

# Rescued Treasures: New Life Begins When You Adopt-A-Horse

For more info please contact the  
**Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary**  
520-398-2814 - Green Valley, AZ  
or [info@equinevoices.org](mailto:info@equinevoices.org)

Dakotah, Mustang, Gelding  
Age: 1 year  
Qualities: Cute, Mustang, gelding; has had some ground work, halters, leads.  
Needs: An experienced horse person to further his training.  
Fee: \$750  
Contact: Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary, [info@equinevoices.org](mailto:info@equinevoices.org), 520-398-2814  
Meet: By appointment



Dakotah

For more info please contact the  
**High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue**  
[chart@loretel.net](mailto:chart@loretel.net)  
Ranch: 701-526-3734 • Hawley, Minn.

This is Ladybug. She is a three-year-old Arabian-quarter horse cross mare. She was born and raised at Hightail Ranch and Rescue (her mother arrived pregnant). She is smart and spunky, and although she is halter trained, she will need an experienced horse handler to help her grow up to be a good horse!



Ladybug

For more information contact:  
**Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue**  
PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398  
(763) 856-3119  
[info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org)



Ivan

Ivan is a bay POA-cross yearling gelding who was born in mid-May of 2014. His dam, Sochi, is a 12.3 hands POA (Appaloosa x Shetland) from the 02/2014 Wadena County humane case. Ivan is a very curious and friendly young gelding who is quite athletic. He is learning about haltering, leading, picking up his feet, and all of the other things a yearling needs to know to be a good citizen. Even though we don't know who Ivan's sire is, due to his conformation, size, and athleticism we are guessing he may have been a quarter horse, meaning Ivan may mature around 14 hands or taller. If interested in adopting Ivan, please email us at [info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org) or call (763)356-8119. For a complete list of available horses and to see our adoption guidelines, please visit us at [www.mnhooved-animalrescue.org](http://www.mnhooved-animalrescue.org).

For more information contact:  
**Friends of Horses Rescue**  
(303) 649-1155 • [www.fohrescue.com](http://www.fohrescue.com)

Friends of Horses Rescue has a number of three and four year old off-the-track thoroughbreds. Some have minor lameness, but all should recover with rest. The gray filly is Samara's Squeaky Shoes. She is a three-year-old Kentucky-bred filly with a slap fracture knee. The other two bays are Ladies Luv Outlaws and Resplendant Reign.



Ladies Luv Outlaws



Resplendant Reign



Left: Samara's Squeaky Shoes

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# Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

## Bitless Riding - Part 2

As I said last month, for me, riding bitless is neither right or wrong. It depends on the horse and the type of riding you do. Each type of equipment has advantages. A bit has more communication value, as commands can be more specific. It is important to remember that it is not what you put on the horse's face; it is what you do with that piece of equipment.

I personally think a horse's nose is more sensitive to pressure on the outside than a snaffle bit is in the mouth. I designed a bitless apparatus to start colts because I can pull on it and it does not have the bite of a hackamore. It is designed so that I can get a hold of the horse's nose without it over reacting. I can then do the groundwork needed to teach a horse to give to pressure. The apparatus is not a harsh piece of equipment. The advantage of using a traditional halter is that it is not as harsh as a cowboy or string halter. A cowboy halter is not a harsh piece of equipment if used properly. It is made of one-eighth-inch string and does not have more bite than a leather web halter but it does not have the bite of a hackamore that is nine-sixteenths or five-eighths. Some horses will over react to even that much pressure. I have started many colts with a cowboy halter and have ridden with just the halter the first three or four times as colts are sometimes frightened by something abrasive or something in the mouth.

As I work horses, I like to change from a snaffle to a hackamore as it gets me out of the horse's mouth for a while. I can pull on the face without having to pull on the inside of the

horse's mouth. It gives me an opportunity to get some work done where a snaffle bit would be too harsh. I am talking about taking hold of the nose. Here again, we must be careful because the outside of the mouth and the jaw can be very sensitive



as there is no padding at those spots. Another thing I like about a hackamore is that if I have a horse, like an Arab that can move his parts in six different directions at once, a hackamore can align the horse's body from nose to tail. This is because of the shape of a hackamore. A hackamore is designed so that a horse learns to stay in the middle of the hackamore. I like using a hackamore even with a horse that is normally ridden with a bridle because it gets the horse to stay off the forehead. Some horses learn to lean on the bit but a hackamore teaches the horses to stay off the pressure both laterally and vertically. As a trainer, the hackamore is an excellent tool for me.

Most people are happy if they can walk, trot and canter their horses. Not everyone is an over achiever and expecting more of a horse. If you, for example, are going into reining, you need more control, as the horse needs specific cues. A snaffle permits a more spe-

cific cue. I also use leverage bits and other types of bits for different jobs. The type of equipment to use also depends on the personality of the horse. If your horse is not listening and is laying

bit, the rider may then get a bigger bit with a higher port or maybe add a chain chin strap. It is the rider who needs to change. If the rider does not know how to use the equipment properly or does not understand the concept of pressure and release, the performance will not get any better. The horse will continue to lean on the bit and remain dull or pushy. The change must be in the rider's hands teaching the horse how to yield to the pressure.

As your horsemanship abilities expand, you will recognize that there is more involved than the type of equipment and you will find that it is more what you do with the equipment. Safety is always of primary concern. Just because you put a big, heavy, severe bit

in a horse's mouth, does not mean it is going to be a safe horse. The horse must know how to yield to the piece of equipment. When I get a horse in at the barn to re-school, I lunge the horse and do some in-hand work first to determine where the horse's head is. I want to know what I am getting on before I mount. The horse will tell me what I am dealing with before I get into the saddle. If the horse is not listening to my hands, I am not going to get on until I get the horse to respond to me on the ground. When you get on any horse, there is always a certain amount of risk. Even the most calm horse may act up when taken out of a closed environment, like an arena, and into open space. The horse is out of his comfort zone and he will act a little differently. When I start a colt in the round pen and I can't

get the colt to go forward, I take the colt to the big arena because the space creates movement. No matter if you are starting a colt, re-schooling a horse or riding your own horse, you have to know that the horse will accept and yield to your hands. Then, eventually, the horse will yield to your seat and legs.

Articles about the benefits of going bitless are interesting but we must use what works for the horse. It means educating the horse and the owner but it does not happen over night. The more you ride, the more you get in touch with the feel of the horse. Any horse can be taught to yield to any type of equipment. It doesn't matter what piece of equipment you put in the mouth or over the nose, it is what you do with that piece of equipment that is important.

Charles Wilhelm

Ultimate Super Horse Clinic

Reed Valley Ranch  
Hemet, California

October 17-18, 2015



Ultimate Super Horse Challenge



Watch Charles on HRTV

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[www.CharlesWilhelm.com](http://www.CharlesWilhelm.com)