



STUART PALLEY

spend time with these animals.

My horses saw me through good times and bad. A traumatic marriage and bitter subsequent divorce. The loss of my father through a tragic illness. My own physically limiting illness. My keen interest in horses led to a degree in horse husbandry and years of working in the horse industry, along with competitions, endless learning, working in horse rescue, working for horse veterinarians, teaching children, organizing events and lobbying for legislation to help horses. Eventually this path led me to Taos, where all my life experiences have come together to create a sanctuary for horses.

However, ESS is not about me — it's about the horses, what they have to offer and how lives can be enriched, enhanced and benefited by them.

At ESS, we promote responsible horse ownership. The unwanted horse issue is a tremendous problem that has been growing for many years. Like shelters that are overrun with unwanted dogs and cats, so too is our nation overwhelmed with unwanted horses. They're expensive to maintain and have basic needs that require space, money and time. Indiscriminate breeding is partially to blame. Too many horses, not enough homes for them. The problem escalated with the failing economy and people losing their jobs and means of support.

With the closure of U.S. slaughterhouses, there is no longer a viable market for

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unwanted horses. Many horses die of neglect and starvation because of the owner's ignorance or irresponsibility. Most people would not choose that for their animals, but sometimes, despite good intentions, life is just too overwhelming and it's the animals who suffer.

At ESS, we know how expensive it is to own and care for a horse. But we also know how important it is for many people to have a connection with horses. We encourage people to come out and spend time with our horses, all of whom need care, love and attention.

Plus, it doesn't cost a thing.

We will teach you how to take care of a horse and handle it with safety and consideration while you enjoy the benefits of horse ownership without the financial responsibility or commitment. Horses are a huge commitment. Volunteering at ESS is a way to find out exactly what you need to know to be a responsible horse owner. If you find you have the time and want to do more, you can sponsor a horse and eventually adopt the horse of your dreams.

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