

MINI BITS
Newsletter December 2005
The Hearts & Hooves - Sacramento

Welcome to the third issue of Hearts & Hooves Mini Bits. You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you are a volunteer, sponsor, client or special friend of the miniature horse therapy service we provide.

The Visits:

- A. Dec was another busy month for H&H, even though we didn't schedule any activities for the two weeks surrounding Christmas.
- B. We conducted Stage 1 & 2 training sessions for 15 more volunteers on 3 Dec, 6 Dec, and 14 Dec.
- C. 3 Dec found us at the SHA clubhouse participating in the Painted Ladies (the drill team) party for the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home.

We returned again on 17 Dec to participate in the annual SHA Santa Walk to the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home. The children loved the big horses from SHA and our minis decorated for Christmas. In addition to the petting, walking etc we all wore our Santa hats and handed out Christmas candy to them too.

We just completed negotiations for this facility to become a regular monthly visit. Look for an updated calendar once the days are decided on.

- D. On 7 Dec, we visited Williamson Elementary Special Ed children in Rancho Cordova.
- E. 8 Dec was a public relations visit by me and mini Nemo to the Sacramento County Disabilities Planning & Advisory Council downtown on J Street.
- F. The 16 Dec visit to ARC in Roseville was cancelled by the client due to a schedule conflict.
- G. The 31 Dec visit to Landpark Academy on South Sac was cancelled after discussions with the client due to rain & wind (their visits are on the playground).

The Stable:

1. Several volunteers helped erect the shelter (Arlene Poma & her friend Jack, Kim Crayton, Linda Frodahl, and others I forgot to write down...my apologies). Thanks to all who helped.
2. A special stall has been set up in the middle of the shelter for Blaze, our dwarf. His condition requires soft bedding at night so he can lie down and rest his deformed legs. It also allows us to feed him separately, as the herd pecking order always puts him last in line for food. Ellen Blake donated half the funds to create this protective enclosure.
3. Joe Gomez provided funds for an automated watering tub for the entire herd. Jude Drapeau donated three plastic feeders and some fencing and even delivered them from Lodi. These extra volunteer gifts are very much appreciated...thank you.

On the same note, Elk Grove Milling donates the pellet feed and Feed Plus of Penryn provides the stall shavings. A big year-end thank you to our monthly business sponsors. Please support these businesses if you have the opportunity.

4. The rubber stall mats for the shelter floor arrived just before the heavy rains started about mid Dec. It sure is nice to be out of the mud & rain. Wind is still an issue until the real barn can be built in the spring.

5. Several of the horses are being treated for hoof problems resulting from inadequate hoof cleaning. I have begun a daily hoof cleaning routine for all the minis and will be reviewing proper hoof cleaning techniques during the preparation for every visit.

6. All the horses had a pedicure (hooves trimmed & filed) the last week of Dec.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HAVE A GOOD ONE....BE SAFE!!!