

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THOROUGHBRED RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

Welcome!

Dear Friends,

this is the first in what we hope will be a quarterly, and possibly monthly, series of newsletters to let you know about the recent rescues, rehabilitations, and adoptions of our horses, and other activities of Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue (SCTR) that you may be interested in. This, very first, letter will serve mostly to introduce our work.

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As most of you know, SCTR's primary goal is to provide a safety net for thoroughbred ex racehorses in southern California that fail to find an alternative "soft landing" at the conclusion of their racing or breeding career. SCTR was established as a 510(c)(3) California public benefit corporation on June 10, 2008, and received federal tax exemption in March, 2009, which was backdated to the date of our incorporation. SCTR's Articles of Incorporation explicitly reference our focus on the livestock auction rescue of thoroughbreds at high risk of shipping to slaughter. SCTR attends and buys horses at as many of the bi-monthly livestock auctions in southern California as donations – of both financial and human resources – allow. The average auction price of our horses is approximately \$185, and we bid exclusively against representatives of the international horsemeat industry (although they may not necessarily be advertizing that fact). The horses that we purchase at auction have no alternative good home awaiting them, and no alternative source of rescue from the slaughter pipeline.

SCTR currently owns twenty five rescued thoroughbreds, ranging in age from two to eighteen, and has adopted out eight thoroughbreds so far during 2009, ranging in age from four to eighteen. We have also facilitated the rescue, by other organizations and individuals, of a large number of additional thoroughbreds since June of 2008, many of which were rescued by bidding at livestock auction against "kill buyers". A complete list the thoroughbreds that we have been able to help since June of 2008, and those that we could not help, is provided in our Postscript. SCTR's horses are primarily maintained at one of three facilities; they are quarantined at The Golden Carrot Horse Rescue in Anza; rehabilitated, if need be, at a private farm in Moreno Valley; and are retrained and transitioned into new homes from our adoption facility in Apple Valley. We also have access to pasture board at a private farm in the Antelope Valley for those of our horses that will never be ride-able, and await new homes as companion horses or "pasture puffs".

Our website <http://www.sctbrescue.org> records the stories of the rescue, progress through our rehabilitation program, and adoption of our horses. Rehabilitation can be lengthy, depending on the racing injuries and general physical condition of the horses that we rescue, and the degree to which they are traumatized by the auction, feedlot, neglect or abandonment they have experienced. We hope that by recording the stories of our horses on the website, we may educate, and encourage others to participate in the rescue of thoroughbred ex-racehorses – by volunteering, visiting, adopting, donating, by attending auction and directly rescuing a horse from slaughter, or by asking the racing industry and state and federal governments for change. SCTR also records its activities through weekly group emails sent to over 300 members from its "Facebook" Group page, "Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue".

Thank you for reading, and we hope that you enjoy this newsletter. Comments, and feedback both positive and negative, are very welcome!

Caroline Betts (President), John Chun (Treasurer) and Jacqueline Feenstra (Secretary)

"The horses that we purchase at auction have no alternative good home awaiting them, and no alternative source of rescue..."

About Auction Rescue

Every month in southern California, there are two “low end” horse auctions. Up to 100 horses or more may pass through these auctions on any single day. Horses arrive from ranches, individual owners, lesson barns, riding programs, racetracks, breeding farms, layup farms, and horse dealers and traders. Some horses are in good condition and well trained; some are injured; some are neglected; others have little or no training. Injured horses, and horses with little or no training – including racehorses who have no training beyond the racetrack - have a limited market at auction. Most buyers are looking for well trained riding or ranch horses.

Very few “starving” horses are sold at auction; auctionhouses frequently require the owners of starving horses to take them home and feed them until they are in a suitable condition to be sold. Prices at auction usually range from a minimum of \$25 to a maximum (very occasionally) of \$2000 or more. Currently, prices are on average rather low as a result of the weak economy; few buyers and many sellers mean that a lot of horses are “passed out” for between \$25 and \$150. Horses may be sold to “good homes”, (ranchers, trainers, individuals wanting to help a horse, rescues, etc.) but good homes are in very short supply at auction. Other possible buyers for horses at auction are rodeo owners, matchracing participants, and horse dealers and traders.

Horse dealers are often able to buy the majority of horses at auction, and buy them very cheaply. Dealers purchase horses for resale to clients, and some dealers purchase horses almost exclusively for out of state clients that in turn sell the horses for slaughter. Even if a horse is purchased by a dealer with the intention of reselling it as a riding or breeding animal, if it goes unsold for too long thereby accumulating a feed bill, it will be at risk of shipping to slaughter. Dealers do not like to accumulate costly “stocks” or inventories of horses. Many horses leave southern California every month bound for feedlots and slaughter auctions out of state. Our volunteers frequently watch as many as thirty or more horses loaded onto large stock trailers by a single horse dealer at the end of an auction.

Our goal is to prevent the shipping out of state to slaughter of as many thoroughbreds as we can accommodate physically and financially, so that we bid exclusively against dealers known/reputed to resell horses for slaughter. One investigative report of the trafficking in horses to slaughter of a well known local dealer conducted by an independent investigative group, “Animals Angels”, is publicly available online here (click on the third investigative report down on the page):

<http://www.animals-angels.com/index.php?pageID=646&synlink:docID=i11166&synlink:linkID=>

You will notice as you read this report that there has been a law in California since 1998 prohibiting the purchase and export of horses from the state for slaughter. To do so constitutes a felony punishable by up to three years’ jail time. This law has never been enforced, in the sense that there has been not one single prosecution of a violator of the law. Consequently, California horses are shipped out of state to slaughter every week; those responsible are not concerned that they may be apprehended or punished for breaking the law.

Horse auctions, including those that SCTR frequents in southern California, are probably the largest single source of horses purchased for slaughter. This is why we do what we do.

Footloose Louie in quarantine, May 2009



“Still Winners” Fund

SCTR is extremely grateful to The Toby Wells Foundation for providing startup monies for our “Still Winners” fund, which supports the emergent and urgent rescue of thoroughbred ex-racehorses from auction and feedlots. This fund, which we hope will become a permanent source of resources for SCTR, is designated to support costs involved in the unanticipated rescue of thoroughbreds. For example, it can be used to finance the purchase of an extra horse at auction which would otherwise sell to a kill dealer, or from a feedlot, when there is no time to raise

funds from other sources. It is, quite literally, a fund to help thoroughbreds win the race for their lives.

We are currently seeking matching donations for an initial \$3000 that has been donated or pledged to this fund, and total matching donations to 07/19/2009 are just \$350. You can donate through our website at:

www.sctbrescue.org/stillwinners.htm

through our fundraising page at Firstgiving:

www.firstgiving.com/stillwinners

or by check to our mailing address: 635 Hacienda Drive, Norco, CA 92860. All donations are tax deductible.

Supporting Artists

SCTR is very fortunate to have the support of three wonderful equine artists, Christine Picavet, Dagmar Galleithner, and Fred Stone, each of whom has offered to donate proceeds from the sale of their equine artwork to SCTR. Please do forward this link to anyone that may be interested in purchasing some beautiful equine artwork, while supporting the rescue and rehabilitation of thoroughbred ex-racehorses:

www.sctbrescue.org/supportingartists.htm

Links to each artist's website are accessible from this page. Thanks to Christine, Dagmar, and Fred!

Horses In Need Project

We were thrilled when local professional photographer Laurie Taylor agreed to partner with SCTR on the photo-journalistic project "Horses In Need" which is sponsored by the Equine Photographers' Network (EPN). Laurie has now captured beautiful photographs of fourteen of SCTR's rescued horses, and plans to focus on the stories of three of these for submissions to the Horses In Need project. One of the horses that we are highlighting is the lovely Luis's Especial, who SCTR rescued at auction on Kentucky Derby Day 2009 for \$250 bidding against the dealer. Luis is now happily living in his new home at the beautiful Rancho Alegre in Cottonwood California with new "mom" Gay Talmey. Laurie has captured the beauty of Luis, and many of our other horses, with some wonderful photographs which we can't wait to share with you! August 1st is the submission deadline for the Horses In Need projects, and we will update you and make public the photos and submissions as soon as possible.

A link to information about the Horses In Need project, and EPN, is here:

<http://www.equinephotographers.org/>

and a link to Laurie's website is here:

<http://www.animalpages.com/tmaphotography/home.html>

We are also looking forward to working with photographer Anthony Andrews, who has offered to photograph our horses towards some items for a future fundraiser, and also to donate some of his work. Thanks to Laurie and Andrew!

Wish List

Two items are very high on our wish list currently.

Horse Sponsors!

We would love for some of our unsupported horses to have ongoing, or even one time only, sponsors. Currently in need of sponsorship, are the following thoroughbreds in our care that are available for adoption and awaiting permanent homes:

We Will Prevail

www.sctbrescue.org/flashspage.htm

Desert's Honey Cup (6yo mare)

www.sctbrescue.org/honeyspage.htm

Donna's Dance (4yo filly)

www.sctbrescue.org/dancerspage.htm

Pinedale (5yo gelding)

www.sctbrescue.org/pinedalespage.htm

Miss Quickly (11 year old mare)

www.sctbrescue.org/missyspage.htm

Sunday Match (4yo gelding)

www.sctbrescue.org/bambamspage.htm

Equipment Donations!

Our current capacity and ability to intake additional horses is limited not only by funds, but by the availability of stalls and pens. We are seeking donations, for tax receipts, of move-able barns and pipe corrals and covers in good condition. Please contact us if you or someone you know can help, at sctbrescue@live.com.

Luis's Especial in quarantine, May 2009



A Postscript – The List

Sometimes we are asked why we rescue only thoroughbreds at auction. We hope the following lists provide a partial response: they might be collectively termed “thoroughbreds SCTR has known since June 2008”. Below are four lists of thoroughbreds. The first is the list of thoroughbreds rescued by and currently in SCTR’s care; the second is a list of thoroughbreds SCTR has adopted out since its inception; the third is a list of thoroughbreds rescued by SCTR on behalf of other organizations or individuals, or that we know have been rescued by others, since SCTR’s inception; the fourth is a list of thoroughbreds that we have been able to identify or notate as present at auction, and on craigslist in southern California, but which we were not able to rescue – either because resources were inadequate to permit us to bid on them or take them in, or because they were bid on by private parties. Thoroughbreds on the list of “not rescued” are not necessarily dead or slaughtered; we do not bid against private individuals at auction. A disclaimer: the process of identifying thoroughbreds from reading their lip tattoo, and matching it and visible markings to Jockey Club data is as accurate as possible, but horse identities are never completely **certain** (only DNA analysis would provide such certainty). Only a small number of horses are sent to auction with their Jockey Club papers. Nonetheless, we hope that these lists give a proximate idea of the scale of disposal of thoroughbreds through auction and feedlots.

Thoroughbreds currently within SCTR

1. Miss Quickly (Feb. 08 auction rescue)
2. Pinedale (Feb. 08 auction rescue)
3. Freeze the Win (Mar. 08 feedlot rescue)
4. Noble Gambler (July 08 owner relinquished)
5. Victory Design (Sept. 08 auction rescue)
6. Donna’s Dance (Sept. 08 auction rescue)
7. Hawaiian Lyon (Oct. 08 owner relinquished)
8. We Will Prevail (Oct. 08 owner donated)
9. Sunday Match (Dec. 08 auction rescue)
10. Trato (Dec. 08 owner donated)
11. Persistent (Dec. 08 feedlot rescue)
12. Shelley Creek (Jan. 09 auction rescue)
13. Desert’s Honey Cup (Feb. 09 auction rescue)
14. Rainbows at Aloha (Feb. 09 feedlot rescue)
15. Unnamed 3yo filly (Mar. 09 auction rescue)
16. Belleau Wood (Mar. 09 auction rescue)
17. Cascade Mtn. (Mar. 09 auction rescue)
18. Footloose Louie (April 09 auction rescue)
19. Native Pretentious (April 09 auction rescue)
20. Colorful Angel (April 09 auction rescue)
21. Magic Route (April 09 starvation case)
22. Apache (May 09 auction rescue)
23. Alternative Time (May 09 auction rescue)
24. Lulu’s Nick (June 09 auction rescue)
25. Free Sammy (June 09 auction rescue)

Thoroughbreds adopted out by SCTR

26. Piratesdragon (Jan. 08 feedlot rescue)
27. Silky Goose (Feb. 09 feedlot rescue)
28. Icanmakeitrain (Feb. 09 auction rescue, ret’d to owner)
29. Timeless Wager (Mar. 09 owner donated)
30. Swing’s Lew (Mar. 09 auction rescue)
31. Brent’s Last Dance (April 08 auction rescue)
32. Luis’s Especial (May 09 auction rescue)
33. Careful Haste (Nov 07 auction rescue)

Thoroughbreds rescued by SCTR for others, or by others

34. Freebe’s Lad (July.08, deserted, The Golden Carrot)
35. Winged Beauty (Sept. 08 auction rescue, TranquilityFarm)
36. Our Fantasy (Sept. 08 auction rescue, Tranquility Farm)
37. Keelhauled (Sept. 08 auction rescue, Saving Horses Inc.)
38. Lucifer (Sept. 08 auction rescue, Saving Horses Inc.)
39. Oro Desert (Oct. 08 craigslist rescue, GEVA)
40. Pappanonie (Dec.08 feedlot rescue, Saving Horses Inc.)
41. Beyond All Limits (Dec.08 feedlot rescue, Saving Horses In)
42. Invited Guest (Jan.08 craigslist rescue, Tranquility Farm)
43. Besidestillwaters (Feb.09 auction rescue, Tranquility Farm)
44. Lookingformrdunbar (Feb. 09 auction rescue, ret’d to owner)
45. Tamerlane Rising (Feb. 09 feedlot rescue, owner)
46. Kickin Stars (Feb. 09 feedlot rescue, Tranquility Farm)
47. Ask Sam (Feb. 09 feedlot rescue, ret’d to owner)
48. Cozy Spell (Feb. 09 auction rescue, private party)
49. Chestnut gelding (Feb. 09 auction rescue, private party)
50. Bee A Tigress (Feb. 09 auction rescue, private party)
51. Souvenir Trip (Mar. 09 auction rescue, Front Range Equine)
52. Serene Justice (Mar. 09 auction rescue, private party)
53. 3yo filly (May 09 auction rescue, Red Bucket Equine Resc.)
54. Anacaona (May 09 auction rescue, private party)
55. Sherwood Park (May 09 feedlot rescue, Saving Horses Inc.)
56. Ginobili (June 09 auction rescue, Tranquility Farm)

Thoroughbreds at auction and on craigslist, not rescued *

57. Unidentified dark bay mare (Dec. 09 auction)
58. Unidentified imported grey stallion (Dec. 09 auction)
58. Slewpy Come Home (Jan. 09 craigslist)
59. Monarchrose (Jan. 09 auction)
60. Real Greeley (Jan. 09 auction)
61. Burglery (Jan. 09 auction)
62. Makinoi (Jan. 09 auction)
63. Unidentified bay gelding (Jan. 09 auction)
64. Un-named 2yo colt by Benchmark (Mar. 09 auction)
65. Deep Fall (Mar. 09 auction)
66. Unidentified bay mare (Mar. 09 auction)
67. Unidentified chestnut mare, one eye (Mar. 09 auction)
68. Unidentified chestnut stallion (Mar. 09 auction)
69. Unidentified bay filly (Mar. 09 auction)
70. Road to Kisses (Mar. 09 auction)
71. Go Girl Go (Mar. 09 auction)
72. St. Laurent Lady (Mar. 09 auction)
73. First Condition (May 09 auction)
74. Drive Thru Daquiri (May 09 auction)
75. Rainbow Twist (May 09 auction)
76. Unidentified bay mare (May 09 craigslist)

77. Mi Silver Riches (June 09 auction)
78. Unidentified bay gelding (June 09 auction)
79. Beat Richy (June 09 auction)
80. Smokey Gal (June 09 auction)
81. L is for Love (June 09 auction)
82. Come to Oz (?) (June 09 auction)
83. Unidentified grey mare (June 09 auction)
84. Unidentified gelding (June 09 craigslist)
85. Unidentified gelding (June 09 craigslist)
86. Warrens Rahysgold (July 09 auction)
87. Desert Winter (July 09 auction)
88. Unidentified bay gelding (July 09 auction)
89. Majestic Design (July 09 auction)
90. Brazen Margie (July 09 auction)
91. Lori's Castle (July 09 auction)
92. She's Engaged (July 09 auction)
93. Unidentified bay mare (July 09 auction)
94. Unidentified black mare (July 09 craigslist)

*This list is highly incomplete. **SCTR did not attend auction in June, July, August, October or November of 2008.** It is often impossible or very difficult to identify horses at auction because their tattoos are unreadable, or because they are too afraid to allow us to read their tattoos. All of these horses were tattooed thoroughbreds, or thoroughbreds with their papers, potentially allowing identification. If you, or someone you know, would like to add a horse to this list, please email us at sctbrescue@live.com.

Desert's Honey Cup, June 2009

