



Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

Horse Rescue & Adoption

*"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must never forget it.
You remain responsible forever for what you have tamed."*

-Antoine de Saint Exupery

August 26, 2013

Dear Friends and Valued Supporters,

Summer passes quickly! Our volunteer youth are already back in school, as are our horse trainers. The horses have noticed this change in rhythm. They love the attention they get from volunteers, and now look forward to Friday mornings and Sunday afternoons, when our "horse walkers" visit and when youth are out of school and back to ride. We have much to report, and John is piloting an educational feature in our newsletters: "Realities of Country Life". And that is where we will begin this newsletter.

Realities of Country Life: There is a large and growing movement underway in our nation where people want to experience and benefit from rural living. This movement is known by some as Hobby Farming. In many instances, these urban and small family farms become true farms, even though the acreage is small in comparison with traditional family and corporate farms. The first challenge and reality of country life we would like to share focuses on tires and fuel.

Tires and fuel are an entirely different challenge if you live in the country and work the land or care for livestock. At Blue Rose Ranch we have 74 tires in full-time service. 40 of these tires **require** a Load Range of "E" - 10 ply. Your standard pickup or sport utility vehicle requires a 4 ply tire. Trailer tires are usually run at the maximum allowable pressure (60 - 80 PSI). Because trailer tires carry heavy loads and, because they are 10 ply tires, they build up heat quickly on the road and tend to separate and throw their treads. That is why you see on highways so many truck tires that have come apart. Tires run at maximum pressure tend to not build up heat as rapidly. Load Range E tires are expensive and they last only 2 to 3 years. These tires fail not because they wear out their tread, but because they give out doing hard work carrying the heavy loads required of them. So, you don't need to worry so much about tread wear as you do about tire failure. Our fuel and tire expenses, at Blue Rose Ranch, average \$600 - \$700 per month. When you pull heavy loads of hay and precious cargo like horses over long distances, you have to have excellent equipment in top shape. You just can not compromise on tires. Tires and fuel are an inescapable and constant expense. Everyone in the country works hard to control this large and growing financial sector. Foundations, that support non profit organizations, rarely make money available for mundane things like tires and fuel. But make no mistake, tires and fuel keep Blue Rose Ranch rolling.

Horse News: Admiral found a great home with a *Westernaires* family. *Admiral* is handsome and strong. *Westernaires* is a perfect match for him. *Admiral*, befitting his name, will be a horse in the renowned Cavalry Team, and we have a hunch he will also end up in the varsity Red Team. You might remember our previous horse trainer, Ramsye Thornton. Ramsye was married to Stetson Mitchell in June at a beautiful ceremony on her family ranch in Oklahoma. Tina, Jewell, Jailbait, and Roscoe have all found new homes with Ramsye and Stetson in Oklahoma. This is a great opportunity for these horses, who all need special attention and training. Ramsye and Stetson are very

advanced horse trainers. Their assistance in helping train these horses and in locating suitable adoptive homes is a great value to our organization. Ramsye and Stetson already have a new home lined up for Tina. Two new horses came to live at Blue Rose Ranch early this summer, Samson and Shilo. The pair were owned by a wonderful family, and the horses had been living on leased pasture. That lease came to a close and we were asked to take over their care. Samson is a beautiful and well trained paint. Shilo was untrained when he headed to that leased pasture, and something happened to Shilo that he cannot tell us about. We can only see the scar on his face. Shilo came to us very fearful of people. John has spent hours working with him the past months, and Shilo is slowly beginning to trust.

Our staff this summer was diverse and energetic. Sophia came to us from the hunter jumper world of Pennsylvania. What fun to see the southeastern plains of Colorado and western horsemanship through the eyes of this sophisticated Philadelphia girl. She loved the wide-open spaces, the beautiful night and morning sky, and clean air. She was excited to buy cowboy boots and to go western! It was also fun for us to learn about the eastern horse world. In that eastern competitive equestrian society, the horses are often saddled and warmed up by grooms. Some riders just show up, get on the horse, and off they go to practice or compete. Not so, Sophia! She arrived at Blue Rose Ranch tough as a boot and jumped right in. Sophia learned much about riding western and training horses from a new perspective. The horses loved her, especially Max. Sophia has returned to Philadelphia to continue her studies at Drexel University. Our Director of Horse Training was Zak Feeley. Zak gained the trust of several difficult horses under his charge. He directed the work of our trainers and was very important to the overall care of horses at Blue Rose Ranch. Zak has headed back to college to work on his masters in nursing, and will continue working with horses. We were fortunate to have Samantha Brown spent part of her summer working at the ranch. She is an excellent rider and trainer, who put important training hours on our horses before she relocated to Pueblo with her husband. Bowman was an important addition to our staff this summer. He is a young and talented rider who spent many hours helping our green (newly) trained horses. Each of these staff members also spent time teaching our youth volunteers. These young volunteers learned valuable skills and improved their riding and training abilities with horses.

Youth and Kids: Working with youth continues to be an important part of our outreach at Blue Rose Ranch. Our youth horse camp in June was once again very successful. One highlight of the camp this year was the opportunity to see the birth of a foal. We had large numbers of new kids visiting and learning about horses this summer. We hosted educational and riding opportunities for several groups of kids from church youth groups and service clubs.

Thanks to our supporters: Your tax deductible gifts make our work possible, are each very important, and greatly appreciated. Those gifts help purchase hay, pay the vet bills, and keep the tires rolling!

Sincerely,

John and Cheryl Webb
Executive Directors