

MINI BITS
Newsletter February 2006
The Hearts & Hooves - Sacramento

This is the fifth 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: many of our visits are repeat clients every month on the same day.

1. First Sat: Our regular visit to the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home had to be cancelled due to illness on the part of our contact at the home.
2. Second Sat: usually planned for Avalon Hospice or Landpark Academy, but we substituted a Valentine BBQ for our volunteers at Bonnie Thomas's home in Orangevale. It was a fun time and a lot of planning and organizing was accomplished for the remainder of the year. Soon, Bonnie will be sending a separate email about the results of the BBQ.
3. Second Thur: The Williamson Elementary Special Ed kids enjoyed the minis. Their covered patio is a perfect rainy day site.
4. Third Fri: ARC in Roseville was its usual success. The Roseville Kiwanis is sponsoring this facility.
5. Fourth Fri: Citrus Heights Elementary Special Ed - this visit was cancelled due to no school that week. The Citrus Heights Lions Club is sponsoring this facility.
6. A TV interview at the Arden Mall was exciting. You may have seen it at noon on 21 Feb on Channel 3. Buddy & Special strutted their stuff with their tennis shoes and our newly acquired poop bags (they work!!). Maureen Ferreria interacted with the reporters, while Bonnie Thomas and Ellen Blake handled the minis and interacted with the crowd. The group made H&H look great.
7. We will have The Kiwanis House as a new monthly client starting in April. This will probably be scheduled for the first or second weekend of the month. The Kiwanis House is associated with the UCD children's hospital and houses the families of patients during treatment. They asked if Sunday was available. We've never done a Sunday visit, so we would like to have your feedback as to volunteer availability on Sundays.

The Stable:

1. I had to travel out of state for 10 days in Feb, so I really appreciate the volunteers who came over morning & night to feed the horses and clean their hooves and the stable. Ellen Blake did the bulk of the heavy morning duties. She was helped occasionally by Lynn Lobner, Eleanor & Kari Kolster & Kyle Chiodo. The lighter evening chores fell mostly to Maureen Ferreria, assisted by Patty & George Schubel. THANK YOU ONE & ALL!!
2. If you're interested in helping with the stable duties, I conduct training any morning at 9-10 am, when I do the regular feeding/grooming/cleaning. Just pick a day that convenient for you and call me at 916-991-7040. I will be travelling again in Jun and Aug, so helpers are needed.
3. When you come to prep the horses for a client visit, it's wise to wear rain boots and work gloves. Cleaning wet hooves will chill your fingers quickly and the area around the shelter is pretty muddy for several days after a rain.

Fun Stuff

Don't forget to join the birthday celebration on 22 Mar at 5:30 PM. We're meeting at the Casa Ramos Restaurant at 5975 Birdcage Lane in Citrus Heights. We have 5 known March birthdays: Judy Shearer, Barbara Hotchkiss, Kyle Chiodo, Bonnie Thomas and her husband Richard. The restaurant is donating 15% of the proceeds to H&H.

Mark your calendars for 10 Sep - it's the H&H Annual Fundraiser at the Sacramento Horsemen's Association clubhouse. There's food, music, entertainment, raffles, auctions, etc. All the minis will be there, so bring friends and grandkids. Those who attended last year had a great Sunday afternoon.