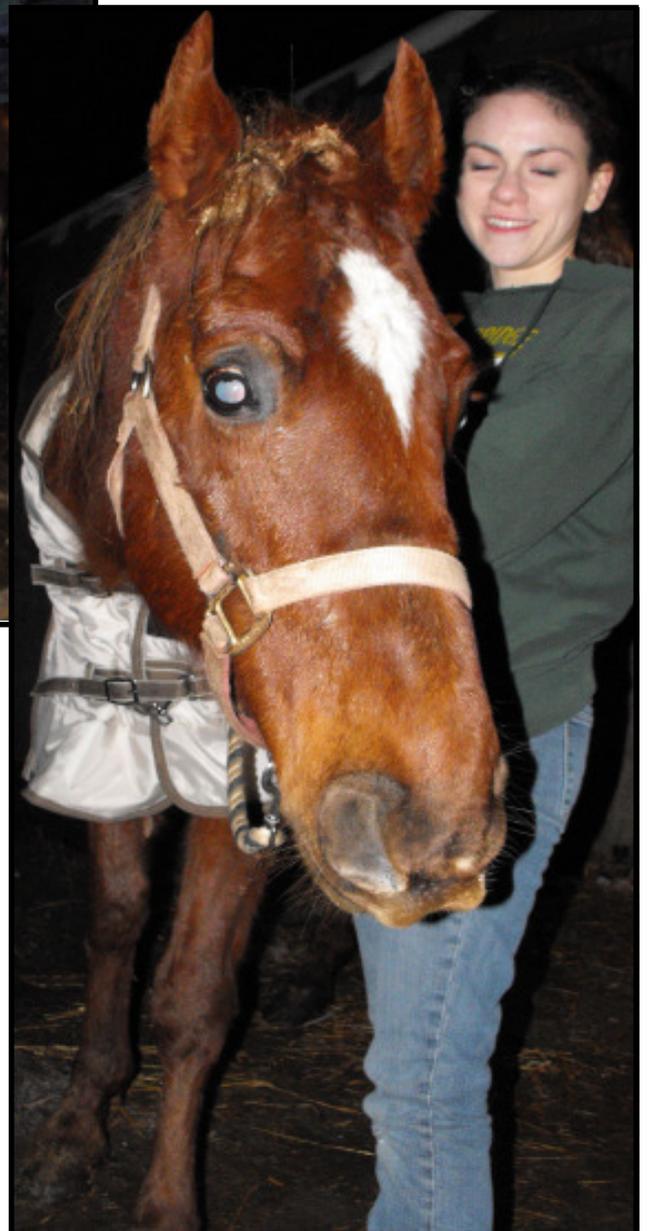
of precious horses are run through Ohio's slaughter house auctions every week. Not every year — every week. We realize we can't save them all, but when these Amish horses were accepted into our Amish Horse Retirement Program, they were assured that they would receive the best care we could possibly give them. Thank you for helping us do exactly like for Kate, Pippa and all the other animals like them who enter the safety of the gates of the sanctuary. We appreciate your support, and horses like Kate and Pippa, appreciate the food, shelter, care, time and attention that is bestowed upon them. Thank you for making our work possible.

See the next few pages for additional photos!





Happy Trails volunteer, Jason Wolboldt, offers Kate some grain before she got ptu to bed for the evening. Malnourished Kate was more than happy to accept the kind offer from a caring hand.



Happy Trails volunteer Randi and Pippa bond while the new mare is being fitted for a winter coat.



5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Oh 44266
(330) 296-5914
happytrailsfarm.org

**Donations can be made on-line through
PayPal at www.happytrailsfarm.org**

(left) Pippa stood very politely during her examination at OSU in Columbus.

(below) Kate trots off during her lameness exam at OSU.

