

## What Kind Of Horses End Up In Rescue

By Misti Seppi, Horse Program Coordinator, Wasatch Humane

Wasatch Humane Horse Rescue and Adoptions cares for 32-35 horses, all in volunteer foster homes, at any given time. The horses in the program range from foals to senior citizens, from perfectly sound to fully retired, from troubled to well trained, from unknown breeding to high dollar pedigreed horses. The one thing all of them have in common is, due to circumstances beyond their control, they are homeless.

Horses come to Wasatch Humane Horse Rescue and Adoptions from a variety of situations. Some from people who love their horse, but can no longer care for it and want to be sure their horse goes to a good home. Other horses are redeemed from the feedlot or at auction, where we bid against kill buyers. Some horses are abandoned by their owners, picked up by animal control and then turned over to Wasatch Humane, and still others are saved by good Samaritans who turn the horse over to Wasatch Humane. Some horses have had prize winning athletic careers, winning ribbons and trophies for their owners, but when they were no longer competitive they were no longer wanted. Some horses have special medical and farrier needs. Wasatch Humane Horse Rescue and Adoptions is committed to saving, rehabilitating and rehoming as many horses as possible. The only thing that limits our mission is lack of funding, lack of foster homes and lack of adoptive homes.

Currently in foster care we have Thoroughbreds (including one with 3 Kentucky Derby winners in his pedigree), Quarter Horses, Mustangs, Tennessee Walking Horses, Paints, Morgans, Arabians, and several of unknown breeding. Some of these horses are fully retired pasture pals who are ready to be a companion to a lonely pony/horse, or to be loved by someone who wants to pamper and love a dignified equine senior citizen. Others are sound and trained and just waiting for their special human partner, and still others are waiting to be started under saddle. There is a horse for everyone in our program. If Wasatch Humane doesn't have your dream horse, check with Ching Farm Sanctuary located in Herriman ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.chingsancuary.org"](http://www.chingsancuary.org) [www.chingsancuary.org](http://www.chingsancuary.org)) or Best Friends Animal Society located in Kanab ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.bestfriends.org"](http://www.bestfriends.org) [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org)) Chances are your new best equine friend is in a Utah rescue waiting for you right now.

Wasatch Humane Horse Rescue and Adoption requirements for adoption are: a lifetime commitment to the care of the horse, safe fencing, a shelter, regular veterinary and farrier care, good food and constant supply of fresh water (snow and ice are not adequate water sources). To quote Faith Ching of Ching Farm Sanctuary "you can buy any horse but you must qualify for one of ours." Horses form strong emotional bonds to their humans and to the other animals in the herd. It is very traumatic for them to be moved from home to home; similar to being weaned all over again. All of us in horse rescue recognize this and want to insure that the horses we've saved, find a home where they have security in the fact

that they are loved, wanted, cherished, and safe for the rest of their lives.

You can help horses in need right here in Utah in several ways: Donations of cash (however small or large); donations of tack and other horse equipment; donations of hay and feed; donations of professional services; volunteer to foster a horse while it awaits its forever home; and rather than purchasing your next horse, make horse adoption your first option. Also, horse clubs can hold fund raising events to benefit our rescued horses, like the Utah Arabian Horse Association is doing March 4, with its Cookie Classic at the Copper Hills Equestrian Center. Enter your horse for the fun and games, and shop at our Used Tack Sale, all to benefit our horses. If all horse lovers do just a little bit toward horse rescue, together we can make a huge difference in the lives of Utah's horses.

Wasatch Humane Horse Rescue and Adoptions will be at the Utah Horse Expo at the South Jordan Equestrian Center, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will bring several of our horses with us for you to meet and play with. Please stop by the booth inside and the stalls outside to say hello. We love meeting fellow horse lovers.

Please visit our website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.wasatchhumane.org>" [www.wasatchhumane.org](http://www.wasatchhumane.org) to see photos and descriptions of the horses in our program and for contact information.