

EQUINE VOICES RESCUE AND SANCTUARY: SAVING PMU MARES, FOALS AND MORE

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER ARTIST AND VOLUNTEER AT EVRS

Dikki Van Helsland has always lived in the city. "I have ridden ever since I've had a chance. I have taken lessons; it's wonderful to learn how to get on the same mental image as your horse. I would love to get a horse and it would be a rescue horse," said Van Helsland.

She began creating equine art and volunteering at Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary (EVRS) at the same time. "I started selling my artwork in 1968, but equine art I started about 4 years ago and I didn't know I could do it as successfully as I can." All the horses she creates are modeled after rescue horses from EVRS.

One of Van Helsland's works is featured on the cover of this issue of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

Van Helsland began volunteering at EVRS as "one of the muckers, moving manure and grooming horses," she said. EVRS offered the volunteer basic horse handling training and Van Helsland began working with the babies. "We have a lot of babies, so getting them used to handling and halter training is important. I had training on that and it was so much fun. Then I made a batik of Gulliver (EVRS mascot). After that, we put him on a wine bottle and we started selling wine in 2007.

"I think they have such a fabulous mission; not only have they collected the Premarin mares from California but also horses dropped off (in the Arizona desert) by the drug users."

Van Helsland, 66, was born in Hungary, lived in Germany and came to the USA with her family as displaced persons from World War II through Ellis Island in 1950.

She met her husband, Marsh, at DePaul University in Chicago when he instructed her women's rifle team. They were married in 1965 when he was drafted for the Viet Nam War. "During this time I started creating art for sale, starting with oil paintings. The first gallery to carry my work in Sea Girt, New Jersey was in 1968.

"I started working in Batik in 1974, again in Arizona. I credit my sister Katalin Ehling with my introduction to this art form. My work has been exhibited in Scottsdale, Tucson, Germany, France, Virginia, among others. I have art in the Phillip Morris and Hughes Communication collections, along with work in Hungary, Greece, Japan, and across North America.

"I continue to educate myself in batik by attending workshops using different dyes, waxes and techniques. An artist never stops learning. I used to do a lot of outdoor art shows, now I do a selective few. I have taught batik in the US and Germany. Several of my students, including a Baroness in Germany, have shown professionally."

WHAT IS BATIK?

By Dikki Van Helsland

Batik is a fine art or craft, using wax a resist on various natural fabrics, leather, wood, gourds, and even ceramics. The purpose of the wax is to keep the different colors of dyes from mixing with the previous dyes used in a pre-drawn design. Usually the artist works from light to dark. Also, bleach can be used to discharge some of the previous dyeing. Natural brushes of various sizes are used to apply the wax. An Indonesian tool, called a tjanting is also used to apply the wax. It has a well on one end with a spigot, which can come in different sizes for applying fine lines or dots.

When the dying process is finished, the batik is either boiled in hot water, rinsed in kerosene, or ironed out between unprinted newsprint. I use the latter, leaving in a small amount of wax for richness of color. I can mount my pieces on museum board or canvas, framed with matting under glass or gallery wrapped if on canvas. I show my work at Desert Artisan Gallery in Tucson AZ and at the Tubac Center of the Arts, also in AZ.

Batik, in its various forms has been found in Africa, South America and in the Far East, mainly used for yard goods of various qualities on silk or cotton in Indonesia and Bali. The word batik comes from a Japanese word loosely meaning 'patterned cloth.' Batik has been in existence for centuries. Gums, resins, glues, and animal fats have also been used as resists. Royalty wore the finest batik cloths. It was thought: the poorer the quality of the fiber, the poorer the wearer.

Batik is known for its fine spider web lines in between the patterns. The royal quality cloth would have none or the least amount of this webbing. Artwork made these days can also have little or none of this webbing or crackling. The crackling happens when the wax breaks up and dyes seep in. The quality of the wax dictates the amount of crackling. I like the crackle in my batiks. The artwork can be placed in the freezer for ten minutes and then folded to encourage a certain amount of crackling. If the wax is a mixture of beeswax and paraffin the crackling happens naturally.

Right: Gulliver, the mascot for Equine Voices, greets visitors and friends at the entrance to EVRS. The gift shop contains many personalized 'Gulliver' items.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEY BOUCHARD

BY LEY BOUCHARD

Standing like a sentinel, Elephant Head, a rocky peak in the Santa Rita Mountains, overlooks and seems to protect Equine Voices Rescue Sanctuary and the horses lucky enough to find a safe haven in this remote refuge in Green Valley, Arizona.

Karen Pomroy owns Jumpin' Jack Ranch and is the founder/president of the non-profit EVRS. Pomroy along with more than 200 volunteers a month work tirelessly to care for the horses and bring the message of Premarin/PremPro mares and foals to the general public.

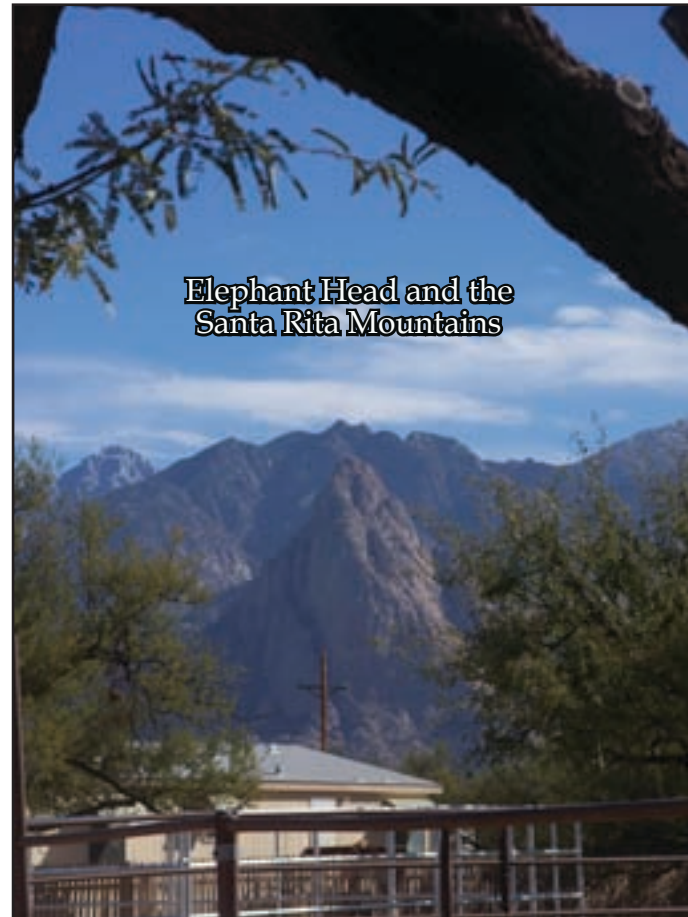
Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary is dedicated to saving Premarin/PremPro mares and foals from slaughter. The rescue is funded by donations and the many programs the founder has developed with the help of volunteers such as: an adoption program, sponsorship programs, Gulliver's Fan Club, a Euthanasia Fund, Youth Programs, education programs where horsemanship clinics are hosted on various topics such as equine care, massage therapy, energy work, homeopathic healthcare, animal communication and more.

This organizational wizard has inspired volunteers to create a cook book for sale ("Gulliver and Friends Gourmet" Delicious Dishes for Pets and People: recipes compiled and illustrations by Carrie Gayne) on the web site and in the gift shop; the on-site gift shop has many interesting and fashionable items and crafts.

Karen Pomroy spent many years in the corporate world before deciding to "follow her heart" when founding EVRS. She began working with a wild horse sanctuary in California and that experience led her to establish EVRS.

What is Premarin?

Many people believe that "pee lines" no longer exist as the pharmaceutical companies have the ability to make plan-



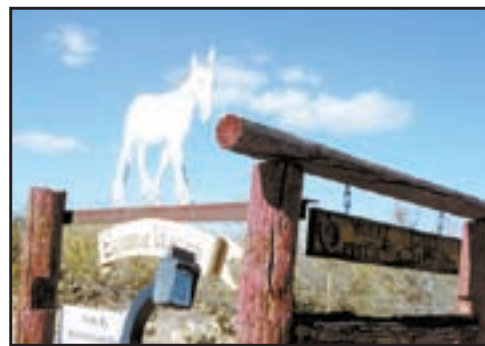
Elephant Head and the Santa Rita Mountains



Above: Karen Pomroy, President and Founder of Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary with Wiley; each horse has a unique story to tell



Right: Chip and companions play with a treat bowl in their paddock at Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary in Green Valley, AZ.



Below: Volunteer Diane Russell with Diamond Rio whose legs were tied with rope and dragged before being rescued and rehabilitated by Equine Voices staff.



Brave Spirit

rived synthetic ERT (estrogen replacement therapy) drugs as an alternative to Premarin. Although, synthetic Premarin is made, there still exists a market for Premarin (PREgnant MAREs urINE) and other hormone replacement drugs such as PremPro, PremPhase. Additionally, a new PMU drug by Wyeth, Aprela, is up for FDA approval. This drug will be used for menopausal women at risk of developing osteoporosis.

Currently, there are an estimated 5,600 PMU mares at work. Of course, in order to have pregnant mares there must be a constant source of foals as well.

Activists working this issue believe many foals are mistreated, handled as an unnecessary by-product of the PMU production line and often used for their "pony

4-year volunteer in the program. It is through this publicity that donations and fund-raising occurs that would make possible a \$300,000. annual budget.

Equine Voices is a huge undertaking and a lot of responsibility which the volunteers and staff do not take lightly. They will also tell you it is work for which they are rewarded daily when they come out to care for and be loved by their horse friends or when they know they've made a difference in the life of an animal and its newly adopted family.

For more information about Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary, please visit their web site: www.equinevoices.org, email Karen@equinevoices.org or call (520) 398-2814.



New arrivals at EVRS

You are invited to "A Very Special Horse Event"

The sixth annual Fundraiser for Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary "A Very Special Horse Event," will take place Saturday March 6, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, 3482 E. River Rd in Tucson, AZ, 85718.

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary™ is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to saving Premarin (PMU) mares and foals from slaughter. Equine Voices also works with law enforcement agencies to provide services to abused, abandoned, and starving horses.

Revenue from this event goes directly to the rescue, rehabilitation and recovery of horses in desperate need.

Gulliver, mascot of Equine Voices, will be at the event to tell his story of rescue and recovery, and will be available for pictures with horse lovers of all ages.

Training demonstrations will feature rescued horses and the methods used in their recovery.

The fun filled family day will include an opportunity to visit "Gulliver's Store" featuring unique clothing, art objects and jewelry. The program also features live and silent auctions with items of interest for everyone, a tack sale, and raffles with extraordinary grand prize drawings. Food by Quesadillas and More, Zona 78, Keva Juice, and Kettle Korn will provide delicious additions to this special event.

For more information on this event please contact: Carol Grubb at 520-405-6054 or email headmare0@yahoo.com

skins," or sent to slaughter houses out of the country. Activists and journalists report about PMU lines and the horrible life experienced by a PMU mare forced to stand in a small stall with a collection tube hooked around their urethras.

Equine Voices takes in neglected and abandoned horses, rehabilitates them and places them for adoption when possible. Pomroy has also been working with law enforcement and border patrol officers in rescuing horses used in drug trafficking and border crossings. Savannah, one of the residents of Jumpin' Jack Ranch, was found wandering the streets of Tucson and brought to EVRS.

"Karen does a very good job about publicizing photos and the mission in the Green Valley News," says Dikki Van Helsland, a



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