

# EQUINE SPIRIT SANCTUARY



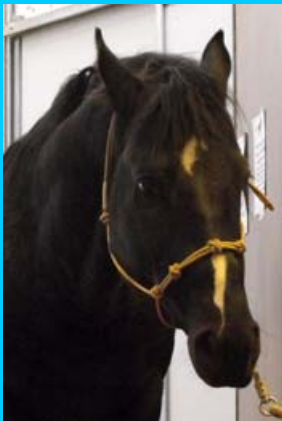
October 20, 2009 News

## ESS

283 Cuchilla Road  
Ranchos de Taos  
575-758-1212  
Open Wednesdays and  
weekends  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## ESS New Residents

### Star



Such a beautiful boy!

Below: close-up of Star's  
injured ankle:

### Dear Friends,

It's been a while since I've sent out an email newsletter, and even longer since I've done a print newsletter. It's not because we have not had news to send. It's simply because I've been too busy taking care of the horses and doing all the work involved with ESS.

There never seems to be enough time or energy to get office work and communication done. It's frustrating to me, because it's so important to let people know what we're doing here at ESS. I heard a rumor last week that we were closing. Not! But I guess that's what happens when you don't communicate. So - just to let you know - it'd take a book to tell relate all the tales of our adventures, misadventures, joys and sorrows that have been the life of ESS these past several months. We're not closing. Far from it. We are busier every day with horse and people activities.

Our summer months were filled with lessons with kids, lots of great volunteer help keeping up the property and taking care of the horses, the new EAGALA-based counseling program sessions, double the number of visits from Arc clients - thanks so much to the persons who donated to make this happen! And most recently, we've been doing a lot more with horse rescue and rehab. We've assisted with several cases the past couple months.

ESS has been host to two veterinarians who come to Taos to take care of horses twice a month.

And, really exciting - we're making progress in our quest to have a therapeutic riding program, thanks to the donation of a wheelchair ramp and some other equipment!

We have made tremendous progress here at ESS, thanks to the generosity of many kind people who have visited, donated, volunteered their time and talent, and supplies and equipment. We have new horses, new saddles, even a new TV! Actually, the "new" is older, used (even the horses!) but new to ESS and very greatly appreciated.

As this year winds down, I've been looking at the programs and what we have done, and figuring out the coming months' agenda. More on this will follow in newsletters and email news, but for now



I want to let everyone know what's going on and our biggest priorities.

The priorities are: fundraising, fundraising, fundraising!

ESS has done ongoing, regular work with horse rescue over the past four years, generally one horse at a time, on a limited basis. In the past month we have taken in three horses. One was a very sad case, an ex-racehorse horse left to die out on the mesa with a broken bone in his leg and severe wire cuts. His injuries were too extensive to heal, so we took him in, gave him a few days of TLC, and then when the veterinarians were here had him put to sleep. It the kindest thing we could do for him.



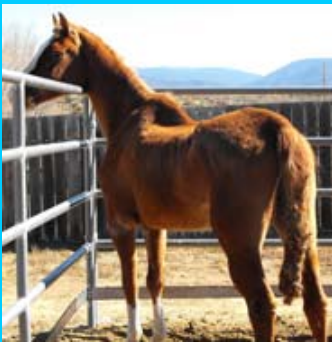
ESS now has a new resident, Star, a beautiful four year old paint horse stallion. He came to us with a severely injured hind ankle/pastern and bad quarter crack on that hoof. His injuries will heal, but he needs several months of treatment. He is a very nice horse and we are going to do all that we can to help him recover completely.

Our newest member of the ESS family is a lovely little Arabian / Quarter horse gelding who has some dental issues and had gotten extremely thin. He's happy to be here now, enjoying a soft diet that he can chew easily while awaiting the veterinarian's next visit for a full assessment.

These are just a few of the horses that have had special needs. Needless to say, their care and attention costs a lot. Star's especially. His veterinary needs will be around \$400 a month for the next four months or so, along with his regular care and expenses. So fundraising is the number one priority at this time.

### Meteo

A very sweet horse!



We're doing our poinsettia sales again this year, and now taking orders. Prices are the same as last year - \$13 for a 6 ½ inch red, pink or white poinsettia. These were great quality and everyone was very pleased with them last year. The greenhouse does not have the larger size, so we're just taking orders for this one size this year.

We are putting out a call to artists for the third annual ESS Spirit of the Horse Art Exhibit, to be held again on Valentine's Day weekend next February. We will accommodate as many artists as possible, so the exhibit space will be a bit smaller for each artist.

We've got lots more things coming up and I will send out more info soon.

See the sidebar for photos and more info on our newest rescues.

We are still open on both Saturday and Sunday through October, then will be closed on Sundays, and always open on Wednesdays also.

Call or come out. We look forward to seeing you!

*Ruth Bourgeois*  
*Director, ESS*

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I always am reluctant to put photos of sad, starving, injured horses on our web site or newsletters. But the reality is, this is what we deal with here and these horses have very real needs. They need our help. Both these horses will be beautiful and healthy again, if given the necessary veterinary

attention and care.

Please help ESS to help horses!

#### New way to donate to ESS

See our list of items needed on the bulletin board at Chamisa Feed.

You can purchase any of these items there and they will make sure that I get the donated item when I come in to buy feed, which is fairly often now with our new rescues.

You can also bring your donation to ESS if you wish.

Items on our wish list include:

- Vet wrap for Star
- Alfalfa pellets and beet pulp pellets for Mateo
- Salt blocks
- Equine Senior

#### Blessing of the ESS equines by Rev. Pam Tyler

All the ESS equines received a special blessing at the Open House on Sept. 26. It was very beautiful and moving experience for all.

Blessing Bindy:



Blessing Mandy, who stands with her handler Philip. Philip has been coming out from the Arc to spend time learning how to groom and lead Mandy.

## Horses, horses, horses!

Between the economic woes and rising expenses, ESS was "blessed" with the return of some horses that had been previously adopted out. When we adopt out an ESS horse, it is with the agreement that if it does not work out - for any reason - the animal is returned to ESS. We still believe that this is a good policy, as a rescue taking responsibility for the horses we take in. We just hadn't anticipated this happening to this extent. So now we've got a full house and, while we would be happy to keep these horses forever, it is increasingly difficult to meet ESS expenses. We also continue to get calls and emails from other people in the area who have horses that want to donate or find new homes for.

We need sponsors for the ESS horses or new homes for some. Sponsoring an ESS equine means making a commitment to cover the horse's monthly expenses (\$150/month for a horse, \$75/month for Bindy, the miniature donkey). This pays for feed, hoof care, deworming. Call or visit ESS for more details.

### ESS Volunteers - THANK YOU!!!

We've got several new volunteers this summer who, along with our dedicated helpers from last year, are doing great things out here. A big, big thank you to all who come out and help clean the barn, groom the horses, help with the Arc visits, and other work. We couldn't do it without you!

### New Horses Vets for the Taos Area

Dr. Heidi Hamlen from Santa Fe and Dr. Dwight Hooton from Pagosa Springs are coming to Taos twice a month to do appointments. They will make farm calls or you can bring your horse to ESS for appointments.

Dr. Hamlen and Dr. Hooton will be here next on Oct. 28. To learn more about their services, go to [Dr. Hamlen's website](#) or call 505-629-7701.

Dr. Hamlen did two talks on equine first aid and emergency care at the ESS open house on Sept. 26. The talks were excellent. After each talk, attendees spent time learning to listen to horses' gut sounds, take pulse, temp and respirations, etc. on ESS horses. A big thanks to Dr. Hamlen for a great presentation!

#### Follow up Links

[ESS News & Events](#)

[Donate to ESS](#)



**Blessing Mariah:**



## **Horse Psychology - Understanding how horses think**

Mesah, animal communicator/horse trainer/riding instructor from Santa Fe, will give a mini-clinic at ESS on Oct. 31 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Topics include:

- What is important to the horse
- Herd psychology
- The psychology of how to catch a hard to catch horse
- Why the horses physiology affects his psychology
- How the different breeds affect the horses psychology
- Things that can effect or change a horse's temperament or personality
- Working with different personality traits

The fee for the clinic is \$35. Mesah is also available that weekend to give private or group riding lessons. Call for more details.