

Forever Morgans News, October 2013

By Kathy Crozier

October was a busy month!

adopted: 5

rescued; 8

moved out of QT. 4. A great need is for funds to transport these guys from QT to foster. It costs us \$300/mo to board them so it obviously is better stewardship to get them to foster.

fosters identified: 1. We started working on a list of everybody who has fostered for FM. 1

of adopters approved: 2

Website updates – None

Discussions

Rehashed the policy about allowing adopters to breed. Two main reasons we do not allow breeding. 1) the fact that a horse with great bloodlines hit the auction. How can we be sure progeny do not eventually end up there? And 2) poll of members of FM on the FM list says that the majority of our members support the policy of no breeding except in extraordinary circumstances: and even then we allow only 1 foal. I see horses going thru FM that have bloodlines that I like. It is painful. But not as painful as having more Morgans on the road to slaughter.

Worked on finding placements for “problem children”. You all know that we get horses sight unseen. So of course some of them have issues-in fact those issues are the reason the horse ends up at auction in the first place. And-believe it or not-some people lie about their horse to make the sale! (I’m sure this doesn’t surprise anybody). So we get the problem horses to QT and then learn about their shortcomings if any. The tricky thing is that some of the “worst” horses just need consistent, kind treatment and they shape right up. Topaz and Darby are two examples of this. Both are happily adopted horses that have found their person. We love those outcomes! That’s why all members of FM do the rescue thing. But sometimes the “problem” horses require more than that. And again, we have no way of knowing what a particular horse will need until they get settled in. Of course we tell fosters what we know about their behavior in QT but again that doesn’t necessarily predict how the horse will behave in foster homes. We have a couple of fosters who will take on a problem child. Some of the horses that were problem children do pretty good after some time spent in training. Smoke is one who turned around with some excellent training. But some just never do. And believe me, we do everything that we can imagine to help these horses. And some are just stinkin’ scared of people. Danny has been adopted and is enjoying pasture and horse friends and someone to brush her and talk to her. But she was dangerously scared for about a year. Things tried: turn out with only interaction with people being eating her grain, 2 months with a trainer who tried to get her to be willing to be caught, to stand still

around people and willing to be led somewhere. He failed. We called in an animal communicator. Adopter sent for a vet 2 hours away who has a good reputation for dealing with misbehavior. Thank God, this vet was willing to spend the time to vaccinate her, and then showed the adopter a few things to work on. And he came back in two weeks to check on them and advise on the next step. AND Danny will now stand for grooming and is ok with the halter. She's a gorgeous thing who will spend the rest of her life being a companion. Happy ending J

But then there have been a few, a very few, that never do come around enough to be safe with people. Very sad situation for all.

But meanwhile we do still have some "problem children" sitting in QT. You can help by talking to experienced horse people in your area to see if they would consider one.