

October 2021

Dear Friends,

Just when we thought 2020 was the most challenging of years for this 149-year-old nonprofit organization, along came 2021 with its continued pandemic surges, chaotic, extreme weather events, and one of the largest seizures of neglected horses in Maine history.

In response to a request from Maine law enforcement officials, MSSPA volunteers and staff coordinated the July seizure and rescue of 20 badly neglected horses – ranging from a five-month-old feral Mustang filly to an emaciated gelding in his late 20s – from a single farm in York County. All of the horses were hungry and dehydrated. All needed veterinary attention, dental and hoof care. An incredible response from our community has allowed MSSPA to provide this herd with:

- 40+ veterinarian visits
- 153 farrier visits
- 17 routine dental visits
- 20 lice treatment dustings
- 60 doses of dewormer administered
- 40 rounds of vaccinations delivered

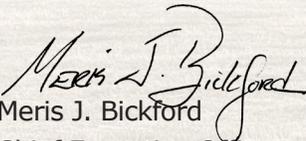
Sadly, so far, three of the horses in the Neglected 20 have been euthanized. For them, rescue came too late. Our only joy was in giving them the loving care and comfort they deserved at the end of their lives.

Although the shelter represents a peaceful, painless end for some horses, for so many more it means a new and better beginning. It means the opportunity for a full life of good care and skilled handling. Because you support the Society's work, those promises are made – and kept – for every horse received here at MSSPA. Please enjoy our special 2021 Rescue Yearbook and learn more about some of the Neglected 20 horses your generosity and kindness have helped.

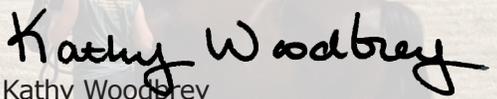
2022 marks MSSPA's 150th birthday, and we invite you to celebrate a sesquicentennial of rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of abused, neglected Maine animals. Your gifts are needed now to ensure that this nonprofit shelter will be here as long as Maine horses need a life-saving refuge. Every gift makes a genuine difference for the horses. Thank you for all your gifts that give good health and hope to Society horses.

Visit msspa.org, and make a reservation to come to River Road Farm for an up-close experience with the horses! Please, stay safe and be well.

Cordially,


Meris J. Bickford
Chief Executive Officer

Very truly yours,


Kathy Woodbrey
Assistant Chief Executive Officer

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RESCUE YEARBOOK 2021



Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals

1872 - 2021 • 149 Years of Humane Service to Maine

We Are the Victims of Neglect



We are the Neglected 20 and this is our story

In July, twenty of us, from a group of drafts to a group of mostly unhandled Mustangs, arrived at the MSSPA shelter in one day. All of us were in urgent need of care. We had not been given enough to eat, had received no veterinary or farrier attention, and were not trained or handled where we came from. Some of us had extensive medical needs, from lice infestation and open wounds to neurological problems. Almost all of us were underweight, some of our herd as much as 100-200 pounds. Since arriving at the Society, we've met lots of new humans. Veterinarians have treated us. Farriers have cared for our hooves. We have piles of hay every day. And we are receiving handling and training and learning to trust. We are grateful to finally be receiving the care and love we need and deserve.

"MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED"

My name is Izzy and I'm a young filly. I was less than 6 months old when I arrived and, like my dam Phoebe, was suspicious of human contact. We were afraid of being caught and handled to get the treatment we needed. It took a lot of patience for the MSSPA staff to halter Phoebe, a Mustang mare, for the first time. As I watched her be brave, my natural curiosity and playfulness have come out more and more. Now I like to leave the rest of my herd to investigate the humans outside of my paddock. I also love scratches on my neck and shoulders. My mom and I don't know exactly what our futures will hold, but everything looks much brighter now that we're being taken care of and getting ready to find new homes!



I'm Tripp, a draft gelding. I was scared of humans and made myself hard to catch at first. I had pretty bad hooves, but they are being taken care of and I'm feeling better. I'm still scared, but as I get more comfortable, I'm starting to open up.



I'm Moose, a 7 year old gelding. When I arrived, I was 100 pounds underweight, with severely overgrown and cracked hooves, retained teeth, and a chronic forehead wound. At first, I avoided contact with humans as much as I could. But now that I'm recovering, I welcome human contact and like to come right up to the paddock fence for attention! I'm still quieter than some of my friends, but that might be because I'm still recovering. I'm happy for the love and care I get at MSSPA!



I'm Rocky, a saddle horse who's had some training, but I'm still pretty green. I'm learning more every day. My hooves were long and uncomfortable when I arrived, but now that they've been trimmed, I'm enjoying my training. I hope to have fun riding with my own human before long!

A Rescue Yearbook



I'm Duke, and I ended up with the Mustangs because I was frightened of humans and couldn't be handled. Since I arrived, everything has gotten better. I love my new human friends and go right up to the fence to say hi. I've even started saddle training!



My name's Old Silver, and for over 20 years I was a free-roaming Mustang. Like my Mustang friends, I was infested with lice and nearly my entire tail was one matted snarl when I came to MSSPA. Now all of that has been fixed, and I'm happy to finally have plenty to eat and to meet humans with gentle hands.



I'm Delilah, and I think I'm a draft even though I'm actually a Thoroughbred. I arrived underweight and covered with lice, but now that I feel better, I love spending time with my draft friends. I'm sweet and outgoing and look forward to regaining my full health.



My name's Otis. I was afraid to make a mistake under saddle. I've been working on the ground and with a more experienced saddle horse, and I'm getting much more confident! I look forward to more training and a great life.



"THE BIG KIDS' TABLE"

My name is Oscar (in the teal halter), and these are my fellow draft friends Lola, Loretta, and Zeus. Lola is an older mare who was severely underweight upon arrival. Even with months of refeeding, she's still too skinny because older and bigger horses take much longer to gain weight and get healthy after being neglected. Loretta arrived with dermatitis made worse by a lice infestation. More challenging were her cracked, dinner plate-sized hooves. Because of his coloring, Zeus is called a blue roan. He arrived underweight, with terrible hooves, and blind in one eye. I'm a Belgian colt and was 50 pounds underweight, which at my young age can cause lasting damage. I love to be sandwiched between my fellow drafts at the hay pile. With plenty of food, love, and care, we're all on our way to health and happiness.



I'm Kate, the dam of Sadie. I'm a pinto who was almost fully saddle trained when I came to MSSPA. I'm continuing my training with the professional trainers and staff and look forward to spending a lot more time under saddle. I think MSSPA will find me a new home soon!



I'm a 2-year-old pinto filly named Sadie, and my dam is Kate. I'm curious, interested, and want to be involved with humans and other horses as much as I can! I can't wait until I've received enough training to find a home of my own.



I'm Odin, a cremello gelding. I'm friendly and would love to meet you at the farm! Don't let my outgoing personality make you think I've always been well taken care of; I came to MSSPA underweight and badly needing teeth and hoof work.



I'm Annie, a BLM Mustang with no previous human handling. I was the last holdout of all 20 horses to be handled. It's slow progress, but I'm getting comfortable with a halter, fly mask, leadline, and even a few neck scratches!

IN MEMORIAM



Diego



Flaco

It is always a sad day when a horse is euthanized. It was especially hard when three of the Neglected 20 horses were euthanized only a few weeks after arriving at MSSPA.

Young, dark bay gelding Diego arrived nearly 150 pounds underweight. A lack of necessary veterinary treatment had also resulted in painful physical wounds and a neurological condition that crippled the five year old.

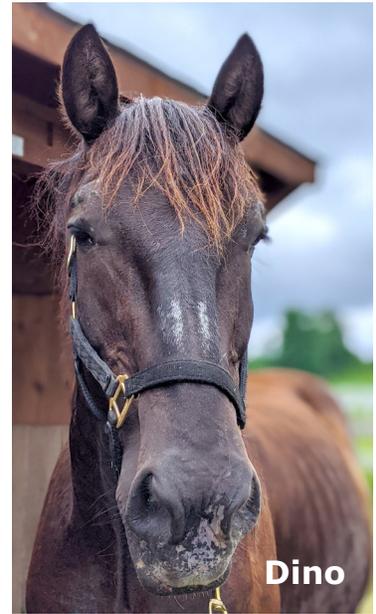
In his late 20s and nearly 200 pounds underweight on arrival, Flaco's strong spirit was not enough to overcome the extreme neglect he had suffered. One day, the emaciated bay gelding went down for a second time in less than a week and couldn't get back up.

Older draft Dino had an untreated neurological condition that hindered his ability to move and get up and down. He got to the point

where he would no longer leave his shed even to get grain.

Rather than asking Diego, Flaco, and Dino to continue to suffer with little hope of improvement, an ethical decision was made to humanely euthanize them. They serve as a reminder that owning animals means taking responsibility for their lives and their welfare. It means providing food, water, and shelter, along with necessary medical care. Horses need more than just food and water to live lives worth living.

We are glad that Diego, Flaco, and Dino made it to MSSPA. Had they not, we're unsure if they would have been given the peaceful and painless end of humane euthanasia delivered by gentle, caring hands. After lives full of pain and neglect, that is the very least they deserved.



Dino

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED

I'm Tony and I narrowly escaped becoming part of the Neglected 20 herd when I got loose from my handlers at the beginning of the year. With a 6-month head start on the big group, I was once skittish and shy but have transformed into a confident, fun-loving, and affectionate friend to my new adopter Tina. I'm so happy to have found a home and new confidence. Thanks for helping horses like me get healthy and find loving homes!



A HAPPY UPDATE

My name is Dexter. You might remember my story from last year. It makes me happy to think about my time at MSSPA and all the friends I met there. But I'm even more overjoyed to have found a home of my own with my new adopters Phyllis and Rob! Thanks for supporting me and the other horses at the Society with your kind gifts. It makes a difference in rehabilitating horses like me!



**MAINE STATE SOCIETY
FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANIMALS**

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Our Impact Together

So far in 2021...



143 HORSES IMPACTED

70 horses received rehabilitation services or were maintained (31 intakes from law enforcement)

8 equines in foster care

41 horses were listed on Maine Horse Matchmaker

24 horses were provided with emergency support from the Society's Feed & Care Bank

19 HORSES ADOPTED OUT

MSSPA horses Sarah, Daphne, Caspian, Rita, Jenko, Romeo, Dexter, Jackie, Dusty, Buddy, Pippin, Jazzy, Pearl, Apollo, Tony, Willow, Loretta, Duke, and Amir went to their new homes.



\$520,784+ RAISED

Over \$346,784 in individual donations which includes MSSPA's annual Buy-A-Bale campaign, and more than \$174,000 in grant funding.

Over \$36,000 in goods and services were donated to MSSPA as well.

1,283+ PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

More than 1,129 visitors have participated in 316 Picnics with Ponies.

Those thankful to have the opportunity to visit with the horses gifted the program with over \$8,452 in donations.

Youth programs have impacted over 250 students, including 20+ field trips to the farm.



4,668+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

Includes hours by residents from the Southern Maine Women's Re-entry Center, individual community volunteers, and school, corporate, and civic groups.

Supporters like you make MSSPA's life-saving work possible. Thank you.

