



STUART PALLEY

Ruth Bourgeois tends to one of the Equine Spirit Sanctuary's donkeys.

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ESS is also resource for those wanting to learn about horses. We offer workshops and clinics and lessons at a nominal fee on all aspects of horse care and training. Our "Learn About Horses" youth program gives kids ages 6 to 16 the opportunity to learn basic riding skills, safety skills and how to groom and lead horses.

We work with disabled persons also, offering them activities and interaction with horses based on safety and ability. We are starting to offer a limited therapeutic

riding program and are working towards establishing a full program.

We offer activities for school kids, for rehab pro-

grams, and even art classes. The scope of activities ranges from the simple task of cleaning a stall to riding and rehabbing a rescue horse.

Our equines fall within a wide range of types and backgrounds. Most are either unwanted horses or rehabilitated rescues who are now safe and comfortable working with people.

When I moved to Taos 10 years ago, I knew this was where my dream would come to fruition. Like the incredible horses, Taos is steeped in mystery, mysti-

Equine Spirit Sanctuary

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cism and beauty. The history, the traditions, the growth of our community — it almost parallels the horses' story as

well. There's an energy that draws visitors to Taos, as there is an energy that draws us to horses.

It's not always pleasant dealing with an abandoned or abused animal, or struggling to make sense of the hardships of disabilities. It's certainly not easy. But we work hard to provide these services for horses and for the community. We depend on the generosity of our sponsors and the many volunteers. It truly does take a village to create and maintain a facility like the Equine Spirit Sanctuary.

Visitors often comment on how content and happy our equines are. This is what it's all about — honoring and respecting the spirit of these horses, these sources of joy and inspiration to so many.

For more information, go to www.equinespiritsanctuary.org. Better yet, come out and visit! Summer hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. You can also call for an appointment.

Ruth Bourgeois is the director of the nonprofit Equine Spirit Sanctuary.



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