

A Miracle, A Hope and A Dream

In Spanish, the name **Milagro** means *miracle*; the name **Esperanza** means *hope*; and **Sueno** means *dream*. These are the names we bestowed on three sadly neglected horses that arrived at Happy Trails on Monday, March 3rd, when we assisted a Mahoning County humane officer with the removal of these horses from a property near Berlin Center. They were given these names at Happy Trails to help provide them with a new lease on life, a new beginning, a special word to define their future.

Two very sweet geldings (Milagro and Sueno) and a rather nervous mare (Esperanza) were loaded into the Happy Trails trailer and brought back to the sanctuary to begin their long road to recovery and rehabilitation.

You could clearly see the ribs and hip bones of the horses, and evidence of their severe neglect was obvious at a glance.

The owner is being prosecuted for animal cruelty. The horses have been legally signed over to Happy Trails and they are now available for adoption.

It is our goal, as always, to find

appropriate homes for these wonderful animals. However, the meaning of their names are now more important than ever.

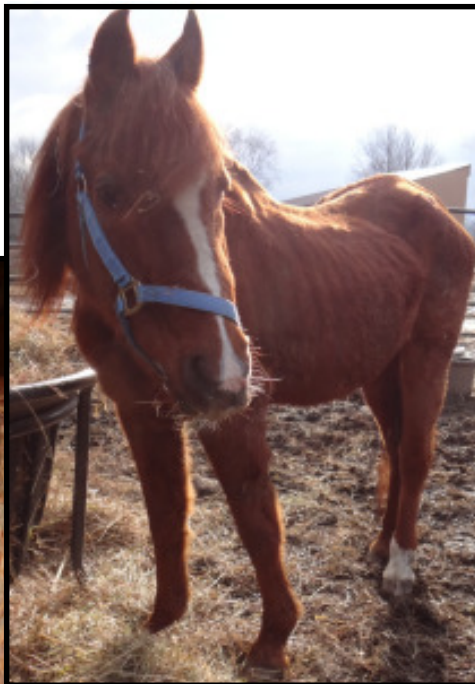
These horses have been through a lot as a family and have lived together most of their life. It is most likely, that is how they survived — relying on each other for strength, friendship, and moral support. Esperanza and Sueno are especially bonded. The three horses suffered at the hands of this neglectful owner for many, many years until they reached this inexcusable state of neglect.

Here is where we are hoping for a miracle for this bonded trio. Our dream is for them to be able to stay together, to be adopted out as a family, and to be loved and appreciated for being the survivors they are.

However, we are realistic, and if an appropriate and approved



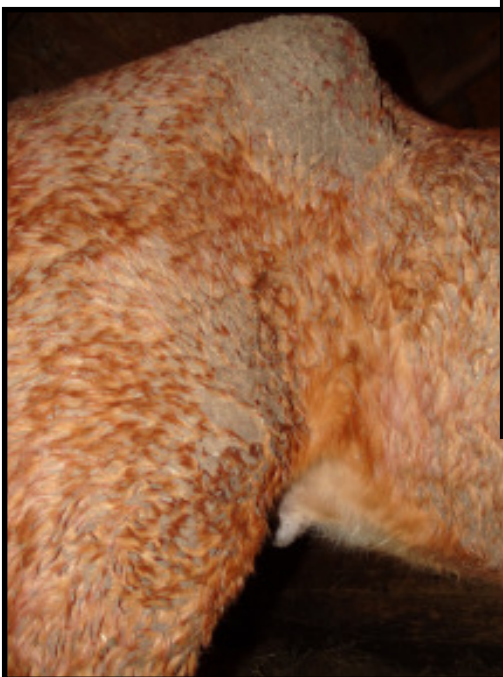
(Above) Both Milagro and Sueno's halters had not been removed for a very long time. They were embedded into their face and into the skin behind their ears.



(Left) This photo shows the hip bone of Milagro, indicating the level of starvation. (Above) Milagro is a gentle senior citizen who simply needs to experience being loved for the last few years of his life.



(Above) Esperanza is a beautiful chestnut and white Paint mare who needed to gain back about 300 lbs. She is doing very well with her re-feeding program and we expect a full recovery for her.



home is willing to provide love and care for even one of them, we will have to consider at that time separating the group.

The absolutely gorgeous Paint mare is named Esperanza. **Esperanza is about 14 years old** and the vet determined that she had to gain about 300 lbs. Think about it. 300 lbs is a lot of weight. That's how disturbingly thin the mare was. Aside from being starved, she doesn't appear to have any other health issues or lameness concerns. Esperanza should be rideable but we anticipate she will need quite a bit of training to help with her anxiety.

Sueno is grade Quarter horse around 21 years old and has mild cataracts due to age. He needed to gain about 250 lbs, and was also diagnosed with heaves which is similar to asthma in people. Medication may be needed to keep him comfortable during certain times of the year. He also has a condition called a luxating patella, which basically means that he has a knee cap that moves out of place occasionally. With improved muscle conditioning he may be suitable for a smaller rider in a back yard, but most likely he will simply be a handsome and gentle family pet who hangs out in the pasture.

Milagro may be a Morab (Morgan/ Arabian cross), and is at least 25 years old if not older. He has a severe swayback. Though swaybacks can be partially genetic, they are often associated with training at too early of an age

and carrying too heavy of a rider throughout their life. Milagro was rated as only a 1½ on the body score condition chart, with 1 being completely emaciated and 10 being an severely overweight horse. He needed to gain about 300 lbs. to be at his proper weight. He has cataracts due to age, and he also has stringhalt, a muscle issue. This senior citizen simply needs someone to be kind and caring toward him during what is most likely the last few years of his life.

Once a safe amount of weight is re-gained, Happy Trails will pay for both geldings to have significant dental work done to make them more comfortable.

We know that wanting to adopt them together is a long shot. It would most certainly take a miracle to find a home willing to take all three horses. We are willing to try. We are entitled to dream. We always have hope.

Please help us in our efforts to spread the word that we are accepting adoption inquiries on these three wonderful, amazing, gentle horses



Sueno's had a significant amount of tape worms and is being treated accordingly. He is extremely kind.

who have survived many years with a neglectful owner. We believe that with all of us working together, we can indeed find them a home together! Call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914 for adoption information!



Esperanza needs to learn confidence and to feel secure and loved. Please help us find these horses their forever homes!



The gentlemen enjoy getting out in the fresh air and sharing hay with each other. Be assured that Esperanza is not very far away.

Donations toward their care are very much appreciated (and are tax-deductible)!

Expenses include veterinary care, hay, grain, hoof trimming, diet supplements, vegetable oil, fat additives, hay cubes for the boys with bad teeth, vaccinations, deworming, teeth floating, and more.

Donations may be sent to:

Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266,
or can be placed on a credit card by
calling Happy Trails office at 330-296-5914.