

Forever Morgans Newsletter, January 2015

New Rescues

FM took in six horses in December 2014.

1. **Matlick View Nell** (2010 black mare, rescued 12/15/14) came through the New Holland auction and FM got her for just \$500. She has road shoes on all four feet and is said to be started driving and riding. Nell went through Mel's sale in August but the purchaser bought another horse and doesn't need her, so she ended up back at auction. Although she is only four years old, she was had two foals already and is pregnant with her third. A note with her at the auction said that she was bred to a two-year old stud, Derawnda Breezy Walker (CN); our vet has confirmed that she is in foal consistent with a July breeding date. Nell has white around her eyes that seems to be vitiligo, a harmless lack of pigment, but we will have a vet check to make sure. She is the great-granddaughter of Pecatonica Floating Fawn, rescued by Forever Morgans in February 2011.
2. **Sioux Brown** (2004 bay mare, rescued 12/18/14) is a dynamic mare who is a hot and quick. She has a refined frame and loves to prance and strut. Sioux has road shoes on and obviously has been an Amish buggy horse, but took a rider without problem. She likes to go! Sioux is a half-sister to former FM rescue Rocky Illuminator, a former Amish road horse who is now showing successfully in English Pleasure.
3. **Aikane's Kia's Memory** (2005 bay mare, rescued 12/18/14) is a high-strung mare who has been an Amish driving horse but did accept a rider at the broker lot. A note from a former owner said that she has mostly been used in double hitches, drives excellent and is 100% traffic safe and sound, but is difficult to hitch and has not been used in about a year. She has lots of action and power.
4. **APS** (bay mare, rescued 12/18/14) was called Maple by her former owner, but we're calling her Angel because it fits her sweet spirit. She is a nicely built, foundation-style Morgan mare with lots of chrome. She is level-headed and has a calm demeanor; she rode quietly with a loose rein even though she didn't seem very familiar with leg cues, but was comfortable and did what was asked. Angel has lots of old bloodlines and Lippitt in her pedigree and is very high percentage foundation, but does have a cross to Upwey Ben Don (through UVM Flash).
5. **Logan's Nite Mist Melody** (CN) (2002 black mare, rescued 12/18/14) is a quiet and calm mare that is very easy to handle. She rode walk/trot/canter at the broker lot and was not at all spooky. Nite almost didn't make it to be rescued! FM knew about 3 mares at the broker lot and made arrangements to get them. At the last minute the broker said that he had a 4th mare "in a pen in the back". He found her papers and we got her.
6. **Royal Prince Charlie** (1997 black stallion, rescued 12/18/14) is a beautiful old-style Morgan stallion, a flashy black with four white socks. Charlie behaves like a gelding, is willing, kind and sweet. He is not trained to ride but, being the reliable buggy horse he is, should be a fun and easy horse to train to saddle. He has been a beloved and trusted driving horse for one of FM's Amish friends and has led a good life with a conscientious and caring owner. He foundered when he was seven, but with good farrier care he has still been able to be a buggy horse and breeding stallion. The farrier has retired, though, and the replacement can't give Charlie the care

he needs, so his owner has asked FM to help find a home that can take care of him. He is a stallion and has many registered and unregistered offspring, but is very well-mannered even around mares. At his age it might be difficult and dangerous to geld him, but FM will consider it if we need to. Charlie's former owner can foster him for a short time.

FM was also contacted about two owner-surrender horses and is in the process of making arrangements for them.

Available Horses

Information on all available horses is on the FM website, <http://www.forevermorgans.org/horses.htm> . Most horses now have downloadable pdfs with additional information that can be printed and shared. Please consider posting flyers about horses near you on local bulletin boards, feed stores, shows, etc..

As of 1/1/15, FM had 5 horses in quarantine, 3 others boarded, 12 in foster.

Horses currently boarded:

The quarantine barn in Pennsylvania (Cindy Noll's) costs \$10 per day per horse. Reva is boarded in NY at \$200/month.

- 1-5. **Nell, Sioux, Kia, Angel** and **Nite** are in quarantine. See notes in section above.
6. **LV Blaze** (Locust Valley Blaze, 1995 chestnut gelding, rescued 1/22/13) has a foster home pending and will be transported in the next few weeks.
7. **Reva** (Runnymede's Revision, 1993 chestnut mare, rescued 2/10/13) is boarded in New York.
8. **Boxford Superwoman** (2004 chestnut mare, rescued 10/29/14) is boarded at the QT barn. She was said to ride when she was at the broker lot, but when someone at the QT barn was evaluating her they thought that she seemed unfamiliar with having a rider, as though she was used to wearing blinders so was not sure about seeing someone on her back.

Horses transported to foster:

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

1. **Sonja's Simple Faith** (2004 bay mare, rescued 11/24/14) went to a foster home in New York. She is blossoming with good care and is putting on weight. We were unable to find anything about her history, so her foster is slowly introducing the saddle, bridle, etc. and says that she is calm and easy.
2. **FMRescue Stan** (2013 brown Standardbred-Morgan cross gelding, rescued 10/19/14) went to a foster home in New Jersey. He is a very sweet boy and everyone at his foster home loves him. He is soaking up all the attention and enjoys having a nice pasture to play.

Horses in foster homes:

There are currently 12 horses in foster homes:

Ally and Wyatt (AZ), Ritz (FL), Thumbelina (IL), GG and Mitsey (NE), Stan (NJ), Faith and Showy (NY), Reflection (OK), Lacy (OR), Charlie (PA), and Sailor (TN). Horses in the same state may be in separate foster homes.

Adoptions

Twenty adoptions, four pending adoptions, and one horse staying home! What else can we say? December was an incredible month!

Congratulations to our December adoptions:

- **Julie's Fine Kayla**, 1998 bay mare, rescued 9/7/14, adopted 12/31/14
- **Cedar Lake Velvet Jewel**, 2004 black mare, rescued 10/21/14, adopted 12/31/14
- **Wachusset Hope** (aka Cora), 1989 bay mare, rescued 8/31/12. adopted 12/31/14
- **MLF Sudden Glory** (rehome), 1995 chestnut gelding, rehomed 10/13/12, adopted 12/30/14
- **Tazara Cappuccino**, 1995 chestnut mare, rescued 8/11/14, adopted 12/30/14
- **Chester** (rehome), 1994 chestnut gelding, rehomed 11/3/13, adopted 12/29/14
- **Wata Diamond Star** (rehome), 2009 brown gelding, rehomed 5/15/14, adopted 12/29/14
- **Aquila's Zena** (pregnant), 2005 bay mare, rescued 11/15/14, adopted 12/29/14
- **Crestfield Double Joy** (rehome), 1997 bay mare, rehomed 11/12/11, adopted 12/27/14
- **Exeter's Allegra**, 2003 black mare, rescued 9/8/14, adopted 12/26/14
- **Sonja of Reliance**, 1994 chestnut mare, rescued 10/16/14, adopted 12/23/14
- **A-L Joseph's Dream**, 1995 bay gelding, rescued 10/20/14, adopted 12/23/14
- **Little Man Cowboy** (QH), 2000 bay gelding, rescued 9/14/12, adopted 12/20/14
- **Steppin to the Sky**, 1998 chestnut mare, rescued 10/7/13, adopted 12/20/14
- **Bar Nothing Halo's Duce**, 2001 black mare, rescued 11/2/14, adopted 12/17/14
- **Orca's Fantasy**, 1997 chestnut mare, rescued 9/22/14, adopted 12/16/14
- **FMRescue Jessica's Light**, 2014 chestnut colt, rescued in utero 8/17/13, born 3/15/14 to Showy Lady's Slipper, adopted 12/14/14
- **Darlin Diva**, 2002 bay mare, rescued 10/19/14, adopted 12/12/14
- **Intrigue's Black Lady**, 2005 black mare, rescued 6/12/13, adopted 12/10/14
- **Valley View Crystal Rose**, 2005 chestnut mare, rescued 10/6/14, adopted 12/1/14

- **Jax Suite Victory**, 1997 chestnut gelding, rescued 7/6/13, adoption pending
- **WYP Alusive**, 1995 sorrel gelding, rescued 10/19/13, adoption pending
- **APS / Angel**, 2001 bay mare, rescued 12/18/14, adoption pending
- **Wheatland Lacy**, 1992 chestnut mare, rescued 6/6/13, adoption pending

- **Big Creek Crackerjack's** adopter decided to keep him after all, so he'll be staying home.

FM's photogenic 2014 colt, Jesse, was adopted on December 14. Although the date wasn't planned, it was especially fitting because it was the two-year anniversary of Jessica Rekos losing her life in the tragic school shootings at Sandy Hook. Jesse, his dam Showy Lady's Slipper and older sister FMRescue Twice a Lady were saved in Jessica's honor. Jesse's registered name, FMRescue Jessica's Light, was selected by Jessica's family.

Sierra Laid to Rest

Brookstone Hy-Sierra was humanely laid to rest on December 15. Sierra came to FM in April 2014 as an owner surrender. She was much loved by an Amish family who wanted more for her than the risky options an auction offered. She was fostered in Oklahoma. She was a star in every way, and danced under the lights at the Morgan Grand National as a three year old. She retired to the quiet life of a broodmare. She was a kind, gentle, lovely mare, who found friends at every stage of her life. After she came to Forever Morgans, it was discovered she was suffering with EPM, which had progressed to the point where her quality of life was severely compromised. Several treatment plans were explored in the hopes of enabling her to continue her life with dignity and comfort. Unfortunately, she was already ill enough that we were advised by her vet that her chances of recovery were very slim. Sierra had muscle wasting in her jaw which did not allow her to eat properly. Even more serious was her inability to control of her body movements and thus was a danger to herself and to others - both human and equine. Her attending vet told us the words all of us with horses understand; if she was his horse, he would euthanize her. It was with heavy hearts that the board agreed that this beautiful mare should be laid to rest. Her last days were filled with gentleness and peace, and she had all the tender alfalfa she could eat. She was completely worry free and among friends when it came time to release her to the Rainbow Bridge. We all hope for a wonderful happy ending to every one of the stories that begins when we bring a horse into the Forever Morgans family. We all hoped for a different one to Sierra's story, but we know that sometimes, our task is to ensure the kindest ending. Sierra's filly, Anabelle, was also a Forever Morgans rescue, and carries on her mother's tradition of bringing joy to those around her.

Committee Reports

To volunteer, please email the Board at forevermorgans@hotmail.com and we'll put you in touch with the committee chair. All of the committees can use help!

- Applicant Review: Cindy Berg, Chair - 16 adoption applications and 3 foster applications submitted and completed
- Foster Follow Up Committee : Danny Collins, Chair – Updates requested

- Transportation Committee: Jami Sacks, Chair – Incredibly busy making travel arrangements for all the horses who found homes with the holiday special
- Breeders/Owners Prior Record Call Back Committee : Danny Collins, Chair - Danny talked to prior owners.

Expenses

Partial list of expenses for December.

\$2,180.00	PA QT/board (11 horses for total of 218 days)
\$216.00	Reva board (\$200 + tax) (NY)
\$35.00	Faith farrier
\$500.00	Nell purchase 12/5
\$50.00	fees, vet and Coggins
\$35.00	Nell transport from NH 12/15
\$75.00	Nell vet exam and pregnancy check
\$225.00	Sierra vet 12/15
\$465.00	Nite, Kia, Sioux, Angel transport from broker, 140 miles plus tolls, 12/18
\$550.00	Nite purchase, 12/18
\$550.00	Kia purchase, 12/18
\$550.00	Sioux purchase, 12/18
\$650.00	Angel purchase, 12/18
\$570.00	Charlie purchase and HC, 12/20
\$67.00	vet for Stan, HC & vax, etc.
\$67.00	vet for Faith, HC & vax, etc.
\$100.00	Stan transport to foster (PA-NJ), 12/23
\$225.00	Faith transport to foster (PA-NY), 12/23
\$175.00	registration for AMHA convention

\$7,285.00 total

Home for the Holidays Special

FM owes a huge thanks to an anonymous angel who gave FM's older adoptable horses a wonderful Christmas present: a ride home! The donor offered to pay for transportation to an adoptive home for any FM horse foaled in 1998 or earlier if the adoption was approved by December 31. As further incentive, FM temporarily lowered the adoption fee for several of these horses. Of the 14 horses who qualified for this special offer, the angel's generosity helped nine of them get to their new homes! This was the best Christmas present ever for Joy, Chester, Cappuccino, Glory, Cora, Kayla, Jax, Alusive, Lacy,

and their new families. These horses being adopted also opened up some foster homes for new horses, so even more can be saved.

Reference Committee is Amazing

It's starting to sound like a broken record, but it's still worth saying: the Reference Committee is outstanding! December was especially challenging because the Home for the Holidays Special just before the Christmas resulted in a flood of applications that all needed to be completed before the end of the month. The committee did an incredible job getting all of the references completed in time, even with people traveling and on holiday schedules. Thank you, committee members! For anyone interested in helping, please send an email to ForeverMorgans@hotmail.com and we'll get you started.

AMHA Convention

FM will have a booth at the 2015 AMHA Convention in Minneapolis February 27 and 28. Board members Ginny Bloss and Nik Rapelje will be there to represent FM. Ginny will be a speaker in the panel discussion on *Connecting the Amish* seminar on Saturday afternoon. The FM booth will have information on what FM does and how to volunteer, photos and info on the current available horses, FM merchandise for sale, and stories and photos of some of the over 350 horses saved. FM will have cupcakes to celebrate 10 years of saving Morgans, so plan to visit if you're at the convention.

Multiple Application Policy

Sometimes we receive multiple applications for the same horse. It's a good problem to have, but it's still a problem! When this happens, the FM Board has to choose the home that is best for the horse. This has occasionally caused delays in the horse being adopted because additional applications keep coming in, so we have to wait until all the reference checks are completed before making a decision. The delay isn't fair to the applicants or the horse, besides adding extra work for the reference committee. In light of this, FM is implementing a policy that when a second application comes in, we'll announce (via the email lists, FM's website, and social media) that there are multiple applications and we will only accept applications for that horse for three days. After that time, the submitted applications are considered first for their ability to adopt from FM, and then to select the best home. These decisions are difficult because no matter what happens, someone will be let down. The applicants who are not chosen are understandably disappointed, but frequently "their" horse comes along soon afterwards. With some patience and understanding, even more horses can find forever homes.

2014 Summary

In 2014, FM took in 47 horses. Of these, 41 were registered, 3 were registerable, 2 were said to have papers or be registerable but could not be identified, and 1 is a cross. There are 30 mares (2 of these are pregnant), 14 geldings, 2 fillies, 1 stallion and no colts. The average age is 12. Ten were directly from former owners (including 6 Amish), 15 were purchased at auction, 17 were purchased from a broker, and 5 were prior adoptees being rehomed.

Also in 2014, there were 52 adoptions, 5 pending adoptions (as of 12/31/14), 1 withdrawn and 3 deceased horses.