

Natural HORSE

M A G A Z I N E

WHEN HOOVES GO BAD,

LOOK UP!

WHOLISTIC REHABILITATION

Shiatsu:

HEALING from HEAD TO TOE

**HOOBOOT FIT,
NOT FITS!**

RELOCATING?

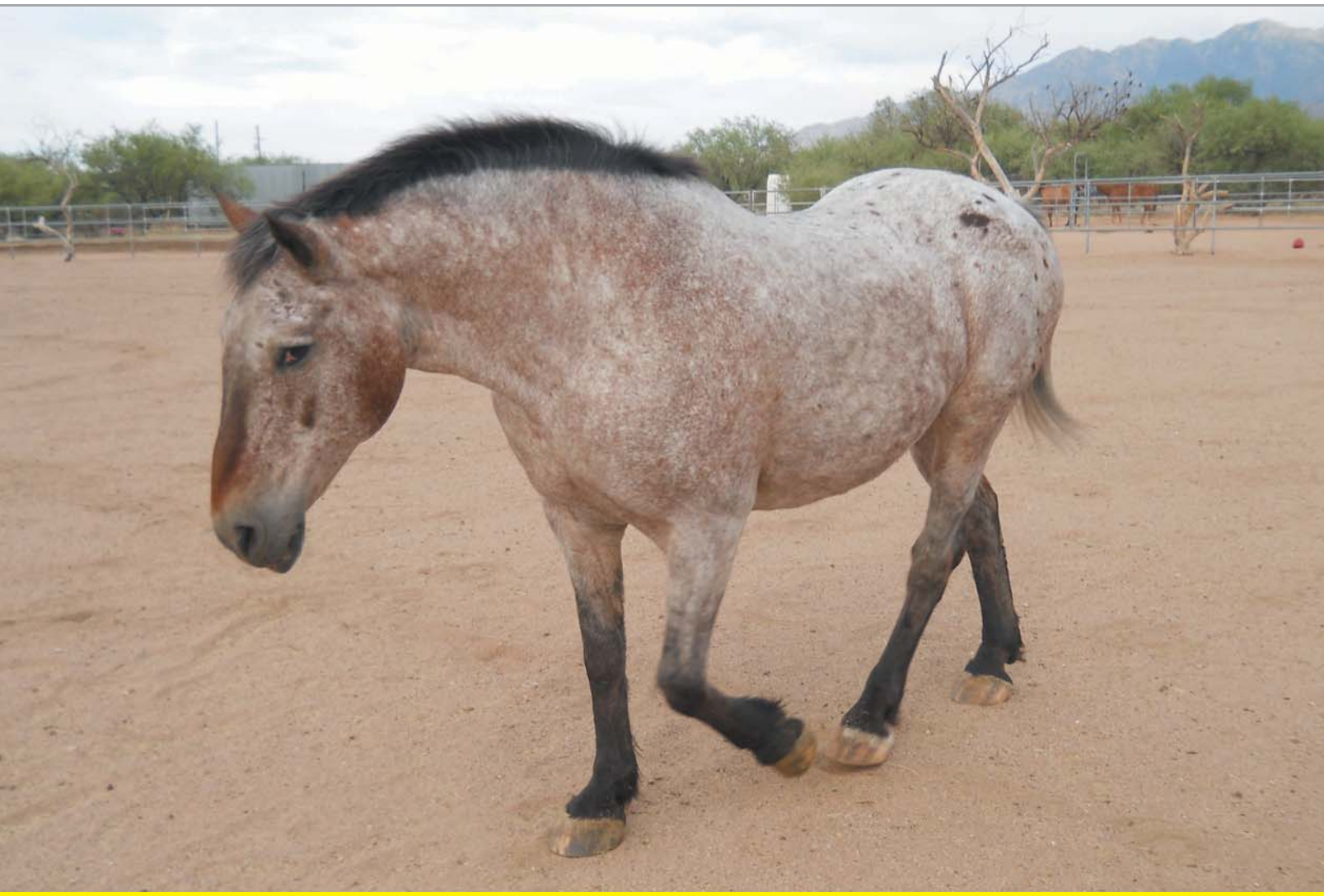
Help your horse
(and yourself!) with

essential oils

**HOLIDAY
GIFT
GUIDE
INSIDE**



TO THE RESCUE



SANCTUARY & VING CARE

by Carla McClain *for the neglected and abused*

Kachina – Dragged behind a truck and, while lying on the ground with the chain still bound around her neck, she was beaten with a PVC pipe by the owner and his 13-year-old daughter. He was found not guilty. Nothing happened to the daughter as she was under age.

He was the only horse to make it out of a horrific barn fire alive. But the once lovely chestnut emerged severely burned and in unspeakable pain, the flesh on his back charred to ash.

Taken in by a small “rescue” in the area, he got lost in the shuffle of his new owners’ divorce. Meanwhile, very little was done to relieve his pain or help him recover. Covered in bleeding scabs, he slowly began to starve when the new owner stopped feeding after money ran out. Meanwhile, Nick, as he later came to be known, languished in the 110-plus-degree heat of a Phoenix summer without shade, the sun’s intense rays further searing his hideous wounds.

Terrified of her owners, the roan mare balked at entering a trailer one day. That was all it took to set off a titanic tantrum in the brutal man in charge of her. Livid with the scared horse, he chained her to the back of his truck, and then dragged her through the rough, thorny desert near Florence, Arizona. Witnessing this, a neighbor called the sheriff.

When the deputy got there, he found the mare lying on her side, strangling under the pressure of the chain, while the man and his 13-year-old daughter beat her with a PVC pipe. The deputy repeatedly ordered the beating to stop and was finally forced to draw his weapon when his orders were ignored. Charged with felony animal cruelty, the father beat the rap at a court trial, apparently because of close ties to the jury foreman. The traumatized mare, Kachina, was returned to her torturer.

He was an 18-month-old baby when he was rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada and taken out of his wild home, only to end up in the hands of unstable, sometimes outright cruel, humans. It is the fate of so many wild mustangs of the American West in the intensely controversial BLM roundups that have continued relentlessly for decades – whenever “the authorities” decide these wild animals are crowding out domestic cattle raised for profit.

Smokey Joe, as the gray colt was named, lived for many years in the decent care of his owner in Marana, Arizona until the fateful day she broke up with her boyfriend, moved back East and left him with the bitter man. Angry about the situation, the man lashed out at the innocent horse, separating him from the other horses, and leaving him alone to decline toward death, given no food or care.

Miraculously, all of these doomed and suffering horses are, today, alive – happy, plump, shiny and thriving. They will live out the rest of their lives in the deeply loving care of Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary, a 10-acre ranch nestled in the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains in southern Arizona.

These horses have joined a heartbreaking parade of some 500 equines rescued by Equine Voices during the eight years since its founding in 2004. This rescue was originally opened to save mares and their cast-off foals used (and ultimately discarded) to produce the synthetic hormone Premarin (made from the urine of pregnant mares) from slaughter. Equine Voices, by necessity, has expanded as much as possible to include horses starved and abandoned during bad economic times, as well as those maimed and broken while transporting illegal drugs across the Mexican border.

Of the 500-plus rescues over these years, some 413 have been adopted to loving homes. 48 remain at the sanctuary, which is now filled to capacity. Not all have been returned to perfect health;

The Regimen that Rescues

Free feed Bermuda grass hay
(take proper precautions to prevent colic)
Introduce a small amount of alfalfa for protein

1 cup Bermuda pellets soaked
1/2 cup soaked beet pulp
2 tablespoons flaxseed oil
2 tablespoons rice bran
2 scoops probiotic

Mix together and feed this 2x day until
we start seeing weight gain.
After about 4 days we introduce black
sunflower seeds – they’re great for their
coats and digestive system.



Smokey Joe



Smokey Joe – A starvation case we rescued in 2009

for some, the scars and injuries have caused permanent damage. But all have received full and continuing medical care on the sanctuary's donation-supported budget, and not one horse – even those within days of death – has ever been lost to the ravages of starvation. In addition, flower essences, such as Rescue Remedy, and other natural modalities including homeopathic medicine, herbs, and energy healing (acupuncture, Reiki, massage) are used to help heal the horses who arrive at the sanctuary.

Nick

The badly burned Nick, discovered in emaciated decline at a Phoenix boarding facility three years ago, was removed immediately and brought to the sanctuary. Though in robust condition now, Nick will always require treatment to promote healing and prevent infection in his burned areas. His condition was recently complicated by a diagnosis of burn-related cancer.

"It's been a very long, painful ordeal for Nick, but he is a happy horse, and loved so much by all the volunteers, visitors and those who follow him from faraway places," said Karen Pomroy, the founder and president of Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary, whose horror of suffering and vision of rescue produced this horse haven.

Kachina

After the stunning verdict in the cruelty court case for the dragged and beaten Kachina, there simply was no way Equine Voices could allow her to go back to the scene of that crime. Pomroy knew money would do the trick, and it did. "I called this man's attorney and offered the most we could afford from our rescue, \$1,000, and he said 'yes,' Kachina has been with us ever since," she said. Today, this big beautiful mare, an appaloosa/draft cross, runs and plays with her sanctuary buddies, her nightmares finally fading.

Smokey Joe

It was three years ago that a frantic call came in to Equine Voices reporting a starving gray horse penned up on a property in Marana, Arizona. This was Smokey Joe, the once-wild mustang, now a tamed ruin. Pomroy immediately called the owner and offered to take the horse off of his hands.

"I went up there to pick him up and he could not even walk; this horse was half dead," she said. "I was worried he would fall down in the trailer and we would never be able to get him up as he was so weak, so emaciated, his feet had been neglected for a very, very long time. They were curled up in front of him. It was a long, slow trailer ride to get him to medical care. They believe he was within a week of death."

Smokey Joe was immediately placed on the special diet that had already saved so many other starving horses at Equine Voices (see sidebar for the feeding regimen). He gradually gained a vital 250 pounds, along with his energy and health. Over several weeks, his hooves were slowly trimmed, and volunteers and staff gently retrained the crippled horse to walk correctly. *(Note: The man who starved Smokey Joe was ultimately convicted of misdemeanor cruelty and forced to pay fines and fees totaling more than \$2,400.)*

"Doing what seems to be the never-ending work of saving these magnificent, monumental animals takes a heavy toll – emotionally, physically, and financially – on those who do it. But the ultimate reward somehow trumps the intense agony," Pomroy says.

"It's not easy," she admitted. "I have my breakdown once every few months. But when I get really discouraged I go out and spend time with the horses we were fortunate enough to save. They keep me going. What is most upsetting is knowing I can't save them all, and those horses tug at my heart and wrack my brain more than not. And yes, there is anger..."

With the invaluable help of 200 dedicated volunteers, Pomroy has not only stayed steady on this job, she has seen to it that the sanctuary remains stable and able, as well. Under her guidance, Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary earned accreditation from the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) two years ago, becoming the third equine rescue in the U.S., and the first in Arizona, to meet the GFAS standards of excellence. The rescue's most immediate need is for more land to house more horses; there is land for sale adjacent to the sanctuary, however funding is needed to acquire it. ♡♡

For more information about Equine Voices, or to donate, please visit www.equinevoices.org or call 520-398-2814 or email info@equinevoices.org.



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