

## WINTER 2007

Pocono Animal Rescue, Inc.  
P.O. Box 582 • Bartonsville, PA 18321  
Phone: 570-476-1464 • Fax: 570-424-8384  
Web: [www.poconoanimalrescue.org](http://www.poconoanimalrescue.org)

# The Story of Bonnie & Mack

Written By Deanna Dunstane & Patricia Will

In late August the Pocono Record ran the first article regarding Bonnie & Mack. These two neglected horses were rescued from their home in Carbon County. Their owner died leaving his widow unable to care for these two loving animals.

Pocono Animal Rescue took them into foster care. PAR received over \$7,000 from local horse lovers that went to food and medical bills. As a result of being sporadically fed, the horses resorted to chewing the bark off trees. Their rib and hip bones were protruding from their skinny bodies.

To gain back the 300-400 lbs of weight they both lost the horses were put on a special diet consisting of one pound of nutritious equine food three times a day.

Bonnie & Mack both had to have eye surgery to remove cancerous lumps on their bodies. Mack had to also have eye surgery to remove cancerous eye tumors. Both horses also had to be seen by a veterinary dentist who assessed the damage done to their teeth from chewing on the tree bark.

The Pocono Record did a follow up article about 4 weeks after the horses were taken into foster care. They had already gained half of their weight back and had just completed their surgeries. The difference in the two horses was incredible.

Over the next 4 to 6 weeks the horses regained their weight and recovered fully from their surgeries.

Bonnie, a 14 year old part Quarter horse mare and Mack, an 11 year old Appaloosa gelding, were then adopted.

PAR chose the adopted family that would take both horses because they need to be adopted together.

The Wilson's were chosen as Bonnie & Mack's new family. Their farm was perfect for the horses needs. The Wilson's welcomed them into their family along with the other well taken care of horses that they already own.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pocono Animal Rescue Benefit

Dear Business Owners & Community Members

PAR is a non-profit organization that strives to promote the humane treatment of large domestic animals by offering assistance, information & educational programs, we also rescue & rehabilitate large domestic animals from abuse & neglect. To help defer the cost involved in rescuing & rehabilitating some animals we are planning to hold a Longaberger Basket Bingo on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at Jackson Twp. Fire Hall. We are seeking your generous donations to assist us with our worthy cause, our animals. All vendors will receive a free advertisement in our brochure distributed to all who attend, and also be thanked on our web site. We are hoping that you help us reach our goal by sponsoring a Basket or donating an item or gift certificate. For more information on donations or purchasing tickets contact us at 570.476.1464. Thanking you in advance, Pocono Animal Rescue, Inc.

0501		FOURTH ANNUAL <b>Longaberger</b> Basket Bingo/Chinese Auction & 50/50 Benefit Pocono Animal Rescue, Inc. MARCH 31, 2007 Jackson Township Fire Hall - Readers PA Doors Open 12:00 PM - Bingo Starts 1:00 PM Advance Tickets \$20.00 - At the Door \$25.00		1050	
Name _____	Address _____	City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____

# Glossary of Horse Terms

**HOCK:** Financial condition of all horse owners.

**STALL:** What your rig does at rush hour in an unfamiliar city on the way to a big horse show.

**A Bit:** What you have left in your pocket after you've been to your favorite tack shop.

**FENCE:** Decorative structure built to provide your horse with something to chew on.

**HORSE AUCTION:** What you think of having after your horse bucks you off.

**PINTO:** Green coat pattern found on freshly washed light colored horses left unattended for 2 minutes.

**WELL MANNERED:** Hasn't stepped on, bitten, or kicked anyone for a week.

**RASP:** Abrasive metal tool used to remove excess skin from ones knuckles.

**LUNGING:** Popular training method in which a horse exercises their owner by spinning them in circles until dizzy.

**GALLOP:** Customary gait a horse chooses when returning back to the barn.

**NICELY STARTED:** Lunges, but not enough health insurance to even think about riding him.

**COLIC:** Gastrointestinal result of eating at horse fair food stands.

**COLT:** What your mare gives you when you want a filly.

**EASY TO LOAD:** Only takes 3 hours, 4 men, a 50lb bag of oats, and a tractor with loader.

**EASY TO CATCH:** In a 10x10 stall.

**EASY RIDER:** Rides good in a trailer; not to be confused with "ride-able".

**ENDURANCE RIDE:** End result when your horse spooks and runs away with you.

**HIVES:** What you get when receive the vet bill for your 6 horses, 3 dogs, 4 cats, and 1 donkey.

**HOBBLES:** Walking gait of a horse owner after their foot has been stepped on by their horse.

**FEED:** Expensive substance used to manufacture manure.

**DOG HOUSE:** What you are in when you spend too much money on grooming supplies and pretty halters.

**LIGHT CRIBBER:** We can't afford to build anymore fencing or box stalls for this buzz saw on four legs.

**THREE GAITED HORSE:** A horse that. 1) trips, 2) stumbles, 3) falls.

# The 12 "Most Important"

## Things You Need to Know if You Own a Horse ...

- 1) To induce labor in a mare? Take a nap.
- 2) To cure equine constipation? Load them in a clean trailer.
- 3) To cure equine insomnia? Take them in a halter class.
- 4) To get a horse to stay very calm and laid back? Enter them in a liberty class.
- 5) To get a horse to wash their own feet? Clean the water trough and fill it with fresh water.
- 6) To get a mare to come in heat? Take her to a show.
- 7) To get a mare in foal the first cover? Let the wrong stallion get out of his stall.
- 8) To make sure that a mare has that beautiful, perfectly marked foal you always wanted? Sell her before she foals.
- 9) To get a show horse to set up perfect and really stretch? Get him out late at night or anytime no one is around to see him.
- 10) To induce a cold snap in the weather? Clip a horse.
- 11) To make it rain? Mow a field of hay.
- 12) To make a small fortune in the horse business? Start with a large one.

Informing the community at  
Jacksonville Township Fire Hall, Reeders, PA



# Misty & Kelsey



Dear PAR & Readers,

Hi, my name is Misty I was a rescue horse adopted by a girl named Kelsey. She came across me when she was looking for a calm horse after a riding accident. It all started when she went to horse camp at Pocono Country Carriages, after going for 2 weeks she was really interested in horses. (Her parents have had horses for years in the past) Then she started taking riding lessons, Kelsey and her parents decided she was ready for a horse of her own. After searching different barns she came across a hack stable where they bought a horse named Ben. They bought him and brought him back to Pocono Country Carriages where they boarded him. One day Kelsey and her mom went to the stables to ride, they tacked Ben up English and went down to he riding arena. Kelsey was riding him around when he took off into a canter, being at only a Walk/Trot

level she got scared and panicked, as she panicked Ben panicked. He got faster and faster into a gallop. Then he jumped over the 5ft arena fence and his hindquarters got caught on the fence. As he got caught Kelsey fell off and landed on her back. They had the vet come because Ben had an 8-inch cut. After that Kelsey had lost all of her confidence, but she wanted to continue riding. They had the vet come again to check Ben over and the vet discovered that he had an eye problem and was blind. Kelsey and her parents heard about a professional horse trainer named Charlie Bush and decided to give Ben to Charlie. Charlie felt the Ben's problem was that he was scared because he had been mistreated in the past. Kelsey heard about a horse named Misty, Me!! She heard that I was calm and sweet so she decided to come see me. They adopted me through Pocono Animal Rescue and brought me to Pocono Country Carriages where they board me. Kelsey began riding me and gained her confidence back. After 6 months of the accident Kelsey cantered for her first intentional time, on me!! Then I got to go home, to her house! They fixed up the pasture and put rubber mats in my stall. I loved it there because there was lots of green grass, one of my favorite things. I was really excited to be at my new place because its somewhere I can truly call "Home". I really like it because I get to see Kelsey and her family a lot more. We're friends, she rides me, grooms me, and plays with me. Sometimes, at night when I go in my stall, she hides treats for me to find. Sometimes they are on top of the salt lick, in my food bucket, and lots of other places. One day on her sister's birthday, Kelsey saddled me and let the kids have a pony ride. Then she rode me. Later at night when it got dark, I laid down in the pasture to take a little nap. Kelsey came in to see me, she came up to me and sat on the ground next to me head. I rested my head in her lap and went to sleep for a little. I did a lot of things that Kelsey thought were really funny. One day she was at the barn door cleaning out her tack box, as she took out the brushes she lined them up on the barn door. I came over and slid my nose along the door and knocked all the brushed on the ground. She thought that was really funny. Another time Kelsey's dad was changing the bedding in my stall. So there was a wheel barrel of clean sawdust in the doorway of the barn. Well I opened my mouth and took a bite into it. Kelsey laughed when she saw me with sawdust all over my face. Another thing that would make Kelsey laugh was when I scratched. In my stall is a water bucket, at the perfect level. So I back up to it and scratch from side to side and sometimes up and down. Kelsey has dogs and they are really annoying and bark all of the time so sometimes I race them along the fence. I also love to prance and play in the snow. Kelsey taught me how to kiss her for cookies. I especially did it for the cookies. Pretty often Kelsey rode me on a trail. Right by her house there is a small log that fell across the trail. I love to canter and sometimes trot, up the trail and then leap over the log. A little later they brought home a horse named shortstop for me to be friends with. I like that he came because then I get to sneak over and eat his grain that he spills on the ground. When Shortstop and I get ridden together we like to race, Kelsey really loves this too! Although my name is Misty, Kelsey has some nicknames that she calls me. MimiMoo, Miss, Misty, Mistaleena, and her favorite, Middy!! Kelsey also went to her first show with me! We placed 6th place in English Equitation, 5th place in English Pleasure, 5th place in Musical Mount, and 3rd place in Egg 7 Spoon! We also went to a clinic, it was hot out but still fun. Especially at the end when Kelsey rode me in the one arena for a little. The sand was nice and level and soft! It was so nice I just had to prance around and canter around in all different shapes, figure eights, circles, zig zags, I did it all. I was having just as much fun as Kelsey! The second show we went to, Kelsey and I entered in the costume contest. We were barnyard divas. Kelsey trusts me a lot, and loves me. She likes to just sit on me while I walk around my pasture, no bridle and no saddle. Kelsey thinks of me as a friend more than a horse. Even though I was mistreated in the past and not taken well care of, I'm very glad that I got to come and live with Kelsey, Thank You Pocono Animal Rescue for giving me a second chance at life.

Sincerely, Misty

# West Nile Virus

The West Nile virus, which can cause encephalitis, is commonly found in humans, birds, and other animals in Africa, Eastern Europe, West Asia, and the Middle East. The virus was first isolated in the West Nile province of Uganda in 1937. The earliest recorded epidemics of West Nile encephalitis occurred in Israel between 1951 and 1954 and again in 1957. Since then, epidemics have been reported in Europe—in the Rhone delta of France in 1962 and in Romania in 1996. The most recent recorded epidemic occurred in South Africa in 2001. Most recently, a West Nile encephalitis epidemic was seen in Israel during 2000.

West Nile encephalitis had never been documented in the Western Hemisphere before the late summer of 1999, when an outbreak occurred in the New York City metropolitan area. The virus probably was introduced into the United States by an infected bird or mosquito.

## Disease Transmission

West Nile virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, mainly *Culex* and *Aedes* spp. These mosquitoes become infected after biting infected wild birds, the primary hosts of the virus. The virus circulates and multiplies for several days in a mosquito's blood before penetrating its salivary glands. After an incubation period of 10 to 14 days, an infected mosquito can transmit the virus to both humans and animals while feeding on them.

Most female mosquitoes must take a blood meal before they can lay eggs. A female's persistent search for blood can bring it into houses and yards where it may come into contact with people. Fortunately, even in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, very few mosquitoes are infected. So, the chance of being bitten by an infected mosquito is small.

In 2002, the CDC confirmed WNV transmission through transplanted organs and blood products, as well as transplacental (mother-to-child) transmission. Transmission through breast milk is being further investigated. Remember, the vast majority of human WNV infection occurs through the bite of a WNV-infected mosquito.

## Geographic Distribution

West Nile virus was first detected in just four northeastern states in 1999. In each of the following years that West Nile virus has been detected in wild birds, mosquitoes, horses, and humans, its distribution has continued to spread across the United States. In 2000, West Nile virus was detected in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, and then in the Southeast and Midwest in 2001. By 2002, West Nile virus was detected throughout most of the United States, including the West Coast. In Pennsylvania, West Nile virus has been detected every year since 2000.

## Symptoms of West Nile Encephalitis

The incubation period of a West Nile virus infection in humans is usually 3 to 15 days. Most people who are infected with the virus have either no symptoms or mild ones such as fever, headache, body aches, mild skin rash, or swollen lymph glands. A more severe infection, which may lead to encephalitis, includes headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis, and occasionally death.

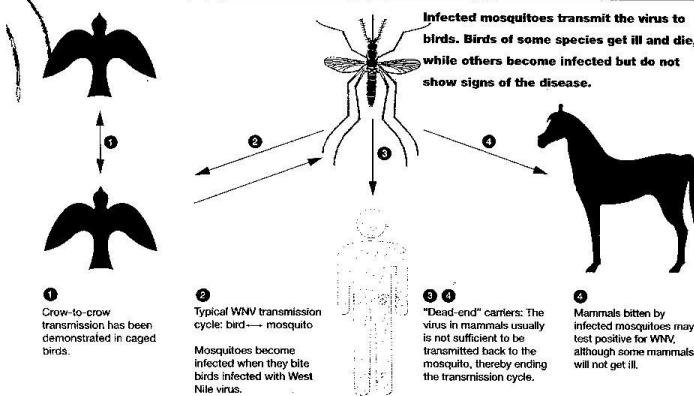
All residents living in areas where West Nile virus has been detected potentially can become infected with the virus. However, only a small number of people who become infected will develop a serious case of encephalitis. People over 50 years of age are at greater risk of becoming severely ill. Nevertheless, anyone, regardless of age, is at risk.

## Prevention and Control

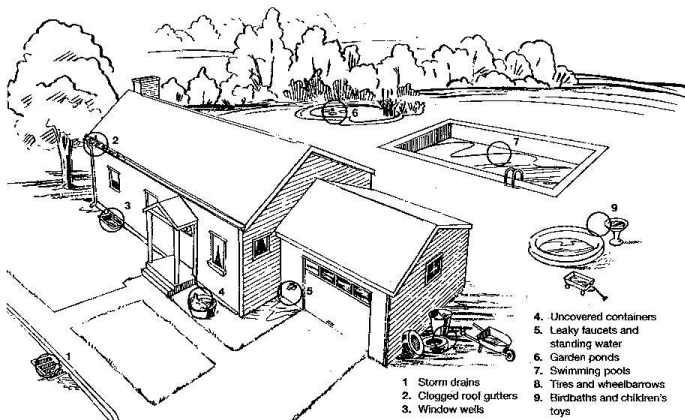
You can reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood by eliminating standing water, in which mosquitoes can breed.

- Dispose of any refuse that can hold water—such as tin cans, containers, and in particular used tires. Tires have become the most important mosquito breeding sites in the country.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers, and check uncovered junk piles.
- Clean clogged roof gutters every year, and check storm drains, leaky faucets, and window wells.
- Empty accumulated water from wheelbarrows, boats, cargo trailers, toys, and ceramic pots. If possible, turn them over when not using them.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, ornamental pools, water gardens, and swimming pools or their covers. Ornamental pools can be aerated or stocked with fish. Swimming pools should be cleaned and chlorinated when not in use.
- Alter the landscape of your property to eliminate standing water. Keep in mind that during warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle of water.

## Basic Transmission Cycle of the West Nile Virus (WNV)

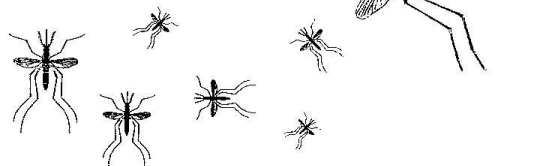


## Mosquito Breeding Sites



## Diagnosis and Treatment

Although there is no specific treatment, medication, or cure, the symptoms and complications of West Nile encephalitis can be treated. Please check with your health care provider regarding current preventative and treatment actions. Severe health cases may call for hospitalization, intravenous (IV) fluids and nutrition, airway management, ventilatory support, and prevention of secondary infections such as pneumonia.



# West Nile Virus

## Use DEET Repellents Properly

DEET remains one of the most widely used insect repellents. Products containing 10 to 35 percent DEET will provide adequate protection for most people under most conditions. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that repellents used on children contain no more than 10 percent DEET. To use a repellent product safely, regardless of its active ingredient, follow these guidelines:

- Verify that the product has an Environmental Protection Agency registration number. Its presence on the label means the product was approved for use by the EPA.
- Before using any product, read and understand the directions on its label.
- Do not spray a repellent in an enclosed area or near food, and do not inhale aerosol formulations.
- Repellents should not be applied to infants or used by pregnant women.
- Use just enough repellent to lightly cover exposed skin and clothing. Never apply repellents to cuts, wounds, or inflamed and irritated skin. Do not saturate the skin or apply beneath clothing.
- To apply a repellent to your face, first dispense or spray it onto your palms and rub your hands together. Then apply a thin layer to the surface of your skin. Do not place repellent in your eyes or mouth.

- Do not allow children to apply DEET by themselves.
- Do not apply a repellent directly to a child's skin. First apply it to the palms of your own hands and then apply it to the child. Do not apply repellent to children's hands, since they may touch their eyes and mouth, causing irritation.
- DEET can damage some plastics, synthetic fabrics, leather, and painted or varnished materials. DEET does not damage natural fibers such as cotton or wool.
- After applying a repellent, wipe or wash it from your hands.
- A single application of a repellent is sufficient under most conditions. Avoid prolonged or excessive use of DEET.
- Once indoors, wash all treated skin and clothing with soap and water. Wash treated clothing before wearing it again.
- If you suspect that you or your child is reacting negatively to an insect repellent, discontinue its use, wash treated skin, and call the local Poison Center. If you must see a doctor, take the repellent with you.

A very small segment of the population may be sensitive to DEET and/or other insect repellents. For more information about DEET, contact the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378 or your health care provider.

Pennsylvania Department of Health Web Site:  
www.WestNile.state.pa.us/  
Toll-free telephone number:  
1-877-PA-HEALTH (724-3258)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm



## Protect Yourself from Bites

Even though your property may be devoid of mosquito breeding sites, mosquitoes can travel two to three miles from their breeding site in search of a blood meal. Following these tips can reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito:

- Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight."
- Use the proper type of light outside: incandescent lights attract mosquitoes, while fluorescent lights neither attract nor repel mosquitoes.
- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening when mosquitoes are most active. If you must go outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Insect repellents, when applied (sparingly) to exposed skin, deter mosquitoes from biting. Spray thin clothing with repellent since mosquitoes can bite through it. Be sure to follow all directions on product labels.
- Mosquitoes are repelled by high winds, so electric fans may provide some relief at outdoor events.
- Vitamin B and "ultrasonic" devices have not been proven effective in preventing mosquito bites.

## How to Report Dead and Dying Birds

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is encouraging citizens to report dead and dying birds (in particular crows, blue jays, and raptors—hawks and owls) so they can be tested for West Nile virus. Although not all birds will be tested, the information you provide is important and will be entered into a database for tracking purposes. This information is vital, since birds provide an early warning that the virus is active in an area. If you see a dead or dying bird, please call the Pennsylvania Department of Health's toll-free hotline at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (724-3258) for further instructions.

## For More Information

Penn State's West Nile Virus Web Site:  
www.pested.psu.edu/sp/WestNile.html

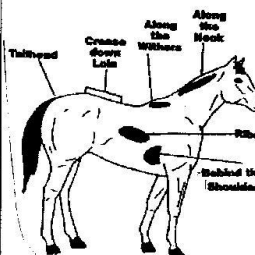
# Determining the Henneke Score

This is a repeat from our last issue due to importance of recognizing horses who may need help.

The Henneke scoring method was developed by Dr. Don Henneke and is used to rate the body fat deposition in various places on a horse's body. The method uses a scale with a range from 1 (extremely emaciated) to 9 (extremely fat). The accepted "norm" score on the Henneke scale for a horse is 5. The numbered scale replaces previous methods that used vague terms such as Good, Poor, Fair or Bad. The numbered scale described in the table below provides a uniform method of scoring the condition of horses across all breeds. This is a much fairer result than an individual's interpretation of the health of a horse using vague terms.

CONDITION	NECK	WITHERS	LOIN	TAILHEAD	RIBS	SHOULDER
1 POOR	Bone structure easily visible	Bone structure easily visible	Spinous Processes Project Prominently	Tailhead (pinbones) And hook bones Projecting prominently	Ribs projecting prominently	Bone structure easily noticeable
2 VERY THIN	Faintly discernible	Faintly discernible	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent.	Tailhead prominent	Ribs prominent	Faintly discernible
3 THIN	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt.	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.	Shoulder accentuated.
4 MODERATELY THIN	Neck not obviously thin.	Withers not obviously thin.	Negative crease along back.	Prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible.	Faint outline discernible.	Shoulder not obviously thin.
5 MODERATE	Neck blends smoothly into body.	Withers rounded over spinous processes.	Back Level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy.	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt.	Shoulder blends smoothly into body.
6 MODERATELY FLESHY	Fat beginning to be deposited.	Fat beginning to be deposited.	May have slight positive crease down back.	Fat around tailhead feels soft.	Fat over ribs feels spongy.	Fat beginning to be deposited.
7 FLESHY	Fat deposited along neck.	Fat deposited along withers.	May have positive crease down back.	Fat around tailhead is soft.	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat.	Fat deposited behind shoulder
8 FAT	Noticeable thickening of neck.	Area along withers filled with fat.	Positive crease down back.	Tailhead fat very soft.	Difficult to feel ribs.	Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body.
9 EXTREMELY FAT	Bulging Fat.	Bulging fat.	Obvious positive crease down back.	Building fat around tailhead.	Paunchy fat appearing over ribs.	Bulging fat.

As mentioned the table provides information that can be used to grade a horse's condition.





# Red Maple Leaves are Toxic to Horses



By Cross River  
Veterinary Service

That brilliant Red Maple at the edge of your pasture dropped a branch, now wilting, into your horse's paddock.

*How serious is this????*

VERY!!! Enough to make sure this does not happen to you by trimming back or removing these trees around your pasture.

No one knows what the toxin is but the leaves fresh, wilted or dried are poisonous to horses. The amount a horse needs to eat is not understood either but a recent report found ingestion of only 3% of the body weight resulted in toxicity. Toxicities occur most commonly in the northeast.

*Clinical Signs to watch for:*

Lethargy

Lack of appetite

Pale to yellow gums

Increased respiratory rate

Increased heart rate

Dark brown or reddish urine

Progressive weakness

*These occur within 18 hrs of ingestion:*

Anemia - a below normal amount of red blood cells in circulation.

Methemoglobinemia - an alteration of the hemoglobin within the red blood that renders it unable to transport oxygen.

Intravascular Hemolysis - a rapid breakdown of red blood cells within the blood vessels.

Sudden Death - especially with Japanese Red Maple.

Diagnosis may be based on a history, a walk in the pasture, blood work and urinalysis.

Treatment is based on severity of signs since there is no antidote. Intravenous fluids, oxygen, Vitamin C and whole blood transfusion are often needed. Sadly the most aggressive therapy can still result in death.

Preventing exposure is the only real means of not having to deal with this disease.

# Chuckie's New Shoes

Clips from the Pocono Record Aug 25, 2006

Happy Hoofers by Susan Koomar

Chuckie huddled in his hay-packed pig pen, woozy from the can of Old Milwaukee he drank for breakfast. The pig was just a bit liquored up to calm down for a visit from Boyd Gannon Jr.

Chuckie has a pot belly and an over-grown hoof. Gannon has hoof nippers. "A new form of redneck entertainment", quipped Gannon. "Drunk pig trimming".

It was Thursday morning at Eileen Pasquin's property in Pocono Township. Pasquin, proprietor of Pocono Country Carriages, owns six horses and boards seven more.

Gannon began with Heidel, a nagging case of arthritis in one leg. He trimmed out the sole of her right rear hoof as she leaned heavily on his back.

The last hoof was the toughest for Heidel. Gannon let her rest her stiff leg frequently. Pasquin fed her some horse cookies.

And then there's Chuckie, the pie-eyed pot-bellied pig, wasn't a porky pushover. Before Pasquin even opened his coop, he growled and grunted like someone was about to fry his bacon. The beer hadn't calmed him as much as Pasquin hoped.

Grrrrrr. Eerrrrrr. Mrrrrrr.

"Hey, Chuckie," Pasquin said smoothly.

"You're gonna have to hold him down," Gannon urged. Chuckie's frantic squealing set Pasquin's dog barking. Gannon knelt down and gave a quick trim to the ornery hoof.

"Now he won't talk to me for a day or two," Pasquin sighed. She mused that next time she might try something stronger in his breakfast bowl.

Maybe  
a Heineken.



# Abigail



My name is Marge, and I am a friend of Pocono Animal Rescue. I am a true animal rights advocate and strict vegetarian. I am also the proud owner of Abigail, the pig. My family and I run a small rescue farm in Mount Bethel, PA. We have given a forever home to all types of animals from horses to pigeons. Currently at our farm we are the honored caretakers of 15 horses, 1 miniature cow (Yopla), 1 miniature donkey (Victoria), 2 turkeys, 6 ducks, 3 peacocks, 50 or so chickens (1 of which is a Rhode Island Red rooster names Rosebud who lives in my house because the other roosters pick on him), 4 dogs, 16 cats, 1 guinea pig, 1 chinchilla, 1 parakeet, 1 chukar (partridge), numerous fish, and 3 pigs (2 farm pigs, Abigail & Bones, and 1 Vietnamese Pot-Bellied pig, Wilbur).

I would like to tell you a little about Abigail, who we affectionately refer to as "The Queen". Abigail came to us one hot August morning while we were living in Flemington, NJ. Our neighbor, who was an animal lover in his way, had just purchased a few acres down the road from us. He decided that in order to have a farm, you needed a pig. He purchased 2 female farm pigs, 1 of which was expecting. We were all eagerly awaiting the birth of the piglets as we had been told how adorable baby pigs are. (It is true; they are very cute.) On the morning of August 8, 2000; there was a knock on my door. Our friend informed me that the piglets were here, but there was one problem. It seemed that the momma pig was so crazed by the sheer number of piglets she had produced that she was starting to kill them. Two were already deceased, and a third was hurt badly. (I have since found out that this is not unusual for first-time mothers to do.) He asked me if I could take this piglet who was now only about 2 hours old. My immediate thought was that I didn't know anything about pigs, puppies and kittens, yes, but not piglets. That was the sane part of my brain talking, the insane part said, "Sure." This is how Abigail came into our lives. Nothing has been the same since.

We had to bottle feed Abigail for many weeks. There was never any schedule to this, mainly just when Abigail wanted to eat - which was pretty much all the time. It was great fun at first; but after awhile, even the kids got bored with giving the pig her bottle. We finally set up a type of self-service feeding station for her by attaching the baby bottle to the side of a laundry basket with wire. This way she could get a sip whenever she felt like it, and all we had to do was keep the bottle filled with milk replacer. This basket was, by the way, set up next to her heat lamp which was clamped to the kitchen cupboard over her sleeping towel. Heaven forbid Abigail should get chilly while eating. (This could have been the beginning of her "Queen in Training").

She slept in an empty dishwasher box in the computer room at night and sometimes even napped there during the day when she wasn't laying on the couch with the kids watching TV. It was like having a human baby in the house - nobody wanted to wake "the pig" while she was napping, because then she demanded full attention. Once she woke up in the morning, there could be nothing between her and that feeding station, not a human or an animal. She did not care; she only had one thing on her mind and that was her "baba". Sometimes she ran so fast around the corner to the kitchen that her hooves would slide out from under her, and she arrived at the feeding station on her side.

After a couple of months, it became apparent even to me that Abigail needed to live out in the barn. Talk about separation anxiety - I was a basket case. We made her a nice sleeping area in one of the empty stalls and gave her a Little Tyke's playhouse to go into when she was outside in her pen. By this time, she had graduated to solid food which consisted of pig pellets, milk replacer, and mashed potatoes flakes. (I didn't want her to forget my home cooking).

Abigail blossomed; she finally topped off at a very feminine 550 pounds. In February of 2001, we moved to our own farm in Mount Bethel. We moved up here with only 6 horses, 2 pigs, 6 cats, a dog and one pigeon, Ronald.

On Abigail's first birthday, we had a cake, of course, and brought her a plastic crown with real rhinestones. We had to tie her crown on her with baling twine as her neck was too fat for the elastic that came with it. We even painted her toenails purple for the occasion. Can you see where she might be getting the "I am soooo much better than you" attitude? We had to cancel her birthday party because it was horrendously hot and humid with a near 100% chance of thunderstorms. Abigail celebrated this milestone with her immediate family and closet barnyard friends. She seemed content with that.

Not being "pig people", we had only heard stories of how pigs can be mean and dangerous. Certainly our Abigail possessed only sweet qualities. We had, after all, been telling her since Day 1 that she was "one fine swine". Little did we know that when you get a pig at 2 hours old, bottle feed it, and let it live in the house, this pig will then consider you one of its siblings. Six years later we still have not figured out if this is an honor or not. Abigail became very protective of us; to the point of not letting any stranger near us. Women were sometimes ok, but men were definitely not to be trusted. She would appear out of nowhere (she had the full run of the farm) and let a stranger know, in no uncertain terms, that they were not welcomed; and if they wanted to leave with all the body parts that they came with, they better go NOW. She is better than a German Shepard. Now if we know we are having company, we make sure that Abigail is locked in her stall. She has mellowed a bit with age, but we do like our company to come back more than once.

Somehow Abigail learned that if she came over to the house while on her daily work around the farm, one of us would give her a cookie. Many times we would even let her into the kitchen to eat her cookie(s). She was only allowed in the kitchen, though. Our house is 175 years old, and we were afraid that she would go through the hardwood floors into the basement. (The kitchen is an add-on and is built on a concrete slab). My husband kept warning me that letting Abigail into the house was not a good idea, but the kids and I never listened. Besides, who doesn't have a pig in their kitchen occasionally?

One day I was home alone, and Abigail came over looking for her cookie. Her feet were all muddy, and she wasn't allowed in. I gave her the treat at the door and went back to washing dishes at the sink. The window at the sink is actually at ground level, and so Abigail came to the window and was staring at me face to face. She wanted to come in the house in the worst way and started pushing her snout against the glass. Do not ever underestimate the strength of a pig's nose. She pushed and pushed, and the window creaked and creaked. One of the loudest sounds I have ever heard was the sound of that window shattering. Glass was everywhere. Luckily, Abigail was not cut and actually looked quite pleased with herself. She then proceeded to try to climb in through the broken window which would have landed her right in the kitchen sink. Things were going steadily downhill. I was frantic thinking she was going to slice her neck open for sure and bleed out right in front of me. I smacked her nose, I yelled at her, and did everything I could think of to get her to back up. Knowing I was going to get the "I told you so" speech, I bit my lip and called my husband at work to tell him what had happened and

(continued next page)

# Abigail

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Abigail had made a cat door just for them.

When my kids came home from school, we got some plywood from the barn and temporarily blocked the window off. It was not the interior decorating look I was going for, but it kept the outside animals out. It took me about a week to get up the nerve to call the glass company to come fix the window. When I told him how it got broken, he was not the least bit surprised; because the whole time he was working on the window, the turkeys, Daryl and Kenneth, were pecking in his toolbox. That poor man could not finish that job fast enough.




The best part is Abigail did not just break the window once, she did it a second time because somebody left an apple out on the kitchen counter; and she spied it through the same window. Imagine the laughs I got from Bangor Glass when I had to call them up a second time. We now have our own form of fire drills, although ours are "Abigail drills". If she is on her way to the house, and anybody is at the counter eating; everything gets immediately swiped into the nearest drawer - no matter what. I don't have the guts to call the glass people a third time. We are thinking of installing metal bars even though Mt. Bethel is not a real high-crime area.

Abigail has also been known to wander a bit. Many summer evenings she would march herself up to terrorize the trailer court that is on the street behind us. Before we even knew she was gone, some kid would show up on his bike in my driveway and tell us our pig was up there. Armed with a big of potato chips and a broom, we would go up to retrieve our pig. Potato chips are her all-time favorite snack; so the chips would keep the front end going home, and the broom would urge on the back end. We finally explained to her that if she kept going up there, the trailer park was going to hold a barbecue; and she was going to be the guest of honor. She very rarely head up the hill anymore.

One day our neighbors to the side were installing an in-ground pool. Abigail refused to do the neighborly thing and wait for her invitation to swim; she decided to walk over the stone row and invite herself. The poor guy that was operating the backhoe had to climb out of the cab, make a mad dash for his truck, and drive over here to ask us to come get our pig. Number one, we didn't even know she was gone; and number two, how did he know she lived here? It has been said bad news travels fast.

Despite her "I am perfect" attitude and overall craftiness, we love our pig immensely. She is the best thing that ever happened to us as a family, and we wouldn't trade any of her shenanigans for all the money in the world. Not only is she truly gorgeous, but she puts life in perspective. She has given us many moments to question our sanity. We wouldn't have it any other way.

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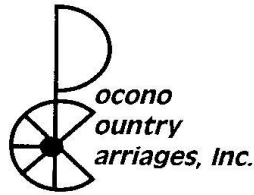
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