

June
2020

The Society Pages

Maine State Society for the
Protection of Animals

MSSPA

*A nonprofit organization
founded in 1872*



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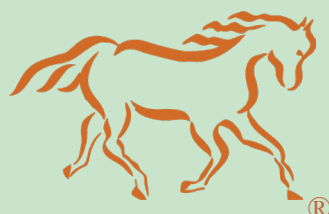
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20/20 Vision: YOU

It is often said that hindsight is 20/20. This year, the Society is embracing the notion that looking back and seeing clearly is very helpful, particularly when planning for the future. Here at New England's premier horse shelter, we are doing just that. Reviewing some past successes such as the story of Buck who, after surviving unspeakable cruelty, was rehabilitated here. He went on to find his place in the world with his loving family at a local horse farm. We celebrate MSSPA's other programs, the Feed and Care Bank and Maine Horse Matchmaker, and think about the many horses who might have gone hungry or sick without those programs to help. These successes occurred, in large measure, thanks to you.

You who volunteer with mucking and bucket washing, you who open your barns for adopting or fostering MSSPA horses, you who give your time with office work or guiding visitors, you who give each month, who ask your family and friends to support the horses, you who send such gifts as we don't even dare to dream about - your generosity and kindness are the foundation for every success. For each horse rescued from neglect, cared for here, lovingly adopted, you deserve the recognition and gratitude. Thank you.



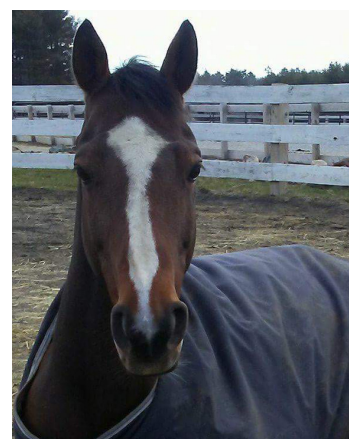
Meris J. Bickford, CEO



**Pedro, a Feed and Care
Bank Recipient**



Buck makes a new friend



**Bramble, rehomed
through Matchmaker**

We aren't just looking behind, resting on the laurels of our accomplishments. The MSSPA is developing its next strategic plan, envisioning a future that is thoughtfully informed by the past. The future shaped with your help will better serve horses who have partnered with humankind throughout history. Please, as the pandemic passes and it is again safe to be together, visit the horses your support has saved. Until then, visit online at our website, Facebook, and Instagram. Be part of the planning process and share your thoughts about how we can work together to create the quality of life that each life deserves.

Meris J. Bickford

Please respond to the enclosed survey; your feedback matters!

Buck's Second Chance



Horses with Hope founder,
Tannetta van Vlissingen

Located in Hope, Maine, Horses with Hope is a privately-funded organization that offers a comprehensive evaluation and retraining program for rescued equines. In 2019, HWH provided more than \$24,000 in training services to MSSPA horses at no cost to the Society.

When Buck and Scotch were first unloaded at River Road Farm, some of the staff and volunteers looking on cried. The horses' appearance was shocking. Scotch, still a lovely girl despite her cruel mistreatment, required daily visits from the veterinarian and nearly constant attention from staff. Ultimately, when her condition plateaued, leaving her permanently in pain and distress without hope of recovery, there was no humane course other than euthanization. For Buck, the buckskin stallion, there were many challenges as well. Separation from and the eventual loss of Scotch created enormous stress for him. Due to his age and poor condition, the gelding process required hospitalization. Buck began life again as a gelding at age 12.

Visit msspa.org/buck to read the whole story of Buck and Scotch, including the critical training services provided by Horses with Hope. No easy access to the internet? Please call the Society and we will gladly mail you a paper copy of the full story posted on the website.



Scotch upon arrival to MSSPA



Buck soon after arrival



Buck at his new home

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Gifts



Elizabeth B. Simpson

The richness of Beth Simpson's life was reflected in her relationships and family, love of learning, and a deep connection with the natural world. A frequent supporter of the horses at MSSPA, Beth also generously provided for their lives beyond the days of her own.



Hermann Sprenger

He was a working man with a love of working horses, all horses. Although Hermann remained close with his family, his worldly assets were set apart for the care of those who remained behind when he died, those he loved – horses.

There comes a time when people no longer need their worldly assets. Each of us has the power to decide what will happen to ours when that time arrives. The Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals has long been blessed with final gifts made by ordinary-seeming women and men. These individuals, like Elizabeth Bedkar Simpson and Hermann Sprenger, possess extraordinary compassion. They aim for a world where all living creatures receive necessary sustenance and care. They are not philanthropists on the scale of Rockefeller or Carnegie, but hardworking people with deep resources of kindness and generosity. It is the collective gifts of everyday people that sustain the lives of animals in the shelter, giving them help, hope, and home.

Just as we treasure each life at the Society's shelter, we also appreciate and safeguard the gifts given for the care of the animals. A legacy need not be large to be long lasting and impactful. It simply needs to be made in advance of death. We welcome your questions and invite you to join the Society's Help, Hope, Home Legacy Circle. It is a community of everyday people who make each day count and take comfort in knowing they have insured that the animals here will always receive what they need. Every gift is gratefully received and is used to save the lives of those we all love, the horses rescued from abuse.

To learn more and join the Help, Hope, Home Legacy Circle, call the Society or visit msspa.org/gift-planning.



Adopters and Donors, Volunteers and Visitors, Officials,
Supporters, Facebook Friends and Instagram Followers,
Staff and Vendors

New Friends, Old Friends, Always Friends
It simply could not be done without YOU!

Pandemic Response



Amanda Woolford, Maine DOC

Director of Women's Services

During the pandemic, MSSPA has sent regular updates to the volunteers across the street at SMWRC and received a lovely card in return. Thanks to Amanda and everyone at the Department of Corrections for their continued support of this important program.

In recognition of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals joins with all of you in mourning the loss of so much. In March, when concerns for your safety and our own caused the closing of the shelter to all but essential animal care workers, there were many profound changes in operations here. However, there was no change in the horses' reliance on you, our devoted volunteers, generous donors, and equine-loving visitors. Weekly virtual shelter updates, personal phone calls, Zoom equine book club gatherings, and social media kept us together despite our physical distance. In the better days ahead, when it is safe to do so, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to River Road Farm.

Stay tuned . . .

Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals

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04082-0010

MSSPA Strategic Plan



The MSSPA has begun the process of strategic planning and will spend the coming eight months crafting a plan that will shape and secure the continued operation of New England's premier shelter for horses over the next several years. You know that success = opportunity met with preparation, so MSSPA is getting ready for even more successful rescues, rehabilitations, and rehomings. The strategic planning process is very inclusive, and we will be asking for your input along the way. Keep an eye out for a widespread survey (separate from the three question survey enclosed here) that will be circulated in September; we hope you will take the time to complete this survey and share your insights for the future of the MSSPA!

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