The Society Pages



A nonprofit organization founded in 1872



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Help, Healing, Hope

The Society is in the business of helping horses recover from the effects of abuse and neglect. It provides all that is necessary to restore the health of the horses, to renew their will to live, and gives hope of productive, peaceful lives. The skills of the Society's staff and volunteers, together with medical professionals and trainers help heal the physical and emotional wounds of those who have suffered. It just so



Facing the future beyond the obstacles

happens that the same rehabilitative process may positively impact incarcerated women from the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center (SMWRC).

The SMWRC is designed to give incarcerated women the skills and experience they need to live as positive, responsible citizens and employees after they transition from state correctional facilities into their home communities. Skills developed both in the reentry program and marketable job skills gained at MSSPA may make long term successful reintegration more likely. The MSSPA collaborates with the Maine Correctional Center for the benefit of the horses and the humans. The outcomes are remarkable.

Each day women from the Reentry Center volunteer at the River Road farm, giving back to the community. Many of the women intuitively understand the parallel process of healing themselves while helping to heal the once-damaged horses through caring. The message that one's past does not have to define the future is evident to all. One



Former resident at SMWRC, now a Society employee grooms a rehabilitated horse.

young inmate began volunteering in late 2016. Her kindness and work ethic brought her a job offer from MSSPA while she was still incarcerated - a first in the history of the programs. Today that same young woman has been released from incarceration, is still working at the farm, and shows promise of a future bright with potential for fulfillment.

At the Society, horses help heal us as we help them to a new and better life.



E is for Eventful

Christmas Open House for the Horses Sunday, December 3 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rain Date: Sunday, December 10

A quintessential Maine holiday event!





Visit the MSSPA farm at 279 River Road in Windham, open daily from 1-4pm!



Success!

2017 was a record year for the MSSPA Buy-A-Bale Campaign.

Thanks to 1,051 generous donors, the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals surpassed its 2017 Buy-A-Bale goal, raising a grand total of \$105,131!



Marilyn L. Goodreau Retires from MSSPA

The Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals would not be where it is today without the leadership and devotion of Marilyn L. Goodreau.

Beginning in 1974, MSSPA President Lawrence J. Keddy and Marilyn artfully guided the Society forward, holding steadfast to the mission of ending



Marilyn and her beloved Tootsie

animal neglect and abuse. Under Marilyn's direction, countless animals, both small and large, have found salvation at the 279 River Road farm.

Until this year, Marilyn reported daily to the farm, supporting staff and animals alike. Despite her small stature, she was able to keep up with even the hardiest farm hand. Life on the farm is taxing and Marilyn has earned the right to yield daily operations to the competent staff of MSSPA.

To mark the momentous accomplishments of Marilyn L. Goodreau, the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animal's Board of Directors gathered on June 21, 2017 for a surprise celebration. Meris J. Bickford, CEO, opened with remarks about Marilyn's tireless dedication to the organization. Long-time friend and Society attorney Harold Pachios, Esq. of Preti Flaherty continued the accolades by presenting Marilyn with a Lifetime Achievement award and lovely engraved plaque. Finally, on behalf of the organization, board member Sonya Nadeau gave Marilyn a sterling silver brooch in the shape of the Society's logo. The piece was created by local craftsmen at Windham Jewelers, who donated a portion of their work, in honor of the occasion.

Marilyn was also honored with a legislative s e n t i m e n t r e c o g n i z i n g her 45 years of selfless work.

C h a i r w o m a n Emeritus Marilyn was humbled by the praise received from those present.



Representatives Patrick Corey & Mark Bryant w/ Marilyn and Senator Bill Diamond

A is for Adoption



The Little Women

On a sunny Saturday in July, the MSSPA welcomed the "Little Women," the most adorable herd of miniature donkeys in the Society's 146 year history. The Little Women arrived and immediately began receiving necessary rehabilitative services. Like many women, their personal histories are a bit mysterious, however, their charm is undeniable.



Two of the girls enjoying their time outside at the Society

It should come as no surprise that this herd of cuteness quickly attracted the attention of supporters and media alike. Since their arrival, there has been a steady stream of visitors. The Little Women and staff were interviewed by local NBC, CBS and ABC stations, as well as various print and online media outlets.

The adoption applications for the Little Women have poured in and no additional applications for them are being accepted currently. In general, the first step of the adoption process is to complete a preliminary adoption application, which is available on the website, from a barn staff member, or one can be mailed to you by contacting the office at 207-892-3040. While Barn Manager Jeff Greenleaf and the veterinarian work towards obtaining optimal health for the Little Women, the adoption committee is reviewing applications, which includes site visits to potential homes, reference checks, and an invitation to visit the animal(s) at the Society.

Follow these delightful ladies and their recoveries at New England's premier horse shelter via Facebook or visit them in person at the MSSPA's 279 River Road, Windham farm. The farm is open to the public each day from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.







Featured Horses Available for Adoption

Penny, top (M/3yo) and Marley, bottom (G/3yo) Complete listing at MSSPA.org



Nearly All of the Neglected Nine Successfully Adopted -Starring Jenko



Jenko arrived the summer of 2016 as one of the Neglected Nine. The emaciated horses were removed from their neglectful owner by Maine law enforcement agents and placed at the MSSPA.

Jenko, received training at Photo Finish Farm in Buxton. In May, 2017, Jenko found his match in adopter Patricia V. who placed 3rd and 4th in a Dressage training level test.

Always Moving Forward

The Society is entirely funded by donations, bequests, grants, and fund-raising activities. It receives no state or government funding. The Society does not charge for its services. It provides more than one million dollars in work annually to Maine taxpayers and salvation to abused animals.

Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals P.O. Box 10 South Windham, ME 04082-0010 207-892-3040

Take A Walk!

Have you ever wanted a personal tour of the farm? You're in luck! Introducing the Society Self-Guided Walking Tour. Available on our website as well as in the Welcome Center, this tour takes you around the property, highlighting information and little known facts. You can now



also learn about each horse through their stall information sheets.

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Jessica Braun joined the MSSPA as Development Associate in May. Jessica brings a wealth of nonprofit experience to the organization as well as a law degree.

Maiti Kent joined the MSSPA as the Volunteer Coordinator in July. Her work as a youth and family counselor will serve her well facilitating volunteers from the community.



Mitchell Scholars Joey Buzzell and Haley DeGraca



Mitchell Scholars Intern at the Society

It was a summer of firsts for both the MSSPA and the 2017 Mitchell Scholars interns. Joey Buzzell and Haley DaGraca were the farm-shelter's inaugural summer interns. During their ten weeks, they had the opportunity to further their skills and learn more about their chosen career path - veterinary medicine.

The George J. Mitchell Scholarship internship was capped off with a summer BBQ hosted at the River Road farm. Attendees included members of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and representatives from the community partners, including the ARL, Maine Community Foundation, and the internship mentors.

