

## AMISH HORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

# Bill The Horse Is Making An Amazing Recovery!

Nine year old Bill the Belgian draft horse came to Happy Trails through our Amish Horse Retirement Program at the end of July.

Apparently Bill decided to lay down one night in his tie stall at his Amish farm (in a tie stall the horses are tied to the wall as

opposed to being loose in a box-type stall. When struggling to get back to his feet he became cast upside down in his narrow stall, meaning that he became wedged in such a way that struggle as he might, the horse couldn't physically stand back up. He thrashed around in panic. To be cast upside down often causes significant injury and trauma to the spinal cord, legs, withers, neck and head.

His owner found Bill in distress the next morning and took measures to get him freed and tried to treat Bill's many wounds and injuries. **Bill nearly died.** His owner stated that just when he thought Bill had completely given up, Bill decided to live, and though he became more alert, his body was not healing and he continued to lose weight. Two months had gone by. Bill's health issues were many.

**Bill was about 500 lbs. underweight and his body was covered with abrasions from where he struggled in the stall.** His front left leg was nearly three times the size it should be and was swollen with infection. Open sores surrounded this ankle. His left hip had a tremendous amount of granulated tissue oozing out of a massive open sore. He was in a great deal of pain, standing with his head hanging down instead of holding it up tall and proud like a draft horse should. Bill was a mess.

We decided to take Bill to OSU Veterinary Medical Center in Columbus where surgery was performed on his ankle. Bill also had his teeth floated to address an ulcer inside his mouth and had his wolf teeth pulled; he had the granulated issue debrided and the massive wound on his hip cleaned up, and he had his hooves trimmed. Bill came out of the anesthesia with flying colors and even put weight on his leg when it was time to walk back to his stall from the recovery room.

**Bill has now made several trips to OSU for cast**



*Bill will be getting his second hard cast off in the next several weeks. Bill is also working on gaining back about 500 lbs.*

**changes and check-ups, and he is making a simply amazing recovery!** The cavernous wound on his hip appears to be healing over completely and he has already gained over 100 lbs.

Now, three and a half months later, Bill is getting ready to get his last cast off and he is gaining weight daily! We anticipate a complete recovery for Bill.

Bill is one of over 20 horses in need of a caring, loving home. For adoption information, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

**Many thanks to Happy Trails Board Member, Barb Bakaletz, who felt very strongly about Bill getting a chance to recover, and offered to become his sponsor for his surgery and his many vet expenses — a tremendous relief to us and with such a generous offer, we gratefully accepted on Bill's behalf!**