

Forever Morgans Newsletter, February 2014

New Rescue

FM took in two new horses in January.

Hollybrook Golden Girl (2003 chestnut mare) went through the auction and was bought by a kill buyer/broker, who then contacted FM. A note with her at the auction stated that she was bred to a registered Morgan stallion and had been confirmed by a vet to be in foal in October 2013. A vet check at the quarantine barn found that she was not pregnant. She is underweight but healthy and sound. The quarantine provider says that GG is a sweet, sensitive mare who wants to please, has lovely manners and parks out automatically. Her former owners reported that she was trained to lunge as a three-year-old but never saddled or harnessed. She is currently in quarantine so has not been fully evaluated, but she is wary when meeting new people. After several weeks of kind treatment she now will cautiously investigate a person and breathe a sigh of relief when she realizes that this person is good. She has been a broodmare but her sweet nature, good manners and desire to please should make her easy to train for riding or driving.

SAMAC's The Shake (2003 bay gelding) is a friendly bay gelding who has been an Amish driving horse. An Amish gentleman, the former owner of a prior FM rescue, called FM about a horse belonging to a friend of his. The horse's owner was going to take him to the New Holland auction but was willing to sell the horse directly to FM instead, so we made arrangements to purchase the gelding for \$350. Shake's previous owner typically drives 8 to 12 miles a day with a heavy load of wooden pallets. Several years ago he noticed that Shake occasionally came up lame after a day's work. A vet's exam and x-rays showed no visible injury or swelling, so Shake was given several months of pasture rest to recover. He healed and was good for over two years, but recently began having occasional lameness again. Shake likes people and is ready for a life where he doesn't have to pull a heavy wagon on hard roads every day; he is expected to be sound for recreational driving and riding. This is a win-win for everyone, and especially the horse! The seller knows that the horse will be in a good home, FM pays less for the horse without broker fees, and the horse isn't exposed to the stress and germs of auction.

Current Horses

Information on all available horses is on the FM website, http://forevermorgans.org/Adoptable_Horses.html.

Horses currently boarded:

FM currently has nine horses boarded at the quarantine barn in Pennsylvania (Cindy K-N's).

1. Noble Rose (PMM Jestures Noble Rose, 1991 dark bay mare, rescued 12/3/12) has been boarded at Cindy's for over a year, at a cost of nearly \$4000, and must be moved soon.
2. LV Blaze (Locust Valley Blaze, 1995 chestnut gelding, rescued 1/22/13) learned to trust and respect people. He is now affectionate and even a bit of a goofball with people that he knows; he likes to steal hats from people who stand next to his stall, and is always eager to lean over

the rail to be petted and scratched. LV Blaze does very well with a confident person who treats him fairly.

3. JRC Blaze (JRC Blaze of Glory, 2003 chestnut gelding, rescued 2/17/13) is ready to go to a foster or adoptive home. His feet continue to improve; he enjoys cavorting in the pasture with his special glue-on shoes and is sound for recreational driving and riding. He has a stellar character and is friends with everyone. He loves attention, being fussed over and groomed or just getting scratches.
4. Showy (Showy Lady's Slipper , 2002 liver chestnut mare, rescued 8/17/13) has been intermittently lame, especially trotting on hard surfaces. X-rays showed that she has chronic tendosynovitis (bowed tendons) with inflammatory osteophyte formation on the sesamoid bones from chronic inflammation. Her 2013 filly, FMRescue Twice a Lady, was weaned and adopted. She is pregnant, due to foal in May.
5. Reflection (Rose Valley Reflection, 1995 chestnut mare, rescued 10/7/13) is still her quiet, sweet self and enjoys when she can be out in the pasture. She has gained weight nicely and does well with other horses.
6. Magnum (Rosedust FourtyFour Magnum, 2000 bay gelding, rescued 10/12/13) is extremely friendly and personable, happy to be groomed and is eager to play.
7. Alusive (WYP Alusive, 1995 chestnut gelding, rescued 10/19/13) is sweet, gentle and happy to be with a person. He is still in a lot of pain and the prognosis remains that this needs to be managed by medication (i.e. bute). While the initial swelling of his hind leg has gone down drastically, the vet thinks that the damage is beyond repair. He has to be hand-walked and is very polite.
8. Thumbelina (Blossoms Thumbelina, 1992 bay mare, rescued 10/19/13) loves people but is picky about her equine companions. She is stalled next to Johnny and flirts shamelessly with him, but doesn't care for other horses. She is very well-behaved and willingly does all that is asked of her. She is now in a pasture by herself and is very content with that. She would be happy as a family's only horse so she wouldn't have to share humans, their attention and affection. She is nicely built and has never been lame so far.
9. Johnny (JMF Johnny Who , 1995 black stallion, rescued 10/28/13) continues to be a perfect gentleman. He is mellow, has perfect manners, and is devastatingly handsome. He even seems to have a calming effect on the horses around him.

Horses transported to foster:

Note: All horses had a health certificate and vet check prior to transport.

1. Sailor (Hackney-Morgan cross colt, born 4/15/13 to Song) went to his foster home in Tennessee. He now has a new best buddy his own age, a doting equine uncle, and an experienced trainer. He is exceptionally smart and eager to please so is quickly learning good manners. He leads nicely, walks over tarps, and stands for grooming. In fact, he had all his feet trimmed for the first time and was so calm that he fell asleep! Sailor is turning into a wonderful little guy and will be a fabulous pony.

2. Steppin (Steppin to the Sky, 1998 chestnut mare) traveled to a foster home in New York. Her foster reports that she is very quiet and calm. As she relaxes in her new home, the sadness is slowly going from her eyes. She has excellent manners and tries hard to please.
3. Sable (UDM Sable, 2001 black mare) went to a foster home in Massachusetts. Her foster also has goats, sheep and a llama; Sable is gentle and interested in the animals. The first time she saw the llama she drew herself up very high and looked startled, then sniffed noses through the bars and relaxed. A little goat kid snuck into her stall and Sable just gently sniffed it until her foster caught the kid. She seems to enjoy the entertainment!

Horses in foster homes:

1. There are currently 17 horses in foster homes: Dorothy (PA), Song (TX), Jax (OK), Wynnie/Nordic (CO), Black Lady (KS), Valor (WA), Mitsey and Delilah (IL), Reva (NY), Joy (NC), Lacy (OR), Maggie Mae and Avalon (MA), Opal (TN), Chester (DE), Cora (CA), Edison (ID). (Horses in the same state may be in separate foster homes.)
2. Maggie (2005 grade bay mare) is now back under saddle and a good girl. Sometimes she'll fool around on the longeline but has been a lady while someone is up on her. She is responsive to minimal aids. She's being ridden in a hunt seat saddle and a loose ring, copper-mouthed French snaffle.
3. Edison (Little Man Cowboy, 2000 bay QH gelding) has been saddled with no issues, lunges, ties, and loads. His foster is not able to ride him, but from the way he behaves with tack believes that he has been ridden before. Edison does have some issues with his feet and has what looks like a scar from a coronary band injury running down his left front, and is occasionally a bit lame on that foot. His foster believes that he could benefit from a good barefoot trimmer.

Adoptions:

1. Dusty (Scenic Aries Dusty, 1998 chestnut gelding) is relaxing in his new home. He gets along well with the other horses and his adopters are "head over heels" in love with him. He knickers when he sees his family and gives kisses whenever he can.
2. Twice a Lady (FMRrescue Twice a Lady, 2013 chestnut filly out of Showy Lady's Slipper) was adopted by a family with another filly the same age. The two "girls" are having a wonderful time playing together.
3. Lyla (2011 black filly) had been impossible to catch at the quarantine barn, so we were worried about how her adopter was going to get her home. Thanks to careful planning & plenty of help, Lyla was safely caught. Her adopter quickly had her leading nicely and she loaded in the trailer easily. Lyla is doing extremely well in her new home.

An additional applicant was approved to adopt, but has not yet decided on which lucky horse would be best.

Rehomes:

1. Jasmine (2010 bay mare) was adopted in December 2013 but is not doing well in her new home. Her adopter contacted the Board about finding her a new home. Jasmine needs more exercise and work than her adopter can provide, and seems to miss the kids from her foster home. She is a sweet and spirited mare who is happiest being worked several times a week. Jasmine does become very closely bonded with her person, to the point that she can be anxious if left alone, so needs someone who wants to spend lots of time doting on her. Her size makes her best suited for a lightweight rider. FM is working to help Jasmine's adopter to determine if she will improve, but Jasmine may need to return to foster.

AMHA Convention

Chris Pennington will be attending the AMHA convention in Raleigh, NC, February 20-22. FM will have a booth and a foster horse will be presented at a special event on Thursday. Please stop by the booth if you are at the convention.

Show Your Support

Forever Morgans is excited to announce new ways to show your support for the horses: new shirts and totes with the FM logo and message, and a new Supporters program!

FM has new shirts and totes! Shirts are \$20 each and available in size small to XL, in cardinal red, dark green, and natural cotton. Totes are \$18 each and available in green with a "Rescue Rehabilitate Rehome" graphic. Merchandise (shirts, totes, etc.) can be bought individually and will be available on the website and at special events. Shipping is an additional \$5.80 in the U.S. Please contact Forever Morgans for additional costs for international shipping. *Photos and ordering information will be at www.forevermorgans.org soon!*

Show that you care by being a Forever Morgans Supporter! Make a tax-deductible donation and receive a *2014 Supporter* decal (high-quality vinyl suitable for a vehicle, trailer or window) and a monthly email newsletter about Forever Morgans' horses and events!

There are 4 levels of support:

- \$25 donation, Bronze level, receives a *2014 Supporter* decal & newsletter.
- \$50 donation, Silver level, receives a *2014 Supporter* decal, newsletter, & 50% OFF ONE shirt or tote bag
- \$100 donation, Gold level, receives a *2014 Supporter* decal, newsletter, ONE FREE shirt or tote bag, & listed on the Forever Morgans website
- \$1,000 donation, Diamond level, receives a *2014 Supporter* decal, newsletter, TWO FREE shirts or tote bags, & listed on the Forever Morgans website

Email support@forevermorgans.org to become a Supporter! Please provide your name, email address, mailing address, phone number (optional), donation amount, and, if applicable, merchandise selection and desired listing on the website. *Photos and ordering information will be at www.forevermorgans.org soon!*

Committee Reports

Applicant Review: Pat Porter, Chair - Received and processed several applications to adopt.

Auction Committee : Ann Coe, Chair - A representative from FM attended the Mid-A show and sale, but no Morgans were sold at prices that put them at risk for kill buyers.

Foster Follow Up Committee : Danny Collins, Chair - Danny requested updates from current fosters

Breeders/Owners Prior Record Call Back Committee : Danny Collins, Chair – Danny talked to former owners for GG.

Other committees did not submit reports.

We reorganized the committees to combine the duties for getting updates and photos on the foster and QT horses. Danny Collins will now be getting updates on both foster and QT horses. Jan Scotto will focus on being the chair for New Foster/Prospective Adopters, to identify and get open applications for potential fosters and adopters across the country. We're hoping to have a volunteer take photos of the boarded/QT horses, too, but are still working on that.

Special Needs Horses

Forever Morgans has three horses with special needs that need extra help finding a home: Locust Valley Blaze, JRC Blaze of Glory, and PMM Jesture's Noble Rose. When they were rescued over a year ago, public outcry was that FM must rescue all Morgans with papers and as many as possible who appeared or were said to be Morgan or part-Morgan. So we did. But rescuing doesn't end when they are picked up from the broker lot -- they have to *go* somewhere. These three horses have been at the QT barn for over a year now. Each day they are there costs FM money and takes up resources that could be used for another horse. Each of these horses has special needs, but nothing insurmountable. Other FM horses have had more severe issues and have gone on to be happy and productive because people opened their barns and their hearts. These three horses need that special someone to give them a chance.

Each of these horses has made huge improvements in physical and mental health while they have been at the QT barn, and are as healthy and well-adjusted as they can be at their current location. They need to move on so that they can continue to improve and other horses can be helped. It's not fair to these horses, or to the others that need their stalls, to continue to board them. FM has spent over \$4,000 *each* on their care since they have been rescued over a year ago (\$10 per day per horse). We have asked multiple foster homes to take in these horses but no one has been willing. Euthanasia has been discussed and it may be the best ultimate decision in some cases, but the Board wanted to make a public plea for homes for our Special Needs horses. Their adoption fees are waived on the condition that the contract between the adopter and FM is amended to include specific agreements about future treatments and training.

FM is exploring alternate arrangements for foster, housing and training, and is obtaining more explicit prognoses for these horses.

Adoptee Update

The adopter of Black Tuxedo Commander (aka "Blaze") shared a letter that she received from his former owners. Blaze was purchased by FM directly from his Amish owners, and his adopter has stayed in touch with the family. Excerpts from the letter:

Thank you so much for the pictures you keep sending of Blaze! We enjoy them more than you will ever know!! We knew we would miss him if we sold him – and we do... especially this time of the year as we enjoyed riding him in the snow ... But nothing compares to the thought that he has a warm barn and is does our hearts so much good to see that he is happy and contented – which isn't hard to see in the pictures. ... It was nice of you to think of us. If you are in the area you are welcome to stop in!