

MINI BITS
Newsletter October 2005
The Hearts & Hooves - Sacramento

It's been awhile since Hearts & Hooves heard from some of you and much has happened. We will be using this end-of-month email to keep our supporters informed.

Soon we will be reducing our contact list and inactive names will be removed. Consequently, this may be your last message from us, unless we hear from you.

1. We still need more volunteers, but will conduct training only if candidates notify us of their interest and can commit to making at least one visit per month (3-4 hours per visit, mostly during the work week). We could make 10 visits a week, but are only staffed for 2. There is a waiting list of facilities wanting our services. It takes 2-4 hours of training to start making visits (half in grooming and half in visit protocol).

2. In Aug, we finally obtained our own Ford van that has been modified to carry 4 minis and 5 people. Our visits are much easier without borrowing a trailer.

3. In Sep, the whole herd was moved to Elverta when the former location became too crowded with larger horses.

4. The 9 Oct fund raiser was a success, providing almost \$4600 for operations and debt reduction. A mini stallion was donated and auctioned along with many other great items, including two handmade quilts. Everyone raved about the music and food and good time.

NOTE: Monthly operating expenses average about \$100 per horse in cash outlay (vet bills, insurance, gas, etc.)

5. Two minis have been donated to us, bringing our herd to 10. The first was a 5 month old pinto dwarf named Blaze. He's only 19 inches high and walks oddly due to birth defects in his rear legs (cow hocks). Otherwise he's healthy and a big hit with everyone. The latest is an 11 yr old dark roan mare named DeeDee that is sweet and smart.

NOTE: To keep our herd to an affordable and manageable size, we will be selling two minis trained for therapy work.

6. Hearts and Hooves will be featured in the Metro Section of the Sacramento Bee the first weekend of Nov.

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