

Happy Anniversary to Us!!!

On April 26, 2021, we launched our new website <https://www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG> through the outstanding company Flipcause. Then in April of last year, we launched a newsletter dedicated to the honor of my illustrious partner & Heart Horse, Amik. Your responses have kept me going & are deeply appreciated. We hope to bring you more wonderful stories & photos of 'Our Days on the Farm'.

Here's to the beginning of our second year in print & 4 years into our beautiful website!!



Welcome April - in honor of trees who survived the storms, end of winter blossoms & Aharnhi our 'armored dillo' hiding in my bookcase. Handsome, but shy about face shots, I gave in & took a butt shot – an intriguing animal; they can jump 3-4' straight up! He lives symbiotically with Zhighi, our opossum.



Gardens are coming along *slowly*. As promised, we are required to meet feline approval at every turn. Tricky that the flowers come & go, but BoB's parking lot is a must!



(Top & center) Every one of these beautiful beings posed for the camera in their late 20s or early 30s. Two Trakehners, an American Quarter Horse, Arabian, Pony of the Americas (POA), imported Salle Français, Tennessee Walking Horse (TWH), or Thoroughbred ... it is not their breed, or that many were able to step beyond abuse or negligence. It is that given the chance, millions of animals can make it *happily* into their later years even after humans have damaged their world. It is up to us to offer comfort & safety in comparison. Born into loving arms or snatched from the rubble, good food, gentle vets & much love, can go a very, very long way in changing their stories. Just look into their eyes to see reflections of gratitude...



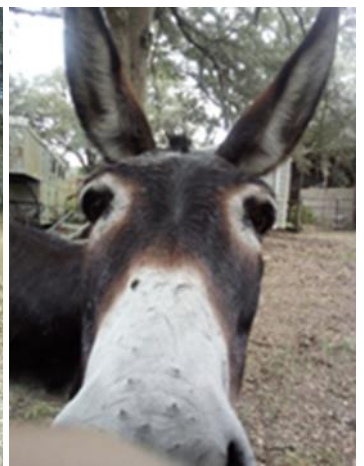
(Below) Though overly pleased with life now - stallion, broodmare, or gelding can come by hard times. Intentional or circumstantial, many find their way into our hearts after their health collapses. Individual resilience may help us throughout their road of recovery, but whether they move on to win blue ribbons, roam a quiet trail with us or live out their days in pasturelands where the memories of their dark times are no longer a haunting but a testament of their survival, so much is in the opportunity for peace.



Note: equine rescues & sanctuaries worldwide usually remember to thank their veterinarians, donors & volunteers, but the Gypsy adage 'No Foot, No Horse' brings to light how much every horse or donkey relies on the patience & expertise of a gifted farrier. We thank *all* who have ever comforted a hoof for us!!



Interview with donkeys: “They say ‘tall people don’t always have room for their feet’... well, some of us do not have room for other body parts! My ears keep getting cut by cameras! Woe is me. I put a comparison between **my** excellent ears & the puny ears of my horsey pal. What do *you* think? Some of us even have more ears than others – I win!” – Tomaluke (above)



Brooke & Bradli: try as they might... either ears or nose vanish from the camera’s eye! For the doubting Thomases, these were not posed to make a point. In fact, they were taken over a span of more than a decade... tho many donkeys can be quite large, most of these are miniatures, somehow making it even funnier (at least to *me!*) **B & B:** “Don’t know what the big deal is; *OUR* ears fit! Ok, so maybe a nose doesn’t now. Maybe we just need a bigger camera – with a ‘longer lens’ heehaw-heehaw-heehaw!”

Then there are the funny colors... if you think you are seeing spots before your eyes – you *are!*



Hethir & family may be our shortest equines but we find ways to work around that – enter, Shetland Pony pasture companion. Although the largest horse & tinniest donk make great pals, now & then meeting eye to eye is a relief. Note Mama Mhirin’s surprise that her farrier JR Hall, needs shoes when she doesn’t!
At least ears *and* noses fit in the photo. However, if he stood, JR would not! – lol.



And then... there are the *OTHERS*... **center**: the name Luscious is often associated with delicious taste. Latin derivation "entice by charm or attraction" was more fitting for the salvaged goat we took on from a suicide case. Within days, his dramatic life was transformed by the freedoms of our farm. Seldom confined, Luscious (pronounced 'Lucious' after my great grandfather) had the run of the farm. In fact, in this picture he had strolled into an open stall to hide from an oncoming winter chill. **Far left**: Obi the Oberhasli (US breed of dairy goat) relaxes with his best friend. **Far right**: due to my poor photography, our sweet wooly rescue is blurred & appears stunted, but in reality Salvadore Dhali Llama was elegant & proud, also silly. Gentle & shy around strangers, Dhali loved living in what we called 'Donkey World'.
 Sheep, goats, miniature horses & donkeys shared their space with the quiet gentle 'king'.



Ghentt picked his name hoping one day he would become a gentleman – it took some time, but the day finally arrived. Although he is a bit of a goof & needs a lot of daily recognition, he is kindhearted & downright handsome! I have trouble getting pictures of his left side since he was partially blinded by a human who became unpredictable & angry. He will show me his eye so that I can monitor his blindness, but to guests he makes sure he presents his 'clear' side, as he calls it. Skinny, angry & uncooperative when we met, he has become the good-looking & kind horse he knew he was born to be.



Why post a cartoon? Or *is* this a cartoon? Wait until next month to find out! BTW: what is a "cribber" or a "cribbing strap"?

Equestrian Spirits, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) sanctuary for animals like Ghentt & his friends. They keep us so busy it is hard to get our word out. As the year moves on, please watch for Facebook & Instagram links! WOW!



“Hey, my name is Hari & I am a really cool horse. I have been watching many of my friends show their pictures & tell their stories. I have waited quietly, which I do well, but today I decided it was time you meet me & hear another tale of woe & joy. First off, I had a kind breeder, nice trainers & riders at the racetrack where I went to make a million (that part never panned out too well) & smart vets who (unsuccessfully) tried to figure out why I just could not be consistent enough to go after that big money (in fact... *any* money). This was not for want of super-duper family lines, lots of food & gentle body care, but certain things were never quite right. I was born a bit ‘off’, as they say. I got lame, I got skinny, I got ‘flakey & undependable’. Then I got all better. Then I got lame again, skinny again & more flakey. Then I got better. My people decided I should not waste any more time pretending to be a racehorse so I was sold as a potential show horse. It wasn’t all potential because I did manage to show & win some nicely colored ribbons & metal trophies but in between those wins, I was lame, got skinny, flakey; all better then off again & again until some rather nice people gave up on me, so they sent me here... Equestrian Spirits has been my home for over a decade. I stay sound, well rounded & I’m sweet, not flakey. I must admit though, that was not an easy task. It took some Bowen, herbs, homeopathics, lots of chats with my new family & a full year of change, but here I am! I just wanted to tell the world that the stuff that was ‘wrong’ with me was made ok & now all is well. I am very popular with people & other animals. My life was rolling down a hill & more than once it was suggested I go to sleep forever. I am so *very* glad that did not happen! If you keep reading you will learn about body language. I put my ear photo in to be part of that story. See how one goes one way & the other goes different? Well I love to ‘listen with one ear’ as mom says. The other side of me does my ‘own thing’. That makes me grin! Thank you for meeting me, I will write more, one day.”

Ever wonder what animals really like to eat? Our horses are salad fanatics! The cats, not so much - lol



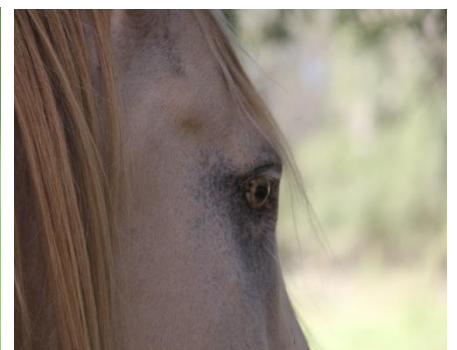
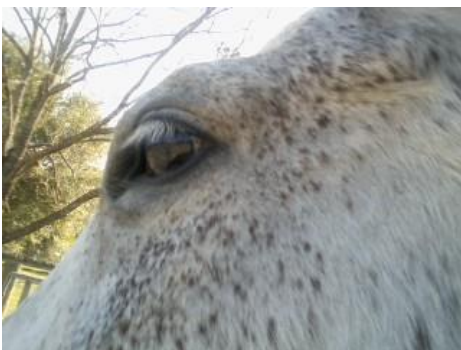
Sign language? All animals use body language as a form of communication. A swishing tail, a hunched back, or ears flat to their head can mean many things to many species or individuals. People may smile!



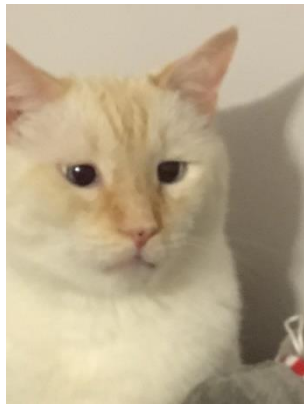
Taken seconds apart, can you see the dif? Yes, his silly tongue is out, the next moment his eyes soften to assess our reaction. This horse loved the interactions he could cause with merely a casual glance. His games were completely intentional.



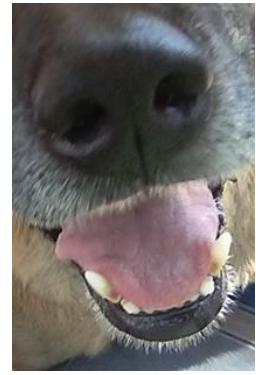
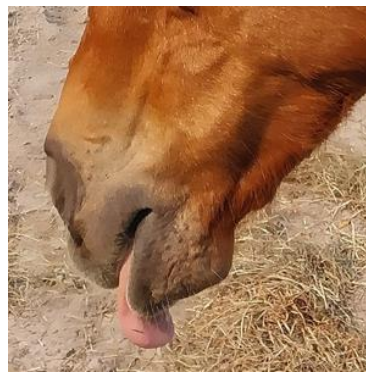
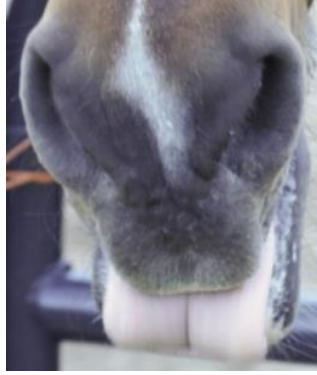
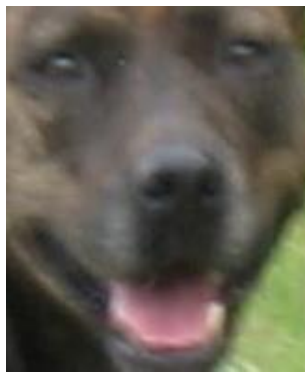
*Laughter is good medicine for us all! Watch out, they can hear you better than you know. Our words are not as foreign as science would have you believe. They listen & learn then reflect so much back to us. If we open our minds as well as our hearts, we can hear the secrets they have to tell... (*this behavior is called flehmen – coming this year, our website will explain).



The eyes have it! An expression can mean so much more than words. Content, questioning or intent can let us step deeper into their lives, or separate us so far as to miss much of the beauty they can share.



Can you tell what these friends are saying with their expressions? Language may be a barrier depending on species, even accents, but if we learn to look into their eyes or watch the movement of an ear, a tail, or an open mouth, there is much for all to better understand those we love.



To donate to Hari's Rescue Fund to help save horses & others like him please visit:
<https://www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG> All proceeds go only to animals, as our board is unpaid.



'the path less taken... made all my difference'.....

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Very sincerely, and in the spirit of all who have gone on before me... many thanks for your interest -
 Laurie L. Wolf

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