



# Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation



MHARF 2019  
25th  
Anniversary  
Edition

## The Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation Turns 25!

If you ask executive director Drew Fitzpatrick what changes have come about in the 25 years since she first started the Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation, you'll get an earful. The main change, she is happy to report, is that the work done by MHARF and other equine welfare organizations is getting much more respect and cooperation from law enforcement officials. She says there has been a very noticeable change in attitudes and willingness to learn more about what constitutes humane care and treatment of horses and other animals. She also says it has been years since she's heard a law enforcement official say, "It's just an animal", which is something that used to happen regularly. Fitzpatrick has worked hard to develop a positive working relationship with sheriffs' departments in Minnesota. MHARF has taken horses and other hooved animals in from cases throughout the entire state. She says she now sees animal neglect and abuse being treated as an actual crime and cases being dually investigated. She believes people are also paying more attention to how they vote for county officials (such as sheriff and county attorney) and that they



are more willing to take these officials to task for how they respond to humane cases. Fitzpatrick also notes that veterinarians in general now have a better understanding of the need of forensics and detailed reports in humane cases, "which gives us the ability to make a case in a much more thorough way."

Another obvious change Fitzpatrick reports is the development of social media. Platforms like Facebook have given rescue organizations a free way to advertise the work they do and to better educate the public on equine welfare. The ability to list adoptable horses, share news about the program, and engage in online fundraising has been boon to non-profit organizations like MHARF. And though MHARF still sends out a paper copy of its newsletter (due to popular demand), "we no longer need to rely only on mailings and word of mouth to get information out there." MHARF also maintains an extensive website ([www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)) where people can find information on horses in the program, news, events, resources, and much more.

One irony Fitzpatrick notes, is that people can now find online any information they could possibly need about how to care for an animal, as well as potential resources if they are in need of assistance, and "some still claim ignorance as they watch their (Cont. page 2)

## Many New Intakes at MHARF as Result of Humane Cases

As many of our supporters know, the majority of horses MHARF takes into our program come from humane cases through our work with county law enforcement, the Animal Humane Society of MN, and MN Federated Humane Societies. One of the most recent cases from which we took in horses was a March 2019 Fillmore County case. We want to once again thank the Fillmore County Attorney's Office, the Fillmore County Sheriff's Department, the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition, and the Animal Humane Society of MN for their work in this case involving seven horses and a donkey. Two dead horses were also found on the property, and one of the seven that were removed had to be euthanized shortly after we had transported them to Anoka Equine Veterinary Services for emergency care. The owner of the horses is currently awaiting trial and has been charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty and animal torture, facing up to two years in prison for each felony charge and a year in prison for each gross misdemeanor charge.

In May, MHARF executive (cont. pg 2)

Right: Titan, Freedom, and Ma Barker from the Fillmore County Case at intake and after 90 days of rehabilitative care



horse starve to death”. Among other changes Fitzpatrick has seen over the years is the increase in horses of recognizable breeds coming in from humane cases, including Arabians, thoroughbreds, Saddlebreds and quarter horses. Over the past decade MHARF has also seen more horses of less common breeding come in, including Morgans, warmbloods, Friesians and even lipizzans. There has also been an increase in pintos, duns, and palominos over the years, as the practice of breeding for color has become more prevalent. Fitzpatrick says she has seen many trends in popularity, including miniature horses, draft horses, gaited horses, and mules and donkeys. “Every time a certain type of animal becomes popular, we eventually see more of that animal needing rescue”.

The Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation has adopted out over 3,000 horses and other hooved animals over the past 25 years. When asked what she has learned about the adoption process in her time at MHARF, Fitzpatrick says she has seen that the average owner keeps a horse for about 6 years. She says although there are a variety of reasons why people look to sell or rehome their horses, most often it is because of loss of interest or a major life change. “That is why we will never change our policy of an adoption being a co-ownership. Any animal that is adopted from MHARF will always have a safe place to come back to if the adopter can no longer keep it for any reason.” She has also learned that the best thing MHARF can do for a horse is to give it the training it needs to be a good companion on the ground and under saddle. A well-trained, easily handled horse is much more likely to stay in a home for life. Since most of the potential adopters who contact MHARF are in the beginner to intermediate range, or are “re-riders” (people who rode in their youth and are now coming back to it later in life), providing

training for adoptable horses is absolutely necessary to find them homes and to make sure both the horse and the adopter have a positive experience. This is one reason why MHARF started the annual Trainer’s Challenge competition 12 years ago. In this way they are able to provide training for a larger number of previously untrained horses for much less money than the organization would put into paying each trainer on a monthly basis. “Of course, we couldn’t do this so successfully without the help and hard work from the trainers who enter the competition.” (See Page Three for more information on the 2019 Trainer’s Challenge on Sept. 7th at the Leatherdale Equine Center).

Fitzpatrick acknowledges that many people have helped to keep MHARF running successfully over the past 25 years. She is especially thankful for all of the adoptive homes, the foster providers, the trainers, the volunteers, and the donors who have recognized the importance of MHARF’s mission and the need for the services the organization provides. “It’s never been easy,” she says, “but anyone who thinks getting into this type of thing is gonna be easy should definitely look for a different line of work” Fitzpatrick admits that the work is often frustrating and frequently heart-breaking, but it is always worth the effort if it results in animals being given a chance at a better life.

**Please consider making a donation to help MHARF celebrate it’s 25th year and continue this important work! You can find links for making secure online donations on the “Donate” page at [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org), or you can easily donate through the MHARF Facebook page. Checks can be made out to MHARF and mailed to MHARF, PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398. Thank You!**

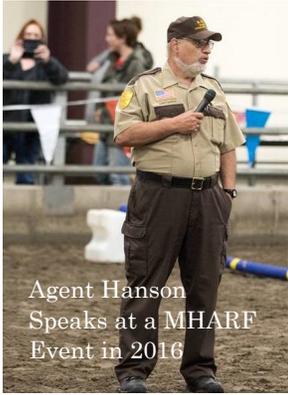
Many New Intakes at MHARF (Continued from Page One)

director Drew Fitzpatrick was called to testify during a 3 day jury trial in a Brown County humane case involving 5 mares seized by the sheriff’s department in April of 2018. The owners were found guilty on 17 of 18 misdemeanor charges of animal mistreatment and are awaiting sentencing. We want to thank the Brown County Attorney’s Office and the Brown County Sheriff’s Department for their work in this case. Thank you also to the Clay County Sheriff’s Department for their assistance in an April 2019 case in which 3 horses and 11 sheep were seized, and the Chisago County Sheriff’s Department and Minnesota Federated Humane Societies for their help in the seizure of 5 sheep in March of 2019.

For links to media coverage on these cases, as well as photos and updates on the horses, please visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

From top: Epona (Fillmore County); Thomas (Clay County); Lady (Brown County) and Isabeau (Brown County) at intake and after rehabilitative care. (Intake photo credit: Anoka Equine Veterinary Services)





Agent Hanson Speaks at a MHARF Event in 2016

In December of 2018 we received the sad news that Humane Agent Wade Hanson had passed away after battling cancer. Agent Hanson, whose work with the Animal Humane Society of Minnesota spanned nearly two and a half decades, was instrumental in the rescue of countless horses and other animals who came into the MHARF program through AHS. We cannot say enough good things about Wade’s dedication to his job as a humane investigator, protecting animals both large and small. Late last fall we ran a fundraiser to assist Wade and his family with expenses. With your generous help, we were able to raise over \$6,000.00, which we passed on to Wade along with your expressions of support and kindness. Wade’s dedication, work ethic, kindness and humor will be very much missed by all of us here at the Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation. (To read an interview with Agent Hanson about reporting humane cases that originally ran in our Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter, please visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org).)

**2019 MHARF Trainer’s Challenge (featuring the “Promise of the Future” Training Competition for Young Horses)!**

Saturday, September 7th, has been set for the 2019 MHARF Trainer’s Challenge! This will be the 12th year we have held this event, which for the third year in a row will also feature the “Promise of the Future” Training Competition for Young Horses. This year we have 12 horse and trainer teams competing in the main mounted division of Trainer’s Challenge and 6 horse and trainer teams competing in the Promise of the Future In-Hand division. Out of the 18 competing horses, 17 came to MHARF through humane cases.

Once again each team has set up a Facebook page so you can follow their progress. All of the competing horses will be available for adoption by silent auction to pre-approved bidders/adopters at the event. Anyone interested in becoming pre-approved to adopt should visit the “Adopting a Trainer’s Challenge Horse” page on our website for more information. We are also always happy to provide information by email if you contact us at [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org). You can find links to all of the horse bios, the trainer bios and contact information, and Facebook page links by clicking on the “Trainer’s Challenge Teams” link on our website.

The MHARF Trainer’s Challenge was originally started as a way to maximize the amount of funding we had available for training, as well as provide more exposure for our adoptable horses. We feel that giving a horse the basic training it needs to be a “good citizen” on the ground as well as under saddle is the best way to ensure successful adoptive placement for that horse. By holding a training contest, we are able to stretch allotted funds for training much farther than if we paid trainers on a monthly basis. Not only are we getting a great deal on training, but we have an adoption rate of 95% for horses that have competed in the Trainer’s Challenge!

The Promise of the Future Training Competition for Young Horses is an additional in-hand-only competition we originally designed in 2017 because of the number of young horses in our program who are too young to start under saddle. The Promise of the Future competition is a great way to get these youngsters the ground manner they need to move on to the next step of under-saddle training when they are ready. It is also a great

opportunity for younger or less experienced trainers to gain experience in the competitive training venue.

We are still actively seeking event sponsors, both corporate and individual, to assist with prize money for the trainers who have generously taken time out of their busy schedules to work with these rescued horses for 120 to 150 days in hopes of finding them great new homes. Sponsorship opportunities are available on many levels. For more information on how to become a sponsor please email [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org). We are also currently signing up volunteers for the event, including set-up on Friday the 6th, help during the Challenge, and clean-up immediately afterward. If you’d like to sign up as a volunteer, please email [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org).

We are extremely excited about the 2019 Trainer’s Challenge. We have a fantastic line-up of horse and trainer teams! We have set the date earlier in the month to avoid schedule conflicts with 4H and WSCA events—so we hope to see you all there!

**2019 Trainer’s Challenge Teams**  
 Cactus Katie w/Gina Fiorintino and Savannah Deutsch; Cherries w/ Sarah Lemke; Delia w/ Gretchen Kapeller; Foxy w/ Kaitlyn Fedewa and Anna Hill; Gabby w/ Helen Levering; Isabeau w/Marirose Berner; Jemma w/ Nate Stener; Luta w/ Shaylor Alley; Macho w/ Brandy Beede; Pablo w/ Brenda Boyd; Sequoia w/ TJ Clibborn; Sugarfoot w/ Kaitlyn Fedewa & Anna Hill

**2019 Promise of the Future Teams**  
 Alice w/ Deb Anderson; Cactus Jack w/ JoEllen Kimmel; Epona w/ Cameryn and Morgan Allen; Faline w/ Anna Hill, Maridae w/ Renee Hendrickson; Titan w/ Deb Anderson

Thank You to our 2019 Sponsors!



Laura Sedgwick Memorial

Douglas and Louise Leatherdale Foundation



Becca Berg Photography



Huppert Photography



**Minnesota Hooved Animal  
Rescue Foundation**

PO Box 47  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

[mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)  
(763)856-3119  
[info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

Help MHARF keep this important work going by making a Tax-Deductible Donation today! Please visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) for links to donate safely and conveniently online! Checks can be mailed to MHARF, PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398. Other items we always need: small square bales of grass hay or alfalfa mix hay, bedding (shavings), and Purina Senior and Junior feed.

Thank you!



For a full list of available horses please visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

Our popular "Geld 'Em" bumper stickers are back! 11.5" x 3.75" stickers are great for trucks, trailers and more. \$6.00 each includes shipping. Visit <https://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org/shop/> to order by PayPal or Credit Card. If you prefer to pay by check please email [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org). Thank you!



*"Horse owners can promote equine welfare by becoming educated on castration practices and working proactively to address widespread concerns of the unwanted horse. If the goal is to continue to improve a breed and minimize the number of horses that fail to meet expectations, the surgical procedure of castration should be utilized to decrease the number of unwanted horses. Horse owners can act responsibly by putting the horse first."* -American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners



MHARF is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, retraining, and re-homing of neglected, abused, abandoned and unwanted equines and other animals. Because some of the horses we take in need extended rehabilitation and some have serious medical needs, we are always in need of financial support from friends like you. Please consider joining the MHARF family by making a financial contribution. No donation is too small or too large!

All donations are tax deductible. We also accept gifts in-kind and gifts of stock.

YES I would like to join the MHARF family by making a financial contribution. I have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Complete this form and mail it with your donation to: **MHARF, PO BOX 47, Zimmerman, MN, 55398**

Or contribute online through **PayPal** or **Network for Good** at [www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Visit us at [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) or email [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) for information on adoption, becoming a foster care provider, or volunteering at MHARF!

# The Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation

presents the **12th Annual Trainer's Challenge**

(Featuring the 3rd Annual "Promise of the Future"

**Training Competition for Young Horses)**



Sydney Jordan Photography

Saturday, September 7th, 2019  
Leatherdale Equine Center  
1801 Dudley Avenue, Falcon Heights,  
Minnesota, 55113 (U of M St. Paul Campus)  
Doors Open 8:30 a.m / Tickets \$5.00

**Event Sponsors & Volunteers Wanted!**  
For Complete Event Details, Volunteer & Sponsorship Information, Please Visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) or Email [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)

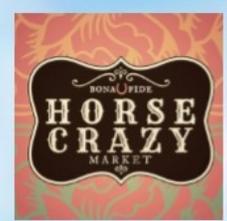
All of these beautiful horses will be available for adoption by silent auction at the event. For information on how to become pre-approved to bid and adopt, visit [mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](http://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) or contact us at [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)



Laura Sedgwick Memorial

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

**Douglas and Louise Leatherdale Foundation**



Huppert Photography

Becca Berg Photography

