



As time goes by, I learn more and more that things, more often than not, do not go as planned. However, I am also learning that though we don't always get to plan when things occur, when they do occur, they tend to work out just fine...

Out with the old and in with the New!

The move-in date has been delayed, yet again. Our tentative move-in date is now June 1st. Hopefully we will be up and running out of the Eighty Four location by mid-June.

Lessons have started at Morning Star Stables. We are currently giving lessons on Sunday and I have a few open slots. If you would like to enroll, please contact me and we will get you set up.

We have some new herd members:

India is a 13 hand 16 year old pony that has been donated to us by Deb Campbell. India had been previously living at Moonarosa Stables in Aliquippa. Deb was nice enough to share him with us. "Indie", as he is affectionately called, participated in his first lessons last weekend. He

did a great job and his riders really seemed to enjoy him.

Beauty is a 30", 5 year old mini that was donated by Barefoot Mini's (Tabetha & Roger). Beauty came to us from Girard, Pennsylvania. She was born on the farm at Barefoot Mini's and Tabetha and Roger were kind enough to donate Beauty to us. She is quite a character. Beauty participated in her first lessons last weekend. She did great. The kids loved leading her around and she loved the attention.

Coming soon...

Ginger is a 10 year old 13 hand pony that is being donated by Rick and Glynnis from the Sewickley area.

Cowboy is a 16 year old 14.3 hand quarterpony that is being donated by Deb from Clinton, PA.

Granny is an older mare that is being donated by a family from Maryland.

Arnbro (donation pending) is a 15.3 hand older Standardbred that is being donated to us.

Oldies, but goodies...

Jack will be returning to the program once we move to the Eighty Four location.

Abby will also be returning once the move takes place.

Sam will be hanging around the barn at the new facility. Feel free to stop by and give him a pat.

China – my mare that I have previously shared our adventures – will also be at the new facility. Feel free to come by and visit the star of my “Reflections” articles.



Spotlight

This edition’s Spotlight is on....
The new farm, what else?

With the new facility, we will be able to offer more time slots for handicapped riding lessons, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP), Equine Assisted Learning (EAL), sibling lessons, parent/child lessons, horsemanship lessons. Sunday lessons will still be available, as well as, evening lessons.

For information about lessons, please contact dflaherty@hotmail.com or (412) 302-5393.

As always, we can use volunteers, for interest in volunteering, please contact instride@hotmail.com.

Fundraising News

Pepsi Refresh Project – we have made the cut. Please vote for us at Pepsirefresh.com/horseshelpinghumans. The more votes, the more

chance we will get the funding. There are also several other worthy ideas, you get 5 votes per day. So please give us your vote as often as possible.

Ansysis Tickets for Charity – we will again be participating in the Mylan Classic Tickets for Charity Program. You may order tickets from the fundraising tab of our website. We will receive the entire cost of your tickets. Every ticket sold and allocated to In-Stride is one more lesson for a child that may not otherwise have been able to afford to take one. What do you get for your \$25 ground pass ticket? Entrance into the Mylan Classic for the entire week, clinics, special events and the concerts (Country Star Craig Morgan is expected to perform – will confirm at a later time). If you would like access to the club house, you can purchase a clubhouse ticket for \$50, this gives you access to the above plus the clubhouse. There is a discount for purchasing a 10 pack of tickets.



Reflections from the director....

I have been really busy pulling everything together to start the

program and gearing up for the move. I have recently seen more horses and ponies, answered more e-mail ads and talked to more horse owners looking to donate than I think I ever have before. Thank you to all of those who have contacted me to donate their horses. The experience has been quite a learning one and I hope it will help me in the future when looking at and evaluating horses. So I am going to share with you some things I have learned...

The number 1 thing I have found when evaluating and trying to decide if to purchase/take a horse is to ask questions. Ask questions about everything you can think of. Try to get as best a history as you can about the horse you are looking at. Ask questions about the owners experience with the horse and if something doesn't sound correct, ask further questions or even ask the same question in a different way. Ask how the owner handles the horse. Mention ways that you handle horses (i.e. natural horsemanship) and observe how the owner reacts.

When asking about the horse's medical care, ask who the vet is, who the farrier is, if the owner uses an equine dentist, if the horse has ever been treated by a chiropractor, massage therapist, etc. and ask for the names of these professionals. An owner that is reluctant to give that information out can throw up a red flag and help you avoid taking a horse with a hidden medical problem.

Ask not only what the current owner has been doing with the horse, but also if they know what previous owners have done. This will help you get to the question of why the horse is for sale.

Make sure to be prepared when going to look at a new horse. Know before you even leave your house what your expectations will be for the horse and evaluate the horse based on whether or not he/she will be able to meet your expectations.

Don't make a decision on the spot.

If you have any doubts, you may want to walk away. Your gut instinct may be telling you this horse is not a good match for you.

One last piece of advice, when trolling the craigslist/dream horse/new horse/horseclicks/or any other sites, don't be afraid to contact a seller even if the horse is out of your price range. Some sellers will be willing to sacrifice a little bit of profit to ensure their horse gets a good home.

Until next time....

Dana Flaherty

Volunteer News:

We have a very wonderful group of Volunteers and quite a few new faces this year. I am thankful for every one of you and hope you are enjoying the ride as much as I am.

As Always volunteers are needed for
more information contact
instride@hotmail.com

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Holly Stabile, Esquire
412-310-8039

Donate your unused horse tack.
In-Stride is always in need of horse
tack and supplies, donate today!
Check our wish list for the items we
need.

