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DOUG MOORE**



ASTRO & KOLTN



**Darlene with
Tim & Kissy**



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Long on winter means short on hay:

Greene County's #1 horse rescuer is in need of her own rescue

By Cindy Bailey, GreeneSpeak Editor/Publisher
 ROGERSVILLE—“They’re like family and every one of them has a story,” Darlene Moore says of the 51 horses she and her husband care for at Save-A-Horse Stables near Rogersville.

There’s “Spirit” whose owners were heading to the auction with the unruly horse. Darlene agreed to take it; soon discovering the animal’s behavior had been caused by an ill-fitting bit. Likewise, “Flynn” was a runaway pony in Ruff Creek, which Darlene was called in to catch. “His halter was too tight,” she says simply.

“Jerry” was owned by an elderly gentleman who could not physically care for him anymore. “He cried when we put that pony in the trailer,” she says.

“Tim” an elderly draft horse, was the subject of an animal abuse case (and several *GreeneSpeak* articles) that went to court. The county Humane Society has no one to handle horse cases; they call Darlene. Tim is now healthy and happy with his field-mate, “Kissy.”

“Dusty” and “Misty” had been owned by a man who died in a car accident. “Astro” and “Koltn” are gentle buddies who happen to have chronic health issues. The newest member of the herd is “Star” whose owner is facing life-threatening illness and who has no family.

The horses (unless they’re sick or injured) live outside all year round, grazing on the hillside above the buildings on the 225-acre farm. “They live like the mustangs,” Darlene says, adding that they’re hardier than “pampered horses that stay in barns.”

Save-A-Horse, which was featured in the August 2009 *GreeneSpeak*, (“Chompin’ at the bit to go on a trail ride”) began in 1982 when Darlene bought back a horse her dad was selling. That day, she saved poor ol’ “Cheko” from the “meat man,” and Save-a-Horse was

born. But caring for this many horses ain’t hay. In fact, they are now consuming five round bales at \$25 each—every single day.

Somehow, by raising cattle, selling an occasional colt, hosting trail rides, lessons, and kids’ birthday parties, not to mention cleaning houses, she has mostly been able to pay her bills. Her family, including her long-suffering husband, daughter Angie, and stepson Doug, help however they can.

But the early onset of winter in which snow has covered the ground for weeks, along with fewer hay suppliers (farmers are selling it to gas drillers for erosion purposes), and her own poor crop last summer, Darlene fears bankruptcy.

She has resisted 501(c)3 status, but at press time had begun filing paperwork to start the process. But for now, she says, “I’m just asking for a little help from people with big hearts to get through this winter. After we become a nonprofit, we’ll go after corporations with big money.”

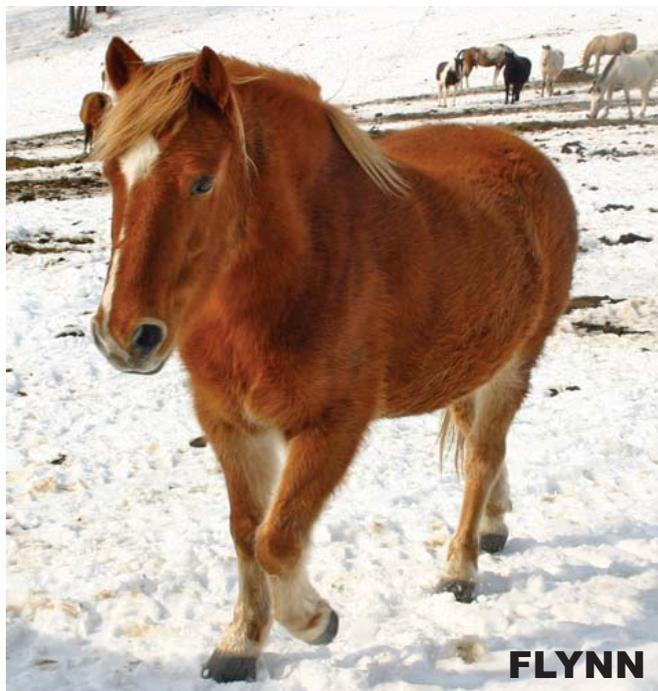


JERRY

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