

Orphan Acres Newsletter

December 2015

Hope you had a good Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the holiday season. With that in mind we hope that you will also remember the horses this holiday season and help stuff their Christmas socks with apples, hay and grain.

With 79 of our furry nosed friends to feed and care for, I hope and pray that you can also open your heart to help these horses in need this holiday season!! Because without your critical support, *Orphan Acres* will be limited in our ability to help other animals that are in need of a loving home as we are only limited by funds to helping more at this time.

This especially includes the hay, grain and other cost we need to care for the horses. Just a couple of years ago, hay was less than a \$100 per ton. Today, it is about \$190- \$230 per ton! And it takes over a ton a day to feed the horses! Plus a ton of grain each week at \$250 to supplement the older horses. We must also think about get ready for the next years hay season, and winter is the best time to get prepared. There is always maintenance on the hauling and haying equipment and vehicles around the ranch that needs repaired or replaced.

Every day presents a new challenge especially with the economy. And with 79 horses calling us home for the holidays, there is always something that one of them needs -- hoof trimming, worming, shots, age related medical needs. Plus, all of the extra expenses that winter brings-- \$500 a month power bills just to keep the water tanks thawed. Horse blankets especially for the old one like Badge at 47. That's why, I hope you will help us give second chances to horses in need this holiday season.

Your support has helped us take care of over 4,100 innocent animals -- both horses as well over 340 wildlife animals -- that have been placed here.

Take Lil' Blue, one of the stars from the movie *Dances with Wolves*, that came to live with us in 2005. After the movie was filmed, someone bought Lil' Blue. Unfortunately, instead of loving and caring for him, they neglected his basic needs like food and water, they just wanted to own a movie icon. Poor Lil' Blue was almost starved to death. He was so weak, he could not even swat the flies that were causing sores all over him. We did not think he would even make the trailer ride back here. But he recovered and had 10 good years that were made possible through all of the generous caring people like you. **Unfortunately, I'm sad to tell you that**

Lil' Blue passed away of natural causes not long ago. Everyone who met him loved him and he will be missed greatly. He was 29 years old. We also just lost our beloved Abigail she was 35, she came to us in 2006 and was going blind do to macular degeneration.

Thank everyone that made it possible for allow them to live out their lives with dignity here at Orphan Acres.

All of the horses that are placed here come from court seizures, private individuals facing hard times and government agencies. **They are often unwilling or unable to assist in any way** with the care or funding of the horses they send to us.

A couple of years ago we took in 36 horses from another horse rescue that was closed down because they were not properly caring for the horses. We have had to deal with their vindictive actions ever since because their starving horses were placed here. The good news is their recovery was made possible through donations from caring people like you and the horses were able to be placed in new homes and a second chance. Our volunteer and caring individuals like you made it happen.

Since our founding in 1975, we have cared for over 4100 and found loving homes for over 2,880. This year marked 40 years of Orphan Acres giving hurt, abused, and neglected horses and wildlife in need a second chance. We have no paid staff. All the care of our horses is handled by volunteers who are dedicated to their care and needs.

But the truth is, each month is a challenge to see if we can pay for food, shelter, medical care, and the daily costs for all the animals that are placed here.

Just the daily expenses to care for the 79 horses that call *Orphan Acres* home include: hay, vitamins, vaccines, senior grain and formula, dewormer, blankets, and the monthly \$500 power bills to keep water tanks thawed all winter. Just keeps going up.

Sadly, I get e-mails and calls from people no longer able to care for their horses and needing our help. With so many horses to feed and the cost of everything going up, it's hard to take in more horses. But I never want to say "No" to an animal in need. Frankly, we can't take in more horses without your help.

Caring for just one horse cost around \$3 a day, a neglected, abused, abandoned or malnourished horse is even more expensive till they can recover. But with 79 horses to feed and care for, the cost just keep going up.

That's why I'm asking fellow horse lovers like you this holiday season to remember with a "present" in support of our furry nosed friends. Because of caring friends like you, we were able to buy the land next to us.

Now we can provide the horses with more pasture to eat and play. We will also be able to provide more programs.

A donation like yours will help us to continue to save precious lives. We are a 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax-deductible. Required tax receipt are sent out at the end of the year.

Wishing you and yours the best for the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Brent Glover

Founder, Orphan Acres