



Black Friday Starts a Journey

Happy Trails assists Summit County with the rescue of 3 neglected horses.

On Black Friday - the biggest shopping day of the year, instead of shopping with the masses, the Happy Trails rescue crew was busy assisting the Greater Akron Humane Society with the removal of three sadly neglected horses from a boarding facility. A 5-year old mare had a 4-5 month old baby by her side, and another 3-year-old filly was owned by the individual as well. Charges have been filed. The sweet, beautiful, sad Thoroughbred mare was in the worst shape of all. It was obvious that it was painful for her stand, and she was trying her best to take the weight off her front feet. Every rib was clearly visible, and her baby and 3-year-old filly friend were thin as well. The trio was taken to a nearby foster home where they were evaluated and treated by a local veterinarian.

The mare required more extensive care, and was taken this past Friday to the Equine Specialty Hospital in Burton, where she received additional radiographs and an intensive examination by both Dr. Milligan and hoof rehab specialist, blacksmith Ed

Cigany. We were thrilled to hear that a full and complete recovery is now expected for this relatively young horse who has apparently experienced a lot of trauma in her young life. Her feet were in horrific shape, and without proper care and nutrition, there is a high probability that she would not have survived.

The veterinary costs from the local veterinarian for the three horses total is \$1,871, including a Coggins test pulled for each horse, fecal counts, blood work, the emergency exams as well as follow-up exams, and initial radiographs. This also doesn't include the hay, bedding and grain that Happy Trails will need to reimburse to the foster home.

The cost for surgery for the mare and a five day hospital stay is approximately \$1,500. A big cost, however, seeming like a small price to pay restore a horse's life, especially when her prognosis is excellent and she is expected to make a complete recovery.



How the Court System Works — When farm animals are removed, charges are filed against the owner or caretaker in court by the local humane agent or law enforcement officer. The owner then has an opportunity to enter a plea at an arraignment. If the plea

is innocent, the next step is a pre-trial, where attorneys try to come to a resolution acceptable to both sides. Often several pre-trials are scheduled, and cases have been known to drag out for as long as a year - sometimes longer. Until the owner officially and legally signs the rescued animals over to the local humane society or law enforcement agency, Happy Trails is financially responsible for the care and well-being of the animals. When the animals are signed over and the court proceedings are in the final stages, we are usually permitted to present to the court our expenses to attempt to receive some type of restitution.



However, most often in the case of severe animal neglect, a defendant doesn't have or own anything to begin with, so restitution is often a far-off dream in the reality of the case at hand. This is the reason we often present stories of our rescues to our caring supporters, whose donations often help us care for these animals while they are in our custody. Such is the case with these three horses.

Please consider a donation of \$25 or more toward the care of these three horses or the surgery for the mare. We will together walk the road to recovery with these courageous horses with frequent updates and pictures

showing the rehab progress of the horses; all the way through the court proceedings.



Anyone donating is welcome to suggest a beautiful name for the beautiful girl. We are searching for the right name to give her a new start on life - a name with a special meaning. We hope to choose a name for her from the names that are suggested.

Surgery went well last Monday, and after a day or two of recovery at the Equine Specialty Hospital she was brought back to Happy Trails for further rehab and recovery.