

What's New @SHEW

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Written by Tina Snyder

Tina@safehavenequinewarriors.org

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- SCIENCE BEHIND VACCINES
- MEET KODA!
- JUNIOR TRAINING TEAM
- OCTOBER EVENTS
- THE FREEDOM CLUB



Photo:

Koda the Mustang arrived at SHEW August 2022. Photographed with training team member Lilliana Sonpar.

As I personally see another birthday come and go this month, it becomes more and more urgent for me to see SHEW acquire a larger facility that can allow the expansion of our programs and intake of more horses in desperate life threatening situations. I know that day will come before I know it, to pass the reins to someone else to continue what I, along with all of you have begun.

That's my driving force every day, to get SHEW in a larger facility with everything in place and funded to continue this vital work long after I'm gone.

Hello Warriors!

I'm hoping everyone had a great summer full of friends, family and adventure! Things at the farm have been non-stop with horses coming and going.

Both Summer Breeze and Steely Dan, rescued at auction in February have fully recovered from the infectious viral disease known as strangles. Both had an extended 12-week stay in quarantine post rescue.

Most all horses coming out of the auction circuit are exposed to strangles and numerous other viral infections. It's imperative that new horses always go through the proper quarantine protocol to not compromise the other horses at the main farm.

Steely Dan has been placed with our friends at the [Hatton Farm Sanctuary](#), more on that in our adoption update section.

Summer Breeze has challenged us with mild lameness issues, despite multiple x-rays we have yet to diagnose her concerns. On the bright side, we have a pretty extensive list of what it isn't.

Currently she is suitable for light riding and would make a great trail companion for a person looking for a super sweet horse and the occasional leisurely walk/trot ride. If you would like to learn more about adopting Summer, please complete an adoption survey [HERE](#).

If you've been following us closely, you know we recently took in a BLM mustang who had little handling. Yup, the adventure continues!

Once we meet our Capital Campaign fundraising goals, our new larger facility will offer the community several amenities that no other rescue or facility in the area offers! We will be able to provide boarding and continued education for first time horse owners as well as other adopters wishing to stay on with the SHF group, learning both in the saddle as well as care management. It's our plan to accept many more horses in dire need of immediate placement when an owner is in a bad situation and can no longer care for that horse.

Many of these horses who may not be able to go on to adoptive or foster homes will stay on as part of our "Seniors Helping Seniors" and "Soul Horse" Veterans program. These programs are designed to give a quiet, one on one enrichment experience to both horse and human.

We will of course expand our intern and mentor programs along with more opportunities for equine powered service learning through the local school system.

One of the things I feel very strongly about is a state-of-the-art rehab center on our new farm not only for SHEW horses, but available to the community, with vet referral, free of charge. Far too often I hear from owners who may have been able to get the funds together for a surgery or procedure on their beloved horse, but are either unable to afford a rehab facility, or physically unable to do it themselves due to work, families, location or skill level, so horses are euthanized leaving a broken hearted owner. We can be that helping hand!

The next chapter for SHEW goes far beyond the 4R's. (rescue, rehab, retrain and rehome) Our path forward will no doubt help thousands of horses, and also thousands of humans. "People Helping Horses, Horses Helping People" is what it's all about!

In closing, I appreciate and thank each one of you who has helped us in one form or another, be it physically or financially. Please continue to help us spread the word, build our village of support and see the expansion through. Let's make SHEW the first rescue of it's kind to offer so much to horses and the people that love and need them.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more about SHEW's Capital Campaign and how you can help, please contact us and we'd be more than happy to share more details with you!

"Together we are changing the world, one hoof at a time"

Tina



Photo: Surprise Party! Happy Birthday Tina!

The Freedom Club

SHEW recently launched "The Freedom Club"

The Freedom Club is a group of passionate, caring and dedicated monthly donors who want to be part of the change and improvement in the life of horses. Everyday people, from all walks of life who give what they can to show how together we can make a difference.

Be a game changer! Your monthly or quarterly gift enables Safe Haven Equine Warriors (SHEW) to continue helping horses that are in desperate need of basic care, horses that go for days, sometimes weeks without sufficient food and water. It also helps us expand our equine education to all ages in the hope that we end equine suffering by passing down the decades of knowledge we have in rehabbing, retraining and rehoming horses. At SHEW the need for equine care is constant and costly.

The Freedom Club was inspired by so many horses but more recently by Opa, a 20+ year old gelding who had rarely seen daylight, he was forced to live in a shed for most of his life, never seeing or meeting another horse.

All our rescues and success stories are because of YOUR support.

Please consider joining The Freedom Club, a monthly donation of \$20 can make a huge difference in the life of a rescue horse. Click [HERE](#) to Join.



Photo: Opa was kept in wraps for several months after rescue, his feet needed to adjust to a new way of moving. He was so weak. Now he is the host of many farm days and educational tours! Help us give "Freedom" to more horses like Opa.

NEW RESCUE



If Koda were a human he could brag of a traveled life, sadly not one of fun and adventures but a short life lived this far with great uncertainty. Born a wild Mustang in Adobe Town, Wyoming he was captured and taken from his herd at just two years-old. His journey took him to Texas to a kill pen, he was bought by a Maryland native who was unable to care for him.

In August SHEW jumped into action when they heard of a horse in desperate need of help. Just 24 hours later Koda arrived at Safe Haven Farm. Koda means "Friend" in Cherokee.

Photo: **Meet Koda rescued August 2022**



Koda is safe now and already making lots of new friends (four legged and two). He is out of quarantine and living with some new friends at Safe Haven Farm.

He has started some gentle ground training and he is starting to trust those around him. He is told daily, no more travels, no more crowded trucks, you are no longer heading to be slaughtered.

We can't spill the beans *just yet*, but we have something really big planned for this beautiful American Mustang! We will share his big news mid-November.

Photo : **Meet Koda**

ADOPTION UPDATE

Written by Raychel Harvey- Jones
Info@safehavenequinewarriors.org

If you are a SHEW follower you will recall that back in February we rescued two horses from slaughter. Steely Dan and Summer Breeze.

Steely Dan

It was clear from the start that Dan had been through a great deal of trauma, he was very untrusting of people and who can blame him. He arrived extremely underweight, lame and covered in scars, physically and mentally.

Danny recovered physically with the help of the SHEW volunteers but mentally he was struggling. You will hear this saying a great deal in the horse rescue world... we do what's best for the horse. Not every rescue will be rideable but one thing we know is we will always find the right home for them where they are loved.

Steely Dan has been placed with our friends at the Hatton Farm Sanctuary after displaying some very dangerous, trauma based behaviors that deemed him unadoptable. He has a great quiet place to live out his life in peace!

Diamond Jim

Diamond Jim our loved DJ has a new home, as we are still in the planning process we can't get out to much information. What we can tell you is that he will join another SHEW alumni Haven! Oh well, I guess we spilled the beans.



Photo: Danny arriving at SHEW quarantine



Photo: Danny in his new home Hatton Farm Sanctuary



Photo: DJ will soon be heading to his new home

SHEW EDUCATION

The Science Behind Vaccines

Written By Tom Lenz, DVM, MS, DACT/AAEP

Occasionally I have a client ask why their vaccinated horse still developed the disease they were hoping to prevent.

To understand why a vaccine may fail to protect, it's important to first understand how vaccines work.

How Vaccines Work!

When germs—bacterial or viral—invade the horse's body, they attack and multiply. This invasion is what causes the horse to become sick. Vaccines work with the horse's natural defenses to safely develop immunity against specific diseases by imitating an infection. This infection doesn't cause illness; rather, it causes the horse's immune system to react.

The Natural Response to Bacterial and Viral Invasions

The horse's immune system uses several tools to fight infection. Like humans', a horse's blood contains red blood cells, which carry oxygen to tissues and organs; and white blood cells, which fight infection.

White blood cells are primarily comprised of three infection-fighting tools:

- > Macrophages – swallow and digest germs and dead or dying cells, leaving behind antigens
- > B-lymphocytes – respond to the antigens by producing antibodies that attack and kill the disease-causing germs.

- > T-lymphocytes – stimulated by the antigens to attack and destroy cells that have been attacked by the invading bacteria or virus.

The first time the horse's body encounters a germ, it can take several days to make and use all the infection-fighting tools needed to overcome the infection. However, after the infection, the immune system creates and keeps a few unique T-lymphocytes, called memory cells, that stimulate a much quicker response if that same germ attempts to infect the horse again.

The Role of Vaccines in Immunity.

Vaccines imitate an infection that doesn't cause the disease but does stimulate the horse's body to produce T-lymphocytes and antibodies against bacteria or viruses that produce that infection. This leads to the body's production of memory cells (T-lymphocytes) that will remember the infectious agent introduced by the vaccine and be prepared to recruit B- and T-lymphocytes to fight that agent if it infects the horse in the future.

The Exception

It's important to remember that the immune system takes several days or weeks after vaccination against an infectious agent to produce enough white blood cells to fight off the infection. Therefore, it's possible that a horse infected with the disease just prior to, or immediately after, vaccination can still develop symptoms of the disease because the vaccine has not had adequate time to provide protection.

Why Veterinarian-Administered Vaccines are Important

Commercially available vaccines are regulated by the federal government and must meet rigid standards for stability, effectiveness and safety. If handled and administered properly, they are seldom the reason for vaccine failure.

Storage & Damage

Proper storage of vaccines is one of the most critical aspects in assuring they will provide the desired disease protection. The label recommendations for storage of vaccines read as follows: Store in dark at 35 to 45 F. Avoid freezing. Shake well to assure uniform suspension of the vaccine prior to administration. Lack of adherence to the label directions can result in lack of vaccine effectiveness, vaccine failure and an increased rate of local reactions after vaccine administration.

Damage to the vaccine is most often due to exposure to heat, light or freezing. Common causes include a faulty refrigerator that is either not cool enough or is too cold and freezes the vaccine, or the vaccine being left at room temperature for an extended period of time.

Your veterinarian will be familiar with these risks and recommendations and have a system in place to ensure the vaccine is stored properly and delivered undamaged.

Proper Dosing

If you are vaccinating a foal or horse for the first time, it is critical that they receive a second dose three to four weeks after the initial dose to build more complete immunity. Failure to do so dramatically diminishes the horse's immune response and is a common cause of vaccine failure. For most vaccines, the horse's immunity to disease will gradually decrease over time so boosters are usually recommended at least annually. In the case of influenza and rhinovirus (Equine Herpes 1 & 4), vaccination every six months is usually recommended in order to maintain a solid immune response.

Work with your veterinarian to develop a proper vaccination schedule for your horse.

Administration

With the exception of intranasal influenza and strangles vaccines, most vaccines should be administered deep in the muscle. Subcutaneous administration (just under the skin) can decrease their effectiveness and the horse's response.

In the case of live, attenuated vaccines, their use concurrently with antibiotics, chemical sterilization or reuse of syringes, as well as excessive use of alcohol on the skin, can decrease their effectiveness.

Take-Home Message

Vaccines are safest and most effective when administered by your veterinarian. Your horse's vaccination schedule should be tailored specifically to its needs and location, so ask your veterinarian to help you develop a vaccination program to best fit your horse. For additional information on vaccinating your horse, visit the AAEP Vaccination Guidelines.

JUNIOR TRAINING TEAM

Written by Lilliana Sonpar

Who is man's best friend? It could be a dog, a cat, a cow, or in my case a mischievous pony. The simple truth is that animals are the backbone of the agricultural industry.

Agriculture is tough and requires hard work – long days, sleepless nights and a never ending to-do list is customary for any good animal owner. But, as we all know, not everyone treats their animals appropriately.

I ask you, what happens to those helpless souls who are let down by irresponsible owners?

My name is Lilliana Sonpar. I have spent most of my teenage years working with rescue horses. For the past four years, I have had the absolute honor of volunteering for a non-profit horse rescue whose mission is to end the practice of horse slaughter. We outbid kill buyers at auctions to save the horses, then rehabilitate and rehome them.

I have learned so much from everyone at the rescue, but one of my best teacher is a pony named Pickpocket. He was rescued in February 2020 from a notorious auction house in Pennsylvania. Our head trainer was looking around when she noticed her phone had gone missing, only to turn and see a scrawny pony holding it in between his teeth. As she was wiping horse slobber from her phone, for which he kindly returned undamaged, she knew his spirit was not yet broken

Pickpocket came to us sick, underweight and riddled with parasites. After several months, he learned that humans can be kind and had a rider on his back for the first time. He carried me through my first training project, first show, and first real friendship between horse and rider.

Pickpocket was destined to die two years ago. Instead he has blossomed into a spunky pony with an impossible to ignore personality. Just like him, every horse has a story to tell and love to give.

But I am not here to recount the joys of horse rescue, I am here to advocate against horse slaughter.

Horse are more important to Maryland than you might think. Per the American Horse Council, the equine industry adds 1.3 billion dollars to the Maryland economy, providing 21,000 jobs. In fact, 25% of Maryland's agricultural land is used for horse-related purposes.

Despite the large role horses play in our economy, their lives have been disregarded for decades. The source of displaced horses comes from both poor owners and poor legislation. Often, people simply get in over their heads. The University of Maine estimates the annual cost of owning a horse is 4000 dollars. However, this estimate does not account for training, quality of care, seasonal supplies, personal equipment and vet bills. If you wince when you see the vet bill for your dog, imagine the financial crisis for a 2000 pound animal. These stressors can leave the horse vulnerable to slaughter.

In Maryland, if a horse owner fails to pay any outstanding debt 30 days after payment is due, the owner of the livery stable has the right to sell the animal, which opens the door to the slaughterhouse pipeline. Many horses are mistakenly sold to dealers who pose as good homes. Generally, horse owners have no idea dealers will run their horses through low-end auctions. Kill buyers troll these auctions to gather as many horses as will fit on their truck. There are no operational horse slaughterhouses in the United States, so the horses are exported to Canada and Mexico to be killed. The journey across the border is often over 24 hours with no access to water or food. Horses are stacked on top of each other as they await a horrific death.

It is important to remember horses are flight animals that seek the path of least resistance. However, at slaughterhouses, horses are viciously prodded, beaten, stabbed, or dismembered while still conscious.

It's easy to assume horses shipped to slaughter are worthless, but the United States Department of Agriculture determined that 92.3% of horses sent to slaughter are healthy and could be useful.

Even if horse slaughter could be conducted humanely, the consumption of horse meat remains a health hazard. Horse meat is toxic. Per the Animal Welfare Institute, there are 379 maintenance horse medications that were banned by the Food and Drug Administration for use in meat animals because the medications are highly carcinogenic. Likely all horses have been treated with an abundance of products, poisoning unsuspecting diners here and abroad.

Horse slaughter has been deemed a necessary evil by many in the industry. But, horse slaughter is not a method of disposal caused by unwanted horses, but rather it is driven by the international demand for the heaviest load possible.

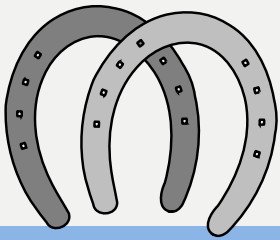
Fortunately, due to an emphasis on animal welfare, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the ASPCA, approximates the number of horses exported to slaughter has decreased dramatically from an average of 137,000 annually to under 24,000 annually in the past six years alone.

In 2017, the Animal Welfare Institute estimated that 2.3 million Americans have the resources and interest to adopt a horse. According to the Paulick Report in 2020, there are 3.8 million horses in the United States. Given that most people have multiple horses, it is not a stretch to imagine that every horse could have a home.

So, how do we protect American horses? The Save America's Forgotten Equines, the SAFE Act, aims to ban domestic horse slaughter and prohibit the transportation of horses to slaughterhouses.

The bill was introduced in 2021 to the House of Representatives and has 212 cosponsors out of 218 needed to bring the bill to action. We are only six people away from ensuring safety for our horses. The SAFE Act will pass if we make horse slaughter an urgent issue!

I want to leave you with this: horse slaughter violates the integrity of the American agricultural industry. Having said that, the SAFE act is the light at the end of the tunnel for all of the horses like Pickpocket, waiting for their second chance at happily ever after.



Upcoming Events



Safe Haven Equine Warriors Presents...

DESIGNER BAG BINGO

Saturday October 1, 2022 --Doors Open @5:30pm-- Bingo Starts @ 6:30pm



Vera Bradley



kate spade
NEW YORK

TORY BURCH

MARC JACOBS

MICHAEL KORS

DOOR PRIZES

\$35 per person in advance---\$40 at the door

Includes 20-6 on regular games, 1-3 on special games and a door prize ticket!

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS



- Refreshments including pizza, deserts, snacks, soda, and water available to purchase
- Additional bingo booklets, specials and daubers for sale
- Raffles and 50/50s
- Reservations available for tables of 6 or 12!
- Cash and Credit Cards Accepted

www.safehavenequinewarriors.org/events2022



PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

A fall festival

TO SUPPORT HORSE RESCUE

Oct 22, 2022 11AM-4PM



www.safehavenequinewarriors.org



Photo: Koda rescued in 2022- now in training at Safe Haven Equine Warriors

**Thank you for taking the time to
learn more about Safe Haven Equine
Warriors (SHEW).**

**Let us know what you would like to
see in our next Newsletter.
Drop us a line!**

**Email:
Info@safehavenequinewarriors.org**