

Horse Tales

Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines

1710 Ridge Road Pottstown, PA 19465 • Phone: (610)469-0533
www.ryerssfarm.org



Join The Stampede! Ryerss Farm 5K Run

To paraphrase Horace Greeley, "If a dog bites a man, it's not news, but if a man bites a dog, it is!" In an almost ironic twist, Ryerss will be making news by having the horses watch the people run when it hosts the first annual Ryerss Run to benefit the horses. The 5K run or 1 mile Fun Walk will take place on April 27, 2013 on the beautiful grounds of Ryerss Farm. With the help of Don Morrison of Chester

County Running Store, the race committee has laid out a safe but challenging cross country course. Ryerss Vice-President Peter Giangulio, Chairman of the event, says "Participants will be running over fields and around pastures that are full of our retired horses and ponies". It will be an interesting and rewarding run.

Pre-Race registration will be \$20, and race day registration will be \$25. Starting time is set for 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. For more information, please visit our website.

Ryerss Newest Residents



In the beginning of May 2012, Ryerss became the forever home of yet another neglected horse named **Lassie**. Originally rescued by LAPS (Large Animal Protection Society), Lassie, a 17 year old Standardbred mare was reunited with her pal,

Rosie. Lassie could not be adopted from LAPS because she injured a suspensory ligament during rehabilitation. She is now a permanent member of Ryerss, spending her days with other rescues, Rosie and Ruby. They are all escorted by Good Sport.

Choice, a gentle one eyed giant came to be a part of our family on Memorial Day of 2012. Choice, a bay Thoroughbred gelding, stood a solid 17.3 hands but because of his gentle demeanor, he was never intimidating. He spent his previous life mostly in hunter shows. He also competed on the Florida show circuit as well as the local shows at Devon.



Mandy, a 20 year old Thoroughbred mare, retired to Ryerss in June 2012. Mandy's claim to fame is that because of a search to find a person to continue her training, that very same person proved to be a viable kidney transplant match for Mandy's former owner. In June 2012, **Cruiser**, a 27 year old Thoroughbred gelding also retired to Ryerss. It was love at first sight. Mandy, a bit of a high spirited soul with no racing credentials, had fallen for Cruiser, whose impressive lineage included 4 Derby winners, 6 Preakness winners, 6 Belmont winners, 1 Triple Crown winner. He also shares a grandfather with Smarty Jones. Cruiser and Mandy were always a team.



Ryerss Newest Residents Continued

In August 2012, Ryerss rescued a miniature horse named **Omen**, from New York. It was a collaborative effort of many individuals working to make it happen. Since he has been with us, we have been working hard to gain his trust and to help him overcome his fears from his previous abuse.



Ryerss Farm accepted two new horses in October 2012. **Tex**, a 24 year old Swedish Warmblood, was officially retired after spending years in the dressage world. That same month,

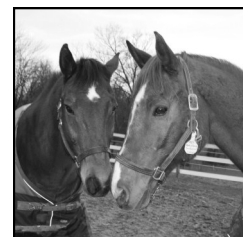
Seham, a 25 year old Egyptian Arabian mare was also retired. She is a rescue originally from the PSPCA in Philadelphia. Tex and Seham were quarantined together but as soon as that required time was over they went their separate ways. Tex found an old pal from a previous barn, C'Est What, who had lost her buddy Judd in September. They quickly became friends again and are now inseparable. Once Seham was on her own, Matisse, who lost Laufen last year took one look at Seham and the rest is history.



In January 2013, Ryerss Farm was the recipient of yet another best friend couple. **Toby**, a 22 year old Rocky Mountain Gaited Horse came in with his best friend, **Hannah**, a 21 year old Quarter Horse mare. They spent their previous life together as trail companions and are quite cute together out in the pastures.



As we all know, everything is much more fun if you can do it with your best friend. Such was the case with **Mark of Cornwall**, a 23 year old Thoroughbred who stands well over 17 hands, and his best friend **Casey**, a 20 year old Quarter horse gelding who stands at 15.1 hands. Mark and Casey retired to Ryerss in December 2012. They spent their previous lives together venturing out on trail rides. Now you can see them out in the field making new friends but still standing together as best buddies.



Gone To Greener Pastures

- ◆ **Sailor** - February 24, 2012; Navicular disease made it more difficult for Sailor to be comfortable despite our best efforts.
- ◆ **Wheaties** - April 10, 2012; Our "Golden Retriever" was an icon in the barn, more of a people pony except when it came to his best friend, Smokey.
- ◆ **Smokey** - May 5, 2012; Only second to Wheaties, our "Chocolate Lab" outlived many friends over the years but now he is with all of them.
- ◆ **Elinka** - August 21, 2012; Elinka had handled a host of medical issues over the years at Ryerss but a severe intestinal twist took her away from us.
- ◆ **Judd** - September 9, 2012; Our movie star from Elf lost his battle with navicular and degenerative joint disease.
- ◆ **Chrissy** - October 30, 2012; After spending 14 years with us, she passed away peacefully and quietly.
- ◆ **Cruiser** - November 6, 2012; We lost him unexpectedly one morning after just a few short months.
- ◆ **Choice** - November 27, 2012; He battled Lymphangitis for an extended period of time.
- ◆ **Ready** - November 27, 2012; There was never a more stoic patient with a heart of gold.
- ◆ **Casey** - December 12, 2012; At the grand age of 34, Casey passed away surrounded by those who loved him.
- ◆ **Peri** - December 24, 2012; Our ten goal polo pony lost his battle with melanomas and is now playing polo in greener pastures.
- ◆ **Morgan** - January 6, 2013; Our dear Morgan, at the age of 34, left us suddenly because of a twist in his intestine.

PSU Rewards Ryerss Farm for Stewardship

In addition to being the oldest equine sanctuary in the country, Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines in Chester County Pennsylvania is the first equine facility to receive recognition as a Proud Penn State Partner. The recognition was presented to Animal Welfare Manager, Lisa Shotzberger for her outstanding efforts n working with the Penn State Extension equine team.

The Penn State Partner program gives recognition to farms, organizations and businesses for their commitment and continued support for equine stewardship and extension programs. Participants are involved in a continual partnership with the Penn State team and take part in programs dedicated to adopting and evaluating practices that maintain healthy horses, healthy farms and a healthy environment.

The award was presented to Shotzberger during the recent Penn State Extension Grazing Field Day held at Ryerss Farm.

Article Written By: Donna Foulk

Did You Know?

Though Ryerss' primary focus is always the welfare of our horse residents, outreach to our community and community involvement with our equine population has increased over the past decade. Programs include: Agricultural Internships for students of CAT Pickering (Center of Arts and Technology) located in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Work with local facilities for the disabled (Camphill Soltaine, Ken Crest and Devereaux); Hosting high school seniors who spend a month or more at Ryerss learning horsemanship firsthand to complete their graduation projects. We are also a location where community residents can perform service hours as required by local jurisdictions. Our Animal Welfare Manager provides horsemanship training and speaks to groups regarding the unique requirements of aged horses. Ryerss is open to the public daily 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We received approximately 5,000 visitors during the 2012 calendar year, including group visits by 4-H groups, senior citizens, church groups, school and preschool children.



- ☐ I would like to send a general donation
- ☐ I would like my donation to be anonymous
- ☐ I would like to sponsor a horse...

- ☐ I will visit the farm and select my horse
- ☐ Please select a horse for me.
- ☐ Full year sponsorship, paid in full....\$360.
- ☐ Six month installment.....\$180.
- ☐ Monthly payment plan.....\$30.

Mail with payment to address below.
Credit cards accepted by phone or online.
www.ryerssfarm.org

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1710 Ridge Road • Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Horse Needs a Friend... Won't you sponsor a Ryerss horse today ?



Every horse that lives at Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines is given special attention, excellent care and love. These things come easily to the dedicated Ryerss staff. But, did you know that once a horse retires or is rescued, all of the financial responsibilities

become Ryerss? The cost of feeding, sheltering and vetting more than 75 residents adds up to a substantial amount of money. To help defray these costs, please consider sponsoring a horse. All sponsors receive a picture of their chosen horse and are acknowledged in the Ryerss newsletter once a year. As an extra benefit, you may spend personal quality time with your sponsored horse by giving the Animal Welfare Manager just 24 hours' notice to make sure your horse is in the barn, ready to see you, when you arrive. All of our horses need sponsors – you may select any one of them to become your special horse!

Ryerss Farm is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Every donation is gratefully accepted. Contributions are 100% tax-deductible.



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WORDS FROM RYERSS PRESIDENT

**Happy New Year from the dedicated staff and hardy volunteers of
Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines!**

First, I want to thank every one of you who responded so generously to our Fall fundraising letter. We raised over \$67,000 which will be a big help with our mounting veterinary and farrier bills.

Second, this is an historic year. 2013 marks the **125th anniversary** of our founding on September 17, 1888 and we are all excited about the special events appearing on our calendar. In addition to our regular events: "The Yard Sale In The Barn" held in May and "The Blessing Of The Animals" held in October, we will be kicking off the anniversary year with a "Beef and Beer" celebration in March to mark our Farm Manager Tim Blevins' quarter century of service to Ryerss. Then there will be a cross-country "Ryerss Run" scheduled in April followed by the grand finale, a Gala party and auction in late October. Check our web site www.ryerssfarm.org for all the dates and times.

Finally, you will see we have had a large group of "new residents" come to Ryerss this year. Some were rescued and some were retired by their owners, and all are beautiful. I hope you will find it in your hearts to sponsor one or more of these gentle giants.

It promises to be a busy and exciting year. I hope you will join us to celebrate 125 years of caring.

Sincerely,



Samuel W. M. Griffin
President

2013 Ryerss Farm Yard Sale in the Barn

Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines will be holding its 3d annual **Yard Sale in the Barn** on **Saturday, May 11, 2013** (the day before Mother's Day) from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** It will be held in the main barn at Ryerss Farm, 1710 Ridge Road (Rt. 23 approximately 2 miles west of Rt. 100). Please mark your calendars. We hope you will be able to attend this fun and important fundraiser, which supports the retired and rescued horses that live at Ryerss sanctuary.

Donations of gently used, clean, saleable items are needed for our sale and can be brought to Ryerss office any day after February 1 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.. Please leave a note with your items, giving your name, address, and the number of boxes or items you have brought. We will have a form that can be used to record this information. By law Ryerss cannot appraise donated items, so if you plan to take a tax deduction, you will need to keep a list of the items you have given with your estimated value.

This year we are not accepting clothing, encyclopedias, children's stuffed toys, or old TV's. However, we are very interested in any horse related items. We would also appreciate receiving antiques, art, collectibles, DVDs, decorative items, electronics, furniture, games and puzzles, holiday items, household items, jewelry, lamps, items for outdoor living, small appliances, sports equipment, tools, toys—any many other things that are not on this list. If necessary, pickups can be arranged. If you have questions, please email Ella at ryerssfarmadmin@verizon.net.

Ryerss Farm also can use more **volunteers** to help with the sale between February 1st and the Sunday after the sale. If you are interested in helping, please email Ella at ryerssfarmadmin@verizon.net.



Thank You to Our Faithful Sponsors

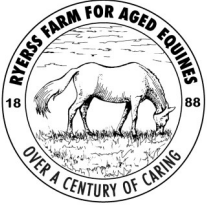
Alado, 18 Lucy Kline Henry & Frances Pollak John & Linda Yurkutat	Dancer, 42 Lori Mufford Jeffrey & Louise Bodack	Liam, 26 Rosemary Roy Anonymous	Rio, 25 Linda Schatzle	Sweetpea, 22 Anonymous Beverly Ott Janet Rizzo Abner & Lucia Still Kelvin & Ella Marie Kean
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Currently, the following horses do not have a single sponsor

Boca, 32
Casey, 20
Hannah, 21
Toby Sargent, 24

This changes all of the time. So contact our office at (610)469-0533 or email ryerssfarm@verizon.net for an updated list.





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1710 Ridge Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

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Mark Your Calendars for 2013

March 9th: Ryerss Beef & Beer
(Please call Ryerss office for tickets)

April 27th: Ryerss 5K Run / 1 Mile Fun Walk

May 11th: 3rd Annual Ryerss Yard Sale

October 5th: 24th Annual Ryerss
Blessing of the Animals

December 7th: 3rd Annual Ryerss
Holiday Open House

THIRD ANNUAL VANGUARD VOLUNTEER DAY AT RYERSS FARM!



On Saturday January 26th, a volunteer group from Vanguard, organized by Developer April Richardson, participated in its third annual Martin Luther King Day work project at Ryerss Farm. Leadership for the event was provided by Ryerss' Animal Welfare Manager, Lisa Shotzberger. The group worked in the two stables which, together, house over 75 of the Ryerss residents. Every day the stalls need to be cleaned while the horses are out in the pastures and the Vanguard group provided the manpower for that job. They mucked, watered, cleaned feed buckets, put out fresh hay and even cobwebbed! After a lunch organized by Aileen Shotzberger and provided by Giant Food Stores, they participated in a hands on grooming session with several of the horses (MacGregor, Ralph, Heyer and Skippy) who all enjoyed the attention and pampering! Veteran volunteer, Loretta Landi, was also on hand to give the group information on the horses and the 125 year history of Ryerss Farm. The day was a great success and Ryerss thanks all 24 of the Vanguard volunteers for giving of their time and energy to help the Ryerss organization.