

Anna Twinney on Feedlot Foals, Part 1

By Kari Hagstrom

[Editor's Note: "The Valley Equestrian News" has been doing a series on the plight of PMU (Premarin) foals, nurse mare foals, and now feedlot foals, in conversation with internationally recognized natural horsemanship clinician and equine behaviorist, Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses® (ROTH), www.reachouttohorses.com. The previous articles on PMU foals and nurse mare foals may be found in the January and February, 2015 issues, respectively, of the VEN, or online at www.theveonline.com. Feedlot foals, as Twinney calls them, are foals which have been abandoned at the feedlots when their mothers are shipped to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. The foals are usually allowed to shift for themselves. Most to many die of neglect and starvation. The lucky ones find a mare who is willing to allow them to nurse. They



Phoenix and Dakota when they arrived at the clinic with body score two.

Photo by Anna Twinney.

don't face much of a future. However, some are bought from the feedlots by rescues and other concerned individuals.] Valley Equestrian News: Why do we have feedlot foals? Where are they coming from and why is it a problem that people need to know about it?

Twinney: I want to tell you how it all came about for me. As part of the trainer's course, my students have to be part of foal gentling or wild horse gentling. It's not necessarily an easy task to just get your hands on foals or mustangs, or indeed untouched horses, but it's part of the curriculum to do the field study, and to ultimately learn how to gentle some of these horses. I feel like it's an important part, and has been an important part of the webinars I do, as well.

One of the statements I made the other day [on the webinar] is, "A horse, is a horse, is a horse." We all say that: "A horse, is a horse, is a horse," and yet it's not entirely like that. The horsemanship piece, yes it applies to every horse, and yes when we look at natural horsemanship we're speaking the horse's

language, from the energetic connection, telepathic, body language, we're speaking their language. And of course that transfers to a horse, be it a mini, a pony, a horse, be it your foal, your yearling, your two year old, your performance horse, your geriatric: A horse, is a horse, is a horse. But it's not. And so here's the thing when you gentle a foal, or you gentle a mustang: it's quite different from doing a performance horse. Different from dealing with stallions. And so the webinars have not only been made up of what's acknowledging a try, what is a try and what does it look like, or when is something abuse. These are topics that I've just spoken about, and I put in there, what's the difference between handling a foal, versus an untouched horse, versus a stallion. And there are differences, and if you don't have the experience, it's hard to call yourself a horse trainer in these areas. And people do; they go out there and say they've got 30 years' experience, but when you really need to look at the experience and where it is, because if you've been three-day eventing you don't have experience gentling foals, and you don't know what a foal needs. And it's not all intuitive, either; some of it is, and some of it's knowledge. And so realizing this, one of my students got her hands on a number of foals and I asked how she'd done that. And I got together with the location, and it's Friends of Horses and it's here in Colorado.

So we sat down for a coffee meeting, and I remember it to this day. I met with Bill [Stiffler of Friends of Horses Rescue and Adoption in Centennial, Colo., www.fohrescue.com], and he said, "So what is it you need, Anna?" And I said I was looking for foals. He asked me the age, and I said I wasn't too attached to the age, but anything under one, so that we could class them as foals rather than yearlings. And he said, "So when is it you're looking for?" I said September is a good time, because we would be looking at either Premarin foals at that time, or foals that had been weaned, and maybe we can find foals. Over the years that I've done these courses, it's been a big, big event to get foals. A big event: bringing them in from Canada, fundraising for them, organizing their transportation, organizing fundraising events. We've really had to come up with creative ideas as to how to get the money. There've been multiple rescues I've teamed up with; we've made a bit of a team out of it, like a little village to rescue these foals.

So I put it on the calendar, and I wanted to team with somebody, and bring it to Colorado. So here's Bill from the rescue, and he said, "It's not a problem, not a problem to bring it home." He went, "How many do you

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Anna Twinney and Reach Out to Horses® have launched an Indiegogo campaign to help fund the donation of her "Whispers from the Wild Ones: Mustangs as Our Master Teachers™" DVD to organizations all over the United States who are involved with the fate of the wild mustang.

Help save the American mustang from extinction.

For many, the plight of the American wild horse is well known and close to their hearts. But most people, even those in the equine industry, do not know the seemingly insurmountable odds they are up against. These majestic beings face removal from their homes, round-ups into cruel and soul-crushing capture, and some say, their eventual extinction, unless we do something to stop it.

"The American mustang has held a dear place in my heart since the days I began working with them almost 20 years ago, and I have made it my life's mission to help them wherever and whenever I can," says Twinney.

"My goal has been two-fold: First, to share the plight of the mustang with the world and, second, to educate people in the way of the mustang - to show them how to work, train and care for the wild horse. To address both I have recently created 'Whispers from the Wild Ones,' a 2-DVD set designed to share a practical approach to protecting the mustangs on the range and to teach an effective, trust-based approach to working with and training the wild ones who can not be returned to the wild."

We have set aside 1,000 DVD sets to send to organizations all over the country and the world and with your support we will send this invaluable resource to as many as we can.

For as little as \$10 we can send out a copy of the DVD set to one of the thousands of organizations who truly need it!

Here is how you can help:

Go to the Reach Out to Horses (R) homepage to connect and contribute to the Indiegogo campaign at www.reachouttohorses.com. The Indiegogo campaign runs until April 5, 2015.

Go to www.reachouttohorses.com to nominate a rescue organization to receive a copy of the "Whispers from the Wild Ones" DVD, and donate \$10 to the cause. The \$10 helps to cover shipping and handling.

Alert others to this cause, and share information about the plight of the American mustang. For more information, go to www.reachouttohorses.com.

Reader's Letters

I was kind of surprised on your article on the NFR [National Finals Rodeo] there was no mention of Brittany Diaz; or Brittany Fleck, her maiden name from Solon, North Dakota. The only lady from North Dakota to make the NFR ever, and not a mention.

My wife and I got a chance to talk to her a little when she made the NFR the first time a couple

of years ago. She left her job at the bank and chased her dream. She may not be getting rich but she's "living the dream," as they say. Also this year she made the final four to run for \$100,000 at the Calgary Stampede.

Yours,
Ed Helgeson

Dear Mr. Helgeson:

We are so happy to receive letters from our readers and appreciate your comments about Brittany Diaz and her participation in the 2014 NFR. We rely on our readers to provide information and news as we are a small staff trying to reach out and provide local and national news to the people of the region. We will try to provide the information you want in the near future.

In the meantime, photo left is Brittany Diaz Fleck at the 2014 NFR.

Keep reading! Thank you for your letter.

Editorial Staff



Photo by Tammy Scheffler for the Valley Equestrian News

Walking into the Unknown

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need?" And I said ten; ten's a good number. I can teach ten students and I can rescue ten foals, and support a rescue of ten, and play a big part in it. I remember it to this day when he said, "What do you need? How many foals do you need?" And I said ten, and he said, "I can get as many as you want." It was devastating, it wasn't cheerful; it wasn't that moment of "oh my goodness, this is awesome, he's got the foals, we can get as many ..." It was the sadness of "I can get as many as you want." He said, "You bring the people, I'll bring the foals." And it was that moment again, of feeling less-than, it doesn't matter what I do, that feeling of less-than, of oh my goodness, I can only get ten bums, maximum. Maximum.

This course does not overflow. There is not a waiting list for this course. It's such a specialist course, and truthfully, how many people are going to be gentling foals out there, right? How many want the knowledge, how many people do we know that are breeding in backyards and go on a course to learn how to gentle foals? You know, they just think, "I'm green, they're green. Green and green together, we can learn together. I don't think green and green makes black and blue. I think green and green, that means that this foal hasn't been abused, this foal hasn't been incorrectly trained, nothing's gone wrong with this foal, so I'll do it." And nobody realizes the importance behind the knowledge that you need when rearing and raising foals. They seem to think green and green is ok. And so it's not a hugely desirable course at this time. And anybody that's professionally in the industry that are breeding, they'll have their trainers on site, and they'll also either have the knowledge of tradition or otherwise. So the course is a challenging course for me. It's not the best course for me; there are so many foals

out there, there are so many people that don't know what they're doing. And the course is amazing; I've stuck with it. So when Bill said, "How many of these foals do you need?" And I said ten, and he basically came back with, "Well, we can get 20, 30, whatever you want." It was a heartbreaking moment. I'd never met him before, but I remember the tears just streaming down my face, for the mere fact that hit me of, "How do you leave them behind?" I asked him where he was going to get them from, and he said the feedlot. "Every week we could go to the feedlot and pick up horses; we'll just pick up the foals." It was just like that, just that unique.

Once again, here I am, 30 years into horses, 20 years professionally into horses, and never heard of such a thing. Never heard of feedlot foals. We coined "feedlot foals." But honestly never heard of it. I had tons of questions in my head. How is this even possible? To my understanding, the mares might be dropped off at the feedlot. The feedlot being somewhere where you feed the horse up so they put on weight, or somewhere where they've discarded the horses, and it doesn't matter if they're old, infirm, youngsters, mustangs, you name it. More than 80,000 horses go to slaughter each year; they start at the feedlot. So does that mean that these mares were at the feedlot pregnant and gave birth in the feedlot? Does it mean that these mares were sent to the feedlot with foals at foot? I don't have those answers.

I still do not understand, my little brain doesn't seem to put this together: what

kind of human can send a pregnant mare off to the feedlot? You know, how do they end up there? Let me be kind, OK, let me be kind: somebody loses their house, they're bankrupt, somebody can't find the money, rescues can't take the horses. Those are some scenarios. The mare still found herself there. How does a foal find itself there? I have no answers.

These feedlot foals will vary. With the foals we had, Bill got the vet in right away. It was hard to tell their ages; they were very, very different. Some tiny,



tiny individuals, like a big German shepherd-sized dog, was the smallest, all the way up to what looked to me like bordering on yearlings. So they're in the feedlot. So they're there to be fed up, are they there to be left behind? We know that multiple foals were left behind and the mares were shipped off. And it was with this clinic that I learned that it wasn't about the weight of the horses. I always thought it meant feed them up so they're fat, I always thought it was a certain weight that went to slaughter. It's an assumption, not the case. Two of the mares who had come from Native American land, we got two of their foals, they were maybe nine months old, six to nine months, it was hard to tell because you don't know what the mare looked like. The mares went with a body score one, one to two,

to slaughter. This wasn't about their weight. They were shipped on the truck. The truck was weighed in; it wasn't the weight of the individual horse, it was the truck weight. Doesn't make any sense, either. So the mares went to slaughter to Mexico, they were maybe a body score of one or two, I never saw them, but it was told to us that way. Their foals came in with a body score one or two. The foals were saved, the mares were not. Those are the only two I know about the history. They were Native American, tribal horses we call them, so they came off the land there, and we knew about their history. Nobody else we knew about, and there were ten of them.

So the little speckled bums, my job is to allocate them out, to get the right match with the student and the horse. A lot of it is watching the horses for ten, twenty minutes; the majority of it is intuition that I use to match them up. I match them all, and each student gets one foal to gentle, and they buddy-up so they're supporting other people, and they're also changing the buddy system so they're getting their hands on multiple foals. Some are exceedingly gentle; one was named Fawn, she was the tiny, tiny one. She was so bloody gentle. She didn't get allocated out; she didn't need to be. Everybody just loved on her, everybody did something with her, and she just couldn't get enough cuddles. It's a fine line, you know, with the cuddles, but ultimately she got tons of attention, tons of love. And her life was definitely risky, she had a huge, huge belly, and one of the days on the clinic she couldn't even get up. It was so important when she got up, because

people have the mentality of when the horse can't get up, we don't want them to suffer, let them leave. To a point, my mentality is: give them a chance and let them become warriors, and fight their way through. So if she can get up, we will provide the environment for her to get healthy. And that's what we did; we helped her up a couple of times, and she made it through that week and then some.

There was one little one, an Appy, Hermes, really a delightful little speckled butt, and they said he was really skittish, really spooky. I allocated him out to Vin [Mancarella], my husband. And within one day, he was calm as can be; he is today, calm as can be, to the point of it being a little worrying, like, "What's going on for you? Is there pain you have that you're not seeing, that you're not running around frolicking like other foals?" He just walks everywhere. So he was like that from the moment Vin had him. Vin gentled him, all the way through on his own, without anything from me. Usually I go in with students if they need support or guidance, or to keep them on track; I'll go in and show them techniques. I didn't go in once here. He did the whole thing on his own. That would be we're touching them, hand grooming them, putting the halter on, teaching them to neck yield and drop the head, come off pressure, yield to a bit of pressure on the side, pick up their feet, have some little blankets, on them. Many of them are too small, and we had to order-in blankets. Many of the good-hearted students brought blankets for the foals because we had a really cold day in September; we had snow.

What was different was this: they were huddled up together from all walks of life, every breed, and you cannot even tell the breed, like, "Who are you? You're coloring is Appy, you're an Appy. Who are you? I

don't know." And the same for all the others. What have they been through? What shock have they been through? There are tons of them, right? So Judy Sinner helped. Judy Sinner was awesome; she's a great friend of mine, and she's a Dynamite distributor with the company Dynamite® Specialty Products, www.dynamitespecialty.com. She's a nutritional counselor, and so we had her on the call [the podcast of this call is available for free at www.reachouttohorses.com, under ROTH members and podcasts—see "Supporting Weak and Compromised Foals," September 14, 2014]. The weather was so bad one day that we couldn't be outside, and I put a call into her, and she arranged her schedule, and we had a two hour piece. And she tailor-made it geared toward these foals. What is it the foals need nutritionally? She guided us; we bought alfalfa pellets, and we were soaking the alfalfa; we had Dyna Pro®, the probiotic; we had Miracle Clay™ for their stomachs, and we created this concoction in a syringe, and we syringed all foals twice a day in their mouth to settle the guts. It was really important, because the advice we had gotten was if we dewormed them and the system goes into shock, and there's ulcers in their system, they will die. And the first thing the vet wanted to do was deworm them. I stood up for the foals and said, "Can you give us three or four days, where we can just line that stomach, get their system out of shock, support them?" And Bill Stiffler said yes. The vet, bless him, said no; Bill had to stand up on the foals' behalf, on my students' behalf, on my behalf. But Bill said, "Yeah, you've got a few days." So we did that and we split the deworming; we did half one day, and half the other day. But we sorted them out, and that was huge.

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Feedlot Foals *Continued from page 14*

Within the fifth day, this vet came in with this syringe so freak-ing big, God knows how it went through the skin and the hide, but these foals were ready. They were ready for thermometers, they were ready for the syringe, they were having syringes in the mouth. We nursed these foals, they got food twice a day, they got the syringe twice a day, they ended up getting dewormed. A whole bunch of my friends came in. I put calls in to see who could come out that week and help us. I've never seen foals needing so much help. They had free-choice hay throughout the training, they had fresh water, we were grooming them, and within the first and second day they were pretty much on their way--except

for two, two took a little longer, until the fifth and sixth day they weren't being groomed. But ultimately groomed, and the halter on, and the baby steps, and the disengaging and the leading, they did it all. We took them out. I think eight out of ten went down to the arena and did the obstacle course, some loaded. They had blankets on, we did some desensitizing, etc., but the main thing, we built in a ton of care. We also bathed them. Some of them were bathed, not with just water; we made a special Betsyne concoction, because there were some skin issues going on as well.

We had the vet in within two, three days. The first time he came twice, and he was bold, he was rough, he expected, he was willing basically to grip them around the neck and hold them tight, and here we were gentling them down. I wanted these foals ready for the vet, and that meant the students would go in and halter them, hold them, so that he could come in with a huge syringe or he could come in and check for temps, or check any other part of the body that needed checking. Within three days, they had to be in a position where somebody without the body language skill would handle them, and in effect get his job done. The vet's thing was: these foals need support, they need care, they need to be

checked over. He has been a vet for decades, I guess, so he has his personal style of just entering that stall and getting on with his job. So that takes some skill for these foals to learn, and the students brought them to that level where first they were handling them independently, solely, and ultimately two students would go in at a time and try to prepare them, either for the syringe, and that would mean pinching the skin on the side, etc., and we'd do that two or three times a day with the more nervous ones.

It was touch and go. There were two or three foals where a cough went round, snotty noses went round; we didn't get any temps, everybody was eating. They even



had to learn to eat. They would look at that food, and for days wouldn't touch it; they'd eat the hay, not the hard feed. They'd drink the water, and we had to monitor for dehydration and diarrhea, etc., support them as best we could.

It's phenomenal to see, in one sense, how weak they are, how vulnerable they are, and the other sense, how strong they are, just the contrast: the vulnerability with the cold that reaches the chest, and not getting up, and then the strength of getting up and pulling through.

So what makes them different? They came in more sickly than anything I've ever seen. They came in with unknown sickness, so you can't pinpoint if it was virus, cold, worms. We had dewormed them; we used the natural as well, to detox. So that's the tough thing; plus you just don't know the

breeds, you don't know their age. The vet checked Hermes, and said he's younger than six months, but he couldn't give a pinpoint. With the teeth, its six days, six weeks, six months; by six weeks they have a certain amount of teeth. We have to now look at Hermes--who's at home with us because Vin fell in love with him and wanted to bring him home--and we believe he was no more than six weeks old when he came home with us. That's tiny. And if you look at him today, he's still small, he's still ribby, he hasn't put on any weight. We gave him Dynamite® for months afterwards with the clay, and he got the alfalfa. He's got grass. He's on the paddock, on two and a half acres, the two foals Major and Hermes who we brought home. Major keeps Hermes company.

What was magical about this clinic was that six of the students adopted horses. Six of them. That's never happened. It's never happened on any foal clinic where that many go. We had an adoption day, where people came, and barely anybody showed up. It was a sad thing. But the really cool thing was Laurent

[Nicault] adopted two, Grace [Gabrielli] supported him with one, Phoenix. Unfortunately Phoenix didn't make it. Laurent took him home with Dakota; those two were the tribal horses, the Native American horses, and they were the body score two, and they were eating so much. They were pawing at the food, and they couldn't eat enough. They were doing so well, they went from a glazed eye to a little sparkle in the eye. Grace bought them blankets, and she does energy healing. Laurent took them home. And one day I got an emergency call from him, saying, "Phoenix isn't doing well." He called the vet in; and they weren't sure if it was colic or otherwise. They struggled for his life for three days, and then he ultimately passed naturally. What was going on internally, who knows? Who honestly knows? It was about a month after the adoption. Was it that he had found peace and

One Person Can Make a Difference

Bill Stiffler of Friends of Horses Rescue and Adoption, www.fohrescue.com, on Feedlot Foals and Horses:

Bill Stiffler started going to kill sales because he was interested in retired thoroughbreds, and started buying some. He also discovered weanlings, Premarins, and surrogate mares to be available. "They're constantly available," he said. Kill buyers tend to buy mares because there is more meat, and there is a restriction on slaughtering foals up to 600 lbs. There are beneficial groups that try to buy horses at the kill sales, and there are the restrictions from the EU on horsemeat, and the restriction of sending horses to slaughter that have been treated with drugs.

A large part of the problem of horses winding up at feedlots and being slaughter-bound is the result of over breeding. The "undesirable" horses get culled and sent to the feedlot, to slaughter. "People everywhere over breed," said Stiffler, "and more people need to practice selective breeding." The Jockey Club has recently put out a call to stop over breeding. "In vitro transfer mares have value only by the pound," said Stiffler. There is also the problem of people turning out domesticated horses with wild horses in some areas. The feedlots fill up and the horses are sent to Mexico or Canada for slaughter.

Because the feedlots don't make that much money on selling a horse for slaughter, often only about \$50 per head, they will often sell to the rescues or inter-

quiet at Laurent's, and could give up there? Was it that? Was it an intestinal issue? Was it that his heart was broken, that he saw his mum go into a big truck and never come home? He decided to leave. He left, and it was heartbreaking to all of us.

Dakota's still around, though I haven't heard from him in a little while. Christina adopted who she called Sasha, Clea adopted Orion, and he's gone to New Mexico. Bill adopted Major, who came here, and Vin adopted Hermes. So six of the foals got adopted, but ultimately all of them did. Bill placed the other four before the week had come to an end. All foals got

ested buyers. Locally, the number of available foals has been down lately, but later this spring there will be "constantly available" foals in the feedlots. Many foals are born there, when a pregnant mare is sold to kill buyer. Or perhaps the foal is at the mare's side when she is sold to the feedlot. When the mare is taken away for slaughter, the foal is left behind. Sometimes it will find a willing mare to nurse from; often groups of foals will gather around a mare and wear her down into letting them nurse. Some mares won't allow a foal not their own to nurse, and will kick them away. The foals will try to nurse on anything: an ear or sheath of another foal, anything they can reach. But the foals are left at the feedlot; some get rescued, most do not. They are left to grow to 600 lbs., facing slaughter if they survive that long. Many die of starvation and neglect.

Stiffler said that recently he found a handsome 17-hand grey warm-blood gelding, six years old, at the feedlot, two days away from slaughter. He bought him, and brought him back to the rescue. Stiffler figures that he probably was papered, but because the owner was embarrassed about sending the horse to slaughter, didn't include the papers, not realizing that the papers could have helped to get the horse back out of the feedlot when someone else bought him. "People have to think of what's in the best interest of the horse," said Stiffler. [This horse is currently available for adoption and has a clean bill of health. Go to www.fohrescue.com.]

adopted out, which is mind-blowing and special. Is it the matching? Is it the fact they pulled the heartstrings? No student entered that course wanting to adopt or needing to adopt. Nobody did. And by day four, within four days, those six came out, going, "We're adopting." Signing the papers the day they left. It was unbelievable. The day after the clinic, Laurent picked up his two, we picked up our two, and they were immediately brought out to a bit of space, a bit of land, which is amazing.

Continued next month with Part 2: Rehabilitating Feedlot Foals: It Takes a Village.

Feedlot Foals: It Takes A Village

The slaughter pipeline for race horses is another whole subject unto itself, although the Jockey Club does promote post-breeding and racing career care for retired horses, and the growth in popularity of off-track thoroughbreds (OTTBs) is considerable. And yet it is projected that there will be 22,000 registered thoroughbred foals born in 2015 alone.

What it comes down to, across the board, for horses, humans, the planet, is valuation. What do we value? Do we value life as it is, in any form? Or just our own? It doesn't seem likely that we will survive without other lives, other life forms—that's just it: other forms of life. So do we value life, even an orphan foal's life? That's the question. And how we as a species treat other species, informs greatly our own chances of survival. Does a foal's life matter?

The feedlot foal issue is about foals left at the feedlot after their mothers have been taken to slaughter. The feedlot is the last stop before horses are shipped to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. The foals may be born at the feedlot, or arrive with the mare. But they are orphaned, left to fend for themselves. They may find a willing mare to nurse from, and often a band of orphan foals will wear down a mare into letting them nurse, thereby weakening the mare. Some mares kick them away. The foals, like the nurse mare foals, will attempt to nurse from anything, other foals' ears, sheaths, whatever, look-

ing for food. Some might be old enough to have learned to eat hay. There are restrictions in place on foals under 600 lbs. being sent to slaughter. So if the foal survives separation from its mother, survives a while longer to gain 600 lbs. in weight, it can only look forward to slaughter.

entage, their breed, their state of health. Twinney had previously not been aware of the existence of feedlot foals, as are many of us not aware of this situation. We tend not to think the equation through to its grim conclusion. We left off in Part 1 with all ten of the foals in the clinic miracu-

lously being adopted—an unusual occurrence. Twinney's husband, Vin Mancarella, a clinic participant, had adopted a little Appaloosa foal, Hermes. Another participant, Bill Pelkey, had adopted Major, who would be going home to Twinney's

Hermes first farrier visit.

The relative few who get rescued arrive with a host of problems: health, behavioral, emotional. Some fail to thrive under the best of circumstances after the multiple traumas they have been through. So why bother? There are multitudes of horses that need help. Why bother with all these orphans who are slaughter-bound? Because, in my opinion, each life matters and touches others inextricably, and life would be greatly lessened without them. Because life is enriched by having made the effort to give love where it is needed.

In the previous issue of the VEN, March 2015, we spoke with Twinney in Part 1 of her experience gentling and rescuing some feedlot foals, the experience at the clinic of what these foals needed, and the challenges in creating such a clinic. She said it was like walking into the unknown, not knowing anything about these foals: their experience, their par-

Reach Out Ranch with Hermes. The journey continues:

VEN: What a remarkable journey for these foals, from the feedlot, to the clinic, to home.

Twinney: Yeah. Sad, sad journey. I find it sad; and yes, once they're with us [at the clinic], we all come in enthusiastic, we come in with love, we come in with affection, support, nurturing. You know, we train them as gently as we can, getting as much done without over pating them. Maybe they'd work two hours a day, maybe they'd work three hours a day, but it wouldn't be more than that, by the time I've lectured and we've had guest speakers.

Jim and Molly Campbell came out, and they did chiropractic adjustments and laser. Jim Ray came out and did some feet trimming. And Bill Pelkey

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Anna Twinney on Feedlot Foals: It Takes A Village

Continued from page 3

did some acupressure. So we truly did have this team come out for these foals that I literally put phone calls out to get. And those that could come came and gave the help. That was the beauty, you know. You just go, "Hey friend, we have ten foals, they need you for laser, for immune system boosting, etc." The same with Judy Sinner, [See March issue--Sinner is a nutritional counselor and gold-level executive with Dynamite® Specialty Products, www.dynamitespecialty.com] she lives in Oregon, and I got her on the phone immediately to help the foals. The team came together for those foals. That was the phenomenal piece. How heartbreaking? It's a heartbreaking piece that the foals were picked up four days prior from the feedlot. We could have picked up more. How do you choose? It's that same thing: I've always questioned whether or not I could go to a nurse foal facility without getting too angry about the situation. Well equally as much here. I can't go to the feedlot. How do you decide? It's that "Sophie's Choice" of the movie: how do you say he comes, and she stays? I just can't do that, so this is why the team works for me.

I didn't know if it was a one-off [clinic], I didn't know if Friends of Horses was a one-off, and I wouldn't go back, or if we could even align, or how it would work. But sometimes it's about showing them the way, because the foal gentling would be very different, basically. Bill Stiffler [of Friends of Horses Rescue and Adoption, www.fohrescue.com, where the clinic was held] would tell me, "I'd like to get a halter on them in an hour." So it's a very different style. We're leading by example, coming in there taking care of nutrition and feet and laser, and taking care of the whole foal. And taking it slowly so that they're willing, and you're not forcing it on them, or trying to teach them something they really cannot comprehend and they do it wrong, wrong, wrong, until they do it right. That's not what we're doing. We go slow, but fast. We go gentle. We're leading by example, by going there.

Bill asked, "How many foal courses do you want here per year?" My answer? I can only fill the one. At this time, I can only fill one. Maybe in time I could do back-to-back foal courses. If we had 50 people wanting to sign up, maybe that could happen, I don't know. But either way, maybe it grows; maybe some of them will be at my own facility in time. Maybe, my dream and my hope and my time permitting, we'll set up a little non-profit for educational purposes

here [at Reach Out Ranch]. That would mean we could adopt the foals and keep them here until they find their homes. So there's many ideas, many things moving forward, but that's the feedlot foals: all walks of life, unknown breeds, unknown ages, and unknown sickness. You walk into the unknown with them, more than anything else, any other situation I've ever been in.



Hermes, Vin and Aria out for a walk.

VEN: It sounds like they're hard to acclimate, even more than the nurse mare foals.

Twinney: You know, I'd say different. The nurse mare foals you could compare to a point to the Premarins, some would be very gentle, some would be sick, some would be fearful and skittish. And this was no different. We had little Fawn who was very gentle, we had Dakota and Phoenix with the glazed eyes, we had Major all spooky. Hermes was supposed to be spooky, but I think he got sick there, and when he got sick either he got gentled-down or he's still not a hundred percent now. He was packing his food, and that meant that we could see a big lump on the side of his face. And I got the dentist in as soon as he got home here; I got a natural dentist in. Usually you don't check foals' teeth, because their jaw is so small and many other reasons. It's on You Tube, [on the Reach Out to Horses channel, watch "Hermes' first trip to the dentist," "Bill Pelkey on acupressure points," and other videos under Foal Gentling at www.youtube.com] with several other clips available from the clinic thereafter.

[https://www.youtube.com/user/ReachOutToHorses/videos?sort=dd&view=0&shelf_id=1] Dr. Sydney Burt came out and checked him, and she said his head's so small he's got to put the food somewhere. So does that mean he's a pony and we don't know it? Does it mean he was just bloody small and he was just a few weeks old? We don't know, but we think he was under six weeks old. She did one minor adjustment to his

teeth, and he never packed his food after that. So we know his teeth are fine; we know it's not his teeth causing him not to put on weight. We did deworm him officially at the clinic; we've naturally dewormed him since. Now the time has come in the next week or two that we're going to have a vet out and have his blood checked, just see if there's something we're missing, because when you say "rehab," what are we doing here? You're right in that sense of who knows who survives and who doesn't, as with Dakota and Phoenix [see March 2015 issue for photos and more info about Dakota and Phoenix, two tribal foals (reservation horses) where it was known that their mothers had body scores one or two and were shipped to slaughter. These two foals arrived at the clinic

with body scores of two]. They were hard to rehab, because they were traumatized in another way, right? But we don't even know the trauma.

With the nurse foals, you can go, OK, mum was ripped away, there's your trauma. We don't know with these tribal horses. What was the trauma? Were you abused? Were you starved? Obviously you were starved. Your mum got ripped from you, how did you take that? The same for Hermes: he

Continued on page 11

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Reader's Letters

Dear Editor,

I have thoroughly enjoyed "The Valley Equestrian News" articles written by author Janice Ladendorf. Ms. Ladendorf's article explaining equine behavior was interesting and relevant to me. I have a medical background and found the anatomical comparison of the equine brain to the human brain fascinating. The author uses the structure of the horse's brain as well as her training techniques of kindness and gentleness in her approach in the emotional development and training of young horses.

Ms. Ladendorf is currently writing a series of articles titled, "The Invisible Vaqueros." Each month I look forward to seeing what the "Vaqueros" are up to now. My husband's family has a ranch in Montana that still has cattle and even a few cowboys. The next time I'm in Montana I'll be sharing these articles with the modern day "Vaqueros"! The illustrations by Jo Mora are a special addition to the articles and further help to tell the story.

Even though my experience with horses is limited, I find "The Valley Equestrian News" to be both educational as well as entertaining. It has made me look at and think about horses in a whole new way.

Thank you,

Susan Bryan, Eagan, Minn.



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Feedlot Foals: It Takes A Village

Continued from page 5

got just so gentle because he doesn't see any value in people? Is that what it is? That his life was turned upside down and he's just allowing it to happen to him, that he's not engaging? Vin does amazing. He spends an hour and a half cleaning stalls and feeding them and watering, everyday: one and half hours out there with the two foals. We don't want to over handle them, so we don't work with them, we take care of them. We want them to be foals. That means they have two and a half acres, and when the big horses come around, they clack to them every time. They can't go out with the big horses, just in case they get injured. They can't be out 24/7, because of coyotes, so they have to be in at night, so their lives are saved. So there's a lot of management around these two foals.

With that, yes, you're not just rehabbing physical, you're rehabbing mental and emotional; and that's what we did on the course, we did acupressure points for physical as well as emotional, mental. We did the Release™ spray [a Dynamite® Specialty product], which was the mental, emotional and physical, and we did Reiki. You'll see students [in the YouTube videos] doing Reiki on these horses; they're not doing Reiki on Hermes, we still offer it. There's this thing of you can certainly offer, but they have to come around in their own time, they have to choose if the eyes are going to sparkle. We can help, we can suggest, we can support. We can't make them, we can't force them. It has to be in their own time.

VEN: So the foals go through a fair amount of soul damage? And there's maybe some "failure to thrive" that sets in after all those multiple traumas?

Twinney: I think that too, Kari. I see photos of Sasha [another foal at the clinic] and Christina [his adopter], and he looks chunky and happy. I saw photos of Orion [also from the clinic] and he was rearing. Hermes doesn't do any of that. The thing is, you get the foal that needs to be in your care. Orion had major skin issues, so Clea [his adopter] was taking care of that. And this is the other thing; Clea took him with the issues. Everybody took these foals with issues. They all took them knowing they needed special attention, special care, special feed. Everybody took them; knowing this just wasn't just having a mustang foal that you could turn out and go, "See you in a year." No, these guys needed attention twice a day, and everybody did it. It's huge.

VEN: So going forward, it doesn't sound like people going to feedlots and adopting foals will be just a run of the mill kind of thing that you could recommend for just everyone. It seems that awareness is one part of the solu-

Continued on page 13

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FRIDAY APRIL 24 8:30AM-9:30PM

8:35 Cutting Horse Demo	Coliseum
9:00 St. Paul Mounted Police	AgStar Arena
9:45 Craig Cameron	Coliseum
10:00 Clicker Training in Action	AgStar Arena
10:00 Polo Basics Explained	DNR South
10:00 Draft Harnessing	Round Pen
10:55 Pat Parelli	Coliseum
11:00 Movement/Fitness Exercises	AgStar Arena
11:00 Equine Emergencies	DNR South
11:00 Wonderful Donkeys/Mules	Round Pen
11:00 Equine Chiropractic	DNR East
12:00 Parade of Breeds	Coliseum
12:00 Creating a Willing Partner	AgStar Arena
12:00 Rehabilitation Using Horses	DNR South
12:00 Trimming Demo	Round Pen
1:00 MN vs. WI Polo Match!	Coliseum
1:00 Q & A with Craig Cameron	DNR South
1:00 Body Condition Scoring	Round Pen
1:00 Producing Balanced Hooves	DNR East
1:30 Draft Teams & Equipment	AgStar Arena
2:00 Pat Parelli	Coliseum
2:00 Is Your Horse Overweight?	DNR South
2:00 Equine Dentistry Principles	DNR East
3:00 Establishing a Pasture	DNR South
3:00 "Being" with your Horse	Round Pen
3:00 Common Hoof Ailments	DNR East
3:15 Breed Demonstrations	Coliseum
3:30 Craig Cameron	AgStar Arena
4:00 Discover Positive Reinforcement	DNR South
4:00 Equine Chiropractic Adjustments	Round Pen
5:00 Surviving as a Stable Owner	DNR East
5:00 Supremely Supple Horses	AgStar Arena
5:00 Essential Oils	DNR South
6:00 Stallion Presentations	AgStar Arena
6:30-10:30 Dirt Road Dixie Band	Near Coasters
7:00 PRCA Rodeo	Coliseum

SATURDAY APRIL 25 8:30AM-9:30PM

8:35 Cutting Horse Demo	Coliseum
9:00 St. Paul Mounted Police	AgStar Arena
9:30 Well Balanced Horse	AgStar Arena
9:45 Mounted Shooting	Coliseum
10:00 Polo Basics Explained	DNR South
10:00 Draft Harnessing	Round Pen
10:00 Surviving as a Stable Owner	DNR East
10:30 Craig Cameron	AgStar Arena
10:55 Pat Parelli	Coliseum
11:00 Rehabilitation Using Horses	DNR South
11:30 Western Dressage	AgStar Arena
12:00 Parade of Breeds	Coliseum
12:00 Estimating Bodyweight	DNR South
12:00 Producing Balanced Hooves	DNR East
12:00 Equine Chiropractic Adjustments	Round Pen
12:30 Effortless Transitions	AgStar Arena
1:00 MN vs. WI Polo Match!	Coliseum
1:00 Q & A with Craig Cameron	DNR South
1:00 Body Condition Scoring	Round Pen
1:30 Draft Teams & Equipment	AgStar Arena
2:00 Pat Parelli	Coliseum
2:00 Essential Oils	DNR South
2:00 Nokota Horse History	DNR East
3:00 Establishing a Horse Pasture	DNR South
3:00 "Being" with your Horse	Round Pen
3:00 Common Hoof Ailments	DNR East
3:15 Breed Demonstrations	Coliseum
3:30 Craig Cameron	AgStar Arena
4:00 Why Your Horse Does ...	DNR South
4:00 Trimming Demo	Round Pen
4:00 Equine Chiropractic	DNR East
5:00 Schooling vs. Conditioning	AgStar Arena
5:00 Grant & Scholarship Info	DNR East
6:00 Stallion Presentations	AgStar Arena
6:30-10:30 Dirt Road Dixie Band	Near Coasters
7:00 PRCA Rodeo	Coliseum

SUNDAY APRIL 26 8:30AM-5:00PM

8:35-9:45 Cowboy Church	Coliseum
9:30 Stallion Presentations	AgStar Arena
10:00 Mounted Shooting	Coliseum
10:00 Equine Dentistry Principles	DNR South
10:00 St. Paul Mounted Police	Round Pen
10:00 Nokota Horse History	DNR East
11:00 Craig Cameron	Coliseum
11:00 Teach Enjoying Not Tolerating	AgStar Arena
11:00 Polo Basics Explained	DNR South
11:00 Body Condition Scoring	Round Pen
11:00 Surviving as a Stable Owner	DNR East
12:00 Parade of Breeds	Coliseum
12:00 Conditioning During Downtime	AgStar Arena
12:00 Essential Oils for Horse/Human	DNR South
12:00 "Being" with your Horse	Round Pen
1:00 Cutting Horse Demo	Coliseum
1:00 Free Jumping to Build Confidence	AgStar Arena
1:00 Feeding Horses - Keep it Simple	DNR South
1:00 Maintaining Balanced Hooves	DNR East
2:00 Craig Cameron	AgStar Arena
2:00 Rehabilitation Using Horses	DNR South
2:00 Trimming Demo	Round Pen
3:00 PRCA Rodeo	Coliseum
3:00 Cross Training for Dressage	AgStar Arena
3:00 Changing Face of Horse Training	DNR South
3:00 Equine Chiropractic Adjustments	Round Pen
4:00 Parade of Expo Horses down Judson Avenue	

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Anna Twinney on Feedlot Foals: It Takes A Village

tion, and not letting the foals slip through the cracks.

Twinney: I think the answer lies in the law. I mean, where is the law in this? Just think, at the feedlot, it's allowable to ship a mare and leave the foal to fend for himself without the mother and the milk. That foal's going to die. So where's the law on that? I guess that's what I don't understand. There are laws for every thing. Every thing has a law, right? You can't ship everybody to the feedlot, like somebody that's had drugs, and all that. There are rules in place about who can go to feedlots and who can't. So where's the law protecting the mare and foal, and where's the law protecting the foal? I think the answer lies in the law. And I'm not saying it's not about other areas, where there are the laws for when children are abandoned on doorsteps or given up for adoption. I get it. It's every aspect of life, I get this. But I'm not focusing on cows and babies right now, I'm focusing on foals. That's it. So here's one area that hasn't been addressed. I honestly believe that it's in the law; there needs to be a regulation passed, so that [this sort of thing] doesn't happen.

The Premarin foals have their mares for three to four months. The feedlot foals are worse off. So I don't even want to compare three months, but you end up doing that. We know the breed, we know they come in pretty healthy as a whole, and we know that they're four, five months old, and they've got a good chance of making it. The feedlot foals we know nothing. Nothing. And this is the point: Hermes has cow hocks, he has long toes, he's had the packing of the food, he's skinny, and you look at it and you go, "Where do I start?" Well, I've had a farrier check him, I've had a dentist check him, we had the vet at the rescue check him. A chiropractor friend of mine came out, not to work on him, just to check. Somebody was doing massage to get the touch on him, somebody else was doing Reiki, we got the nutrition. Where do you really start? Do you have a blood test? I have no clue. His feet look like he's a mini, but is he going to be a 16-hand horse? I don't know. And this is the thing with these feedlot foals, you have zero to go on, you're blind-sided;

and you're not on the Premarin foals and nurse mare foals that you've interviewed me on. We had a ton of Appys with the nurse foals, so you know dad was an



Concerned filly gets used to Laurent Nicault at the foal clinic.

Appy; at least you know a bit of background. You know nothing on these guys.

VEN: Yeah. And the behavior's got to be completely different.

Twinney: Yeah, you know what we didn't get? We didn't get the sucking of the sheath and the ears, didn't get that like in the nurse foals. We had ten of different ages, so we didn't have a hierarchy of the herd, because they were, we think, nine months to twelve months, and then maybe four weeks old. So we had them all thrown together, totally like orphan foals. There wasn't the pinpoint behavior of some sucking going on, or the head being buried in the bucket. There was one, bless her, she got defensive and pinned her ears. I have to train my students: You don't reprimand her, she's a baby. She's pinning her ears out of fear, don't scold her for it. That's my attitude. And they've [the students] got to learn that. We've got a great picture of one of them pinning her ears at Laurent [Nicault], and his face is like, "What have I done?" He's looking at me, basically taking it personally, and he hasn't done anything. He's just standing there and she's upset, and she's a baby, so don't reprimand her. And then

Continued from page 11
he has to relearn that to realize she's not a horse, she's a baby. It's no different from your two-year-old at home; you treat them differently than your 14-year-old,

for example. So there was a lot of that on the behavior front. You'll get a good feel for it on those YouTube clips; they're about two, three minutes apiece.

You'll see how little Hermes is on those videos. All things considered, he is growing, and I think he'll shoot up at some point. I was worried about him. Phoenix died, and I'm looking at it to go: Hermes has got to make a decision whether he wants to stay or not. All we can do is the best we can do, and then say, "It's your decision." And he's here, you know, he's here.

VEN: He's giving it a chance anyway.

Twinney: Even flipping the mindset, first it was "What else do we do, what else do we do, what else do we do?" And then you're watching. Everyday, I'm watching him: Does he look OK today? Is his fur shiny? He's not putting on weight, but he's eating, maybe not putting on muscles. Maybe the hocks are getting better. Constantly watching him. But I don't want him to feel that, that all I do is go out and examine him every time I go out, cause then he'd have a complex. This thing of changing the mindset, is to go to "I will do all I can, I will create the

environment, I don't want to get obsessive on it, and I want you to have your own time, I don't want to force you to have a spark of the eye. I want to observe it and be there." And yeah, change that mindset around it all. It's big.

VEN: It is. It's huge, and it's not something everybody's going to think of to allow that space for him to grow into if he chooses. That's what I really like about your work, is that you offer choice, all the time.

Twinney: Last week I went out with them, just to hang with them. I haven't even done that; I've taken care of them, or led them around because I wanted them to see the property. I've done things with them, and this was just not doing anything with them, just hanging, which was really nice. And I will offer the Reiki, and Hermes has started to decline it. He didn't always decline it. The first week we met him he took a ton of it, so he's definitely going through different phases, and right now when I've offered, he's said no.

I'm sort of waiting for him to do another turn around. I think he will. It's helped, because I compare him to Snow [a nurse mare foal, see the Feb. 2015 issue of the VEN at www.theveonline.com for photos and story] a little bit. Snow looked so awful, and Bonnie nursed him back to full health. And I look at Snow, and Hermes was probably his size, and now he's a big bugger. So I still don't know if he's going to be a pony or a 16-hand horse. Don't know that, I can't tell. But I'm just watching him.

The thing with these feedlot foals is exactly this: Nobody knows. Nobody knows. And it doesn't feel like enough people are taking action. And this is a topic. I get all the natural magazines, I get all of that, I notice

things on the radio and on the TV, and stuff like that; I haven't seen anybody talk about feedlot foals. And you have rescues, and the rescues talk about the Premarin and the nurse foals. Nobody's talked about feedlot foals. That doesn't mean it hasn't happened, but I haven't seen anything about feedlot foals. Yours may be the first publication putting something out there, I don't know. Never read it, seen it.

VEN: For me, it's always the question: First there's the awareness, then where do you go with that? If you're just an average horseperson, where do you go with that awareness of these situations? These horses have special requirements, special needs, they require special training. How can you really help on a significant, impactful level?

Twinney: There's a little void, here though with the foals, just the tad of a void. And guess what? So I did my horsemanship webinar last Thursday, sit down

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afterwards with the TV, and there is Premarin®. Premarin® Vaginal Cream. I'd never seen the advert. So here's the key to this: there's still so much more about this that needs to come out, and be that it's targeted at doctors, be it pharmaceutical companies, be it women that take the cream, be it horse lovers. I don't think this is just about horse lovers. And that's the point: You're still getting it out there, through magazines, through

TV, through books, and not giving up. And you know, I did the ["Success Foals in Training™"] DVD and it's still not on TV yet. So hopefully we'll get it on TV and we'll publicize the Premarin piece. So it's still a matter of, of course giving a voice to the voiceless, but ultimately reaching the masses. Hopefully we'll be picking up that one person that has a passion, be it a lawyer or whom-ever, and they're feeling their

humanity, and they pick up that passion, and they go, "I'm going to change the feedlot rules." [Note: "Wild Horse Annie" was a private citizen who got the laws changed in 1971 regarding the protection of wild horses and burros.] Who knows where it will be, be it somebody with money, that they want to back a project, or when we get this educational non-profit set up. I've known that I've wanted to do it for ten years, it's been in the back of my mind, and it's never been the right time, and maybe it's the right time in the next year, and we'll get it set up. It's not a rescue, it's an educational non-profit, and the reason I want that is then I can sponsor some students; the student who's working their backside off and has no money. And I also want to be in a position to take ten foals, and help raise them and find the right homes. I don't have money for ten foals per month—you're looking at tens of thousands of dollars—but if we had an educational non-profit, the students would have the foals to handle, we could sponsor the students, the non-profit will sponsor the foals; it would be a win-win. And where I'm going with it is, maybe there's money in the kitty then to take

this to the government, to say, this needs to be changed.

Remember the story of the starfish? A guy is walking down the beach, only to find thousands of starfish stranded by the tide.



Above: Nico and Major at the foal clinic. Right: Gentle trailering taught at the foal clinic. Photos by Anna Twinney

They're out of water; they're dying. So the guy starts picking up starfish and tossing them back into the deeper water so they can recover and live. Someone else comes along and sees the guy tossing starfish back into the ocean, one by one, and says, "You realize there are thousands; you won't be able to save them all." And the guy putting starfish back into the ocean, one by one, says, "I know; but it matters to this one." And he continues tossing starfish back into the ocean for as long as he's able.

What does this tell us? There are action-takers and there are naysayers. There are those who try, knowing it will never be enough, but try anyway, and there are those who believe it's impossible, so they don't try to save even one; they don't take action. This series of articles about the PMU foals, the nurse mare foals, and now the feedlot foals (see the January, February and March, 2015 issues of "The Valley Equestrian News" at www.theveonline.com), has been for and about the action-takers and the starfish (foals) they are

saving—not trying to save, saving. It may not be many, but it matters to the foals that are saved, and it matters to the lives of those touched by those foals.

We don't live in a perfect world. It is full of heartache and tragedy, but it is also teeming with life and hope. Little things matter. Saving even one life matters to the whole. All life IS connected. Our bodies are made up of the same elements and molecules as is all life around us, only in differ-



ent sequences. All life matters; is sacred, to be treated with reverence and respect. To lose, diminish, desecrate, not value even one life, whether it be a foal's life, or a child's life, or a starfish's life, takes away from the wellbeing of the whole. It becomes a rip in the fabric of life. As Plato said, "The part can never be well unless the whole is well." And I take the opposite to also be true: The whole can never be well unless the part can be well.

There are lives needing to be saved all over the world, all the time. Not all of them can be saved. But some can. Turning away because it is too painful to look at doesn't help. Maybe a less direct approach in your form of help may be the answer. There are different roles for everybody, and all need to be filled.

Denying the reality of the situations doesn't help either. Some may say these tragedies don't exist, but yet there are foals in need of rescue—they are not made up, they are real, and dark places in all areas of life exist. Abuses happen within all industries, the churches, the business world, within government, within families, and within the horse industry. That doesn't make all of the churches bad, or all government bad, or all families bad, or the horse industry bad. But to deny that the dark areas of abuse exist, happen, have an affect on everything around them, is to perpetuate the abuse. Many try to deny that the concentration camps of World War II happened,

where not just Jews, but intellectuals, gays, social misfits and political prisoners were imprisoned, and many were killed. The estimates are for 11 million people killed in the death camps. I know, I've been to Dachau, stood in the barracks, looked at the remains of the ovens, walked the grounds. Bad, unhealthy things exist, and to deny them is to give them free reign, and free rein. To deny the shadow is to let the shadow rule you, and

what you resist, persists.

My hope is to one day see that there are no unwanted horses, no slaughter-bound horses, no abused and neglected horses, that all horses will be valued and valuable for their contributions, for their beingness, not just their utilitarian contributions to our comfort. That they will be valued for, and in and of themselves, as magnificent beings. And we are the lucky ones that get to live alongside them. My hope is that people of all walks of life will choose to lend a helping hand to whatever is before them, to whatever calls to them. In my case, it is horses and animals. Because I must be financially responsible toward the horses who are with me now, and can't afford to adopt a rescued horse or horses at this time, I choose to help by writing about these issues that are often unpleasant to hear about, but that need to be heard. I write to give voice to these often voiceless ones. I write to help create a better future for all of us. How can you help? What is your niche of service?

I don't want to waste my time or energy fighting against what already is entrenched; I want to put my energy into creating something better for the horses, for other animals, and for all of us, so that the whole is well because the parts are well. How you choose to direct your energies is important. Are you going to pick up a starfish—even one—and walk it into the surf? Or are you going to walk on by? How will you choose to act—even a small action—to create better situations for us all? And I'm not recommending pushing into a situation with the kind of good intentions that pave the way to hell. I mean being respectful, and finding out, asking, where the need is. The horses need support; the people helping the horses need support. Horse equipment, feed, hay, shelters, many things can be given, but there is also financial support, time support as in volunteering, and moral support. When was the last time you asked someone: "What is it that you need? What can I do for you?" It may be as small a thing as saying, "Thank you, you've done a great job."

To all the rescues, support staff and personnel, trainers, clinicians, financial supporters of rescues and volunteers, and people who care: Thank you for all you do! Thank you for trying to make the world a better place for all of us.