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# SHEW Newsletter



KODA

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"How are the horses? - Updates on our rescues."

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**HOEDOWN TICKETS COMING SOON!**



**1st impressions of a new volunteer - An interview with Amy Patrick**

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# A Message from our Director



Our Director, Tina Snyder, has taken some time to recap SHEW's latest accomplishments. Watch the video to hear her message to the SHEW family.



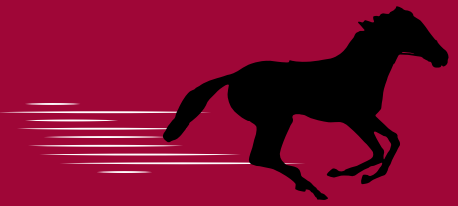
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# Updates on the Horses



**DJ:** Continues to do well in his new home with SHEW alumni, Haven.



**Steely Dan:** Is fitting right in at Hadden Farm Sanctuary, and will continue to live a peaceful life.



**LilBit:** Continues to be the star of the show at Wingsong Arabs!



**Summer:** Is doing well and is still looking for her forever home!



**Ace:** SHEW's most recent rescue! Is doing well and getting used to being around people again.



**Opa:** Is in our hearts forever. He passed away peacefully September 30, 2022.



**Ryoma & Freyja:** After the passing of their owner these 2 horses needed immediate placement. Thanks to our great SHEW village we were able to place them in forever homes.

# 1st Impressions of a new volunteer!



**Q: How long you've been volunteering with SHEW?**

A: Around 4 months now

**Q: Why did you choose to volunteer with SHEW?**

A: A friend recommended Tina as a riding instructor for my oldest daughter. I was struck by how well-run this organization was, and saw all the volunteers working in unison. When I met Tortuga and heard his story and saw the hay steamer, I was amazed. The hay steamer sold me. It was true dedication to care that caught my eye. (Hay steamer is because tortuga has COPD) I love working outdoors and I love animals. There are many places that are working to save horses lives and they are doing the best they can, but here they take it to a whole new level in caring and genuinely caring for horses and taking all steps necessary to help these horses.

**Q: What do you hope to get out of the volunteering experience?**

A: I hope to give. I was hoping to see my work valued and valuable because everyone is working together towards a common goal of protecting these animals on the local, federal, and worldwide scale. You are appreciated for your day to day work and part of a community that will make an everlasting impact in the horse community. I have been fortunate to obtain a real happiness and joy in getting to know the horses, I love being around them and the smell of the horse barns. It is very fulfilling. I love being part of a team that works sooo well together. I come in, in the AM and begin the process. There is a process, it is well organized and managed, every individual animal is treated with that dedicated care. It is only made possible by this team of volunteers. To see that transformation, of health and trust is heart warming and is what brings me that joy and happiness.

**Q: How much time do you dedicate to SHEW?**

A: About 15 hours a week, and am available for when SHEW has events.



**Q: What is a highlight experience you've had while volunteering?**

A: **When the Homewood School with Teens that have learning differences came to the barn.** The way the kids blossomed around the ponies. Another volunteer named Louise, said "It filled me up with happiness" and that is exactly how I felt. We did an in hand obstacle course, and each team got to work with their pony to complete the obstacle course. I was capturing photographs and observing the whole thing, and saw the kids wrap on one of our team members in a huge warm embrace filled with smiles. It was truly something special to witness and I cannot wait for the next time. (Sharing our program horses with the homewood school will be a regular event.) Additionally, I love learning about horses and horse care, and I can learn all that hands-on here at SHEW.

**Q: Why should others volunteer with SHEW?**

A: It's really reassuring that your efforts are appreciated and that they are going to an organization that is such an effective steward of all their materials. The resources of people etc, there is nothing wasted, it is a well run team. You're given such structured and amazing instruction that its nearly impossible to make a mistake. There is a senioreed team that is there to teach and help guide you every step of the way. Plus you get to follow the journey of our horses, like with Koda and RTS. It is good to feel you have a tangible effect on the well being of these rescued animals. It's also great for those looking for like-minded people to forge new friendships with, and those looking to really make a difference.

**Q: What's the most challenging thing about volunteering with SHEW?**

A: Until you volunteer at a horse rescue you don't realize how crucial the weather plays a part. In the winter it is very cold. It is always difficult to keep barn help over the winter. I recommend dressing very warm when volunteering through winter.



# Insights from our Volunteer Coordinator

With: Sarah Elwell



**How long have you been with SHEW?** 1.5 years

**What made you decide to join SHEW?** My daughter Waverly wanted to get more involved so I joined her, and in the process learned so much from Tina about horse slaughter in America that I naturally began to get more and more involved myself.

**Where do you need more volunteers? What areas?** Can I say everywhere? One of the challenges with our bigger SHEW events is getting a large group of volunteers to help make the event possible. We are always looking for horse loving people who may not want to commit their time weekly, but who can help at these types of events. We continue to need reliable volunteers to help with barn shifts too.

**What is a highlight event from volunteering or working with the volunteers this past year?** Hard to pick just one. I really love spending time with my daughter each week at our barn shift and watching her horse care knowledge (and muscles) grow. There is a special place in my heart for my first quarantine barn experience with Koda. Lastly, I loved working with the incredibly hardworking events team and all of our AMAZING volunteers at the Party with a Purpose fall festival.

**What are some incentives for those who decide to volunteer?** Volunteer tracking is going digital in 2023!! And the incentives to not only volunteer, but enter the hours that you complete are BIG. 40 hours gets you a free SHEW shirt or hat. 75 hours gets you entry to Tina's horse agility class. 100 hours completed before Hoedown gets you a free ticket to the event. Those who complete 1000 hours by the end of 2023 will be allowed to name the next SHEW rescue!!

**What requirements does one need to meet to qualify to volunteer?** All I ask is that you are reliable and work hard. You do not need horse experience (we can teach you what you need to know). If you love the cause, but barn work/horse handling isn't in your comfort zone, then volunteering at events throughout the year is a HUGE help.

**What is the easiest way to sign up to be a volunteer?** Sign up on the SHEW website or email me at [volunteers@safehavenequinewarriors.org](mailto:volunteers@safehavenequinewarriors.org).



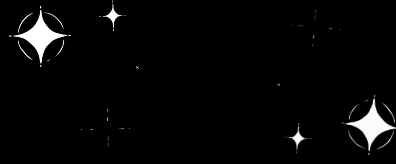
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## RESCUE TO STARDOM



SHEW has their very own Wild Mustang participating in the Rescue to Stardom competition. Over the course of the next few months, KODA, will be working with his trainer Ashley to prepare for the competition March 3rd & 4th at the World Horse Expo! SHEW will also be present with a booth to spread the word about our mission to others. Additionally, SHEW will be running a fundraising campaign to raise funds to Koda's participation. Be sure to check out our website for more info and continue reading on to learn more about Koda.



## HOEDOWN FOR HORSES

Hoedown is April 22, 2023 at the American Legion Sykesville Memorial Post 223! Join us at Hoedown for Horses! A fun-filled night with dancing, dinner buffet, silent auction, door prizes, and more! 100% of proceeds benefits horse rescue from slaughter, abuse, and neglect. You won't want to miss out on this spectacular evening. Tickets will go on sale soon, stay tuned to our social media accounts to see when they first go on sale!





# KODA – The Wild Mustang

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Koda is a 6-year-old BLM Mustang who was rounded up in early 2020 from the Adobe Town herd in Wyoming. A year later, this young horse found himself in the kill pen in Kemp Texas. He was purchased by a well-meaning person who then shipped him to Maryland. Once there, it became clear that this unhandled horse required more training and resources than his new owner could provide him. By August the plea came to Safe Haven Equine Warriors to take Koda in, as his owner was moving out of state and leaving him with nowhere to go. Still with little handling, no farrier care, and high flight instincts we knew this horse was out of options so we agreed to take him on. Koda has become much more trusting of the farm's basic day-to-day routine. His desire to trust and please makes him a great candidate for Rescue To Stardom as well as provides a platform to educate east coast horse lovers on the issues that America's wild horses are facing today.



Koda began his training on December 1st, 2022! He is currently training at Johnna Stables with trainer Ashley Francese. He has made tremendous progress since he first began, and we cannot wait to see how well he performs in the competition! Please follow us on Facebook to see his progress and weekly updates!



In order for Koda to have the best chance at winning the competition this year, he needs the best training and facilities he can have. We have been fortunate to be able to cover those expenses upfront but will need to be able to recoup them as soon as possible so that we can continue rescuing horses like Koda. The cost of training, lodging, food, etc is one aspect and your donations can be applied to those expenses.

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# SHEW's Capital Campaign



As we look toward the future , we see a huge need to expand our mission, our ability to take in more horses in life threatening situations and add more programs that benefit horses and humans. We see the future merger of Safe Haven Equine Learning Center with SHEW to create a multi level center of rescue, education and opportunity for all. Simply put, SHEW needs a much larger facility to accommodate the growing need for horses and humans.

That facility will be local. We value our volunteers , students and supporters too much to move far!

At SHEW, horses in need find a new start, get quality care and humane training to prepare them for a better life. Most go on to a forever good home. Horses who aren't adoptable for a variety of reason will have a safe sanctuary and proper care for life with us or a trusted foster home.

We see the need for a facility that can accommodate first time adopters and horse owners with a special continued education boarding program to get that relationship off to the right start. Many rescues won't adopt to first time horse owners. We want to change that and ensure that first timers have the support system they need to be successful.

Our SHEW program and sanctuary horses will be ambassadors and partners in our riding and non ridden programs on the farm and in the community. We welcome Seniors, Veterans, children and adults including those with disabilities and special challenges.

Our mental health program will allow humans and horses to find comfort, purpose and joy in each other. Be assured, as we merge the Safe Haven riding school and the rescue ,we will continue to offer the same quality riding and horsemanship instruction you've come to know.

Of course we will continue to be at auction, outbidding killbuyers to save slaughter bound horses. We will have the capability to save so many more. Through the rescue and advocacy of many groups including SHEW , we have seen slaughter numbers plummet from 150,000 in the mid 90s to under 23,000 in 2022. Our work in the halls in legislation and at auction wont be done till that number becomes 0!

It's important to know that few rescues take in owner surrenders when an owner has a dire need such as illness , finacial instability , or even death. We see the need for a place for these beloved horses that tend to be older and with not much market value to go.

These are the horses that find themselves all too often in the slaughter house pipeline! Currently we have been successful networking most of these calls that come in and have physically take several. But we need to be able to take more horses in these situations.





On our small farm, on any given day you will find the hustle bustle of people of all ages, all walks of life

On our small farm, on any given day you will find the hustle bustle of people of all ages, all walks of life, various physical abilities all working together for the love of the horses. In this stressful world, so many teens and adults need that place to feel accepted and valued.

Safe Haven Farm creates that safe space of no judgment and a welcome atmosphere for all.

Many life long friendships started on this little farm.

We hope to expand that community of caring, friendship and mutual acceptance even further.

Many of the best trainers and horsepeople in the area got their start right here at Safe Haven Farm.

Our quality education program and learning opportunities are top notch. We want to continue to offer opportunities for young people looking for their start in the horse industry with education and mentorship as well as those looking toward a career in veterinary medicine and other animal related industries.

We believe in planting the seeds that will be the future of good humane equine stewardship.

Please join us as we build our Capital Campaign fund to secure a future home for SHEW. Your one time or recurring donation is greatly appreciated!

"Together we can change the world for horses and the humans that love them."



**To learn more, please visit the Safe Haven Equine Warriors website:  
[www.safehavenequinewarriors.org](http://www.safehavenequinewarriors.org)**







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# How to Help

 **Rescue to Stardom (RTS)** - we are looking for sponsors to help!  
 There are incentives to sponsoring. [Click Here](#)

 **Amazon Wishlist** - there are always items needed to aid in the  
 rescue of a horse. Check out our wishlist here! [Click Here](#)

 **Volunteer** - there can never be enough helping hands around the  
 rescue. If you have the time, we would love to have your help!  
[Click Here](#)

 **General Donations** - looking for a charity to share your support  
 with? Any dollar amount helps! [Click Here](#)

 **SHARE** - sharing our mission and rescues with others is an  
 important way to spread the word. Share our social media, our  
website, and our events with your friends and family!



Together we can save equine lives and put  
an end to equine cruelty!



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