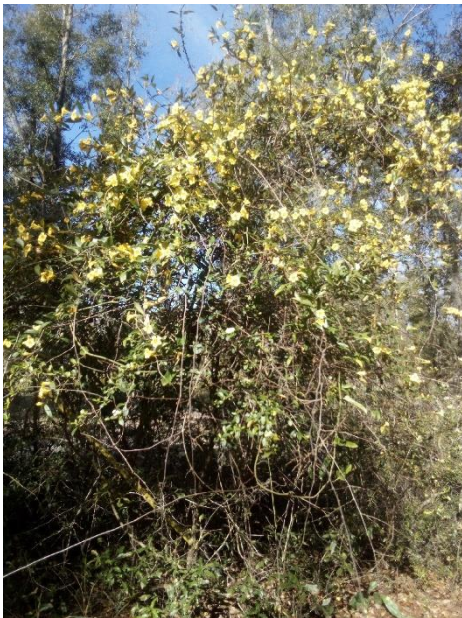


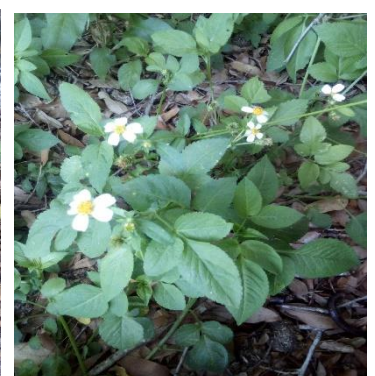


ITS 4TH OF JULY AGAIN!!

No matter what one may think of sparklers, loud booms, celebrations, or even holidays, I have always loved fireworks. I certainly hope no-one faces the noise & visions around animals (or people) who are frightened. Any aggressive types of celebration should be done with safety for ALL concerned – domestic & wildlife. I must say, our friends at Triple J Rance do it the best. Their own animals are used to all sorts of noise, traffic & unusual sights, while their farm is bordered on all sides in unique ways which lessen the potential for troubles of many kinds. So, whatever one may think of the celebration, we hope everyone had a happy & safe 4th!



Trees in a breeze, teeny tiny forms of life, imitators (the yellow plants are not the same species),



distinct tinies & the white plants are also not the same. Some contrasts are obvious; some take a much closer look to appreciate the innate beauties within. Love helps us see closer; to embrace difference.



- 1.) this is a real rabbit. As a Rex, her luxurious coat makes her appear more like a toy or stuffed animal. Hand-raised, she has traveled between several of our farms over the years, enjoying the company of dogs, people & horses. She tends to ignore cats, loves to watch wildlife but *really* loves her bunny treats.
- 2.) a recent picture of our 'house opossum' 'Zhicchi', helping himself to organic cat food. He also makes it a point to visit when we have fruit or vegetables out, especially because he does not have to share those with any feline pals. Lame when we first saw him, Zhicchi has now been with us for four years. Though he still waddles (a normal 'possum trait'), he is sound & agile, climbing stairs to make it indoors.



This squirrel is not dead! Until we had to move the bench she is perched upon, she would 'hangout' like this almost daily. Cats ignored her, dogs were interested but never frightened her & several times the horses tried, unsuccessfully, to touch her. She never fully tempted fate but was extremely interested in our goings-on. She was also not lame or ill, simply curious!



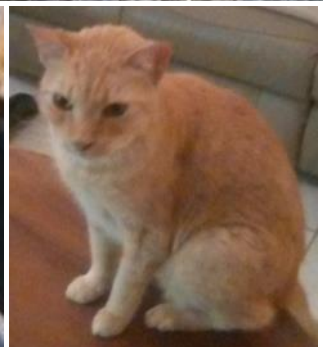
One of our beautiful Rat Snakes. Every farm should have rat hunters! Due to years of close proximity, our largest snakes (hence eldest/best hunters) are rather 'tame' & not afraid of us, horses, cats or dogs. They will steal a chicken egg now & then but are harmless to humans & helpful in many ways. His companion Hawk also searches our fields for morsels. Our wildlife is just as much a part of us as the rescued domestics. Compatibility & respect say it all.



A beautiful xRussian Blue cat (x means crossbred or 'mixed') with a strange expression, a voice that always sounds like 'owwe' (as in ouch) & an even stranger name that fits him well – nickname Ghrymm is short for Ghrymmalkhin! He chose his own name & it is not new.

Grimalkin/greymalkin is an archaic form of cat "grey/malkin" with several meanings as in a Scottish legend referring to a faery cat who dwells in the highlands. In 1603 Shakespeare mentions Gray-Malkin in Macbeth. Although our Ghrymm is a male the name usually denotes a she-cat, often described as imperious, which certainly fits in this case.

Funny thing about cats... we seem to have many black, white & grey versions so I thought I'd take a moment to honor some of our goldens & ??? others – lol. We decided most of the Siamese & torties were in a class by themselves so they will wait for another day. Keep your eyes open, some of these will be featured in issues to come! Hi there, Mozi, Whittmann, Holtt & friends!!



Some of our kitties are feral converts, many are no-kill shelter unadoptables, still others are surrenders.

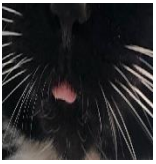


Since the 1800s it has been said, “there is nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse”. We say, “there is nothing so good for the inside of a child as the outside of a pony!” Many a super pony has crossed our path. One such was the offspring of a surprise pregnancy (Paso Fino & a Hackney mare). Oz came to us as a 2-year-old, but his heart will forever belong to a few very special children.

Beginning with a show career of in-hand classes while he was still too young to ride then onto placing huge grins onto best friends Michael & Parker Grace. Oz jumped, was a 4-H project & eagerly led his kids down a path of horsemanship... to patience, & to love.



Greatness is often found in small packages. His children may have grown but his short stature goes far beyond his abilities. Oz may have been conceived by ‘accident’, but he certainly came to us by design.



In June we asked what this was... did you guess? Well, here is the 'Big Picture' just to show how looking at life in different ways may bring us to alternative conclusions!



When I was searching for pictures of animal tongues a while back for our Legacy story about body language, our cat Mhinah wanted in on the collection. She regularly sticks her tongue out at Moose (all sorts of reasons – lol) but he is often so busy either chuckling or feeding animals that he forgets to snap a photo. By the time he got this one, that issue of our newsletter had gone to print. She was very disappointed so I promised her I would discover a way to include her.



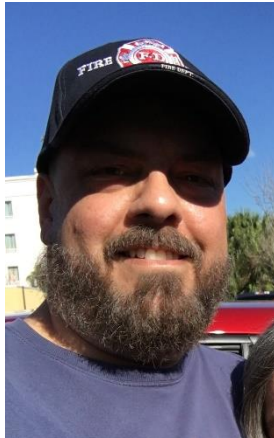
With the inclusion of Mhinah's tongue, I must add a picture of her beloved mother, Skhamp – who *never* sticks her tongue out (or so she says!). Two pregnant kittens were abandoned in our driveway many years ago. After a bit of an ordeal, we did save them both yet before we could trap a very 'wild' tuxedo mom, she had produced 2 litters of 5. (Happy news: all 11 were spayed & neutered by Sheltering Hands in Ocala, Florida!). Skhamp (who looks like she is wearing a tie as part of her stately outfit) is a very gentle soul & by far... out largest cat. We try not to laugh but trying to lift her is rather humorous as we must straddle & balance the added weight to our grasp. She gets along with all animals... dogs, cats (even who she did not produce), equines, opossum, armadillo, birds & raccoon. All but 3 of her babies were tuxedos (1 grey) & every one were born with white whiskers feathering out from a solid-colored face – genetically considered an oddity.

Last month we asked, "what's in a name?" Many noticed numerous weird spellings – sometimes even weird names. Short version: my mother was a teacher & could spell *anything*, even Latin, but me? not so much... When I left home I decided to spell the way I wanted, except for formal correspondence of course. With that, I also spelled my animal names in a variety of ways. J'son was Jake's son. Mhason, Shamm & Patchiz have some alternative letters, whereas Lheitah, Rheitah & Kiphirnikiss are far trickier & simply said Lita, Rita & Copernicus. B was a black pony. Good luck with Dhanzhir...!



Can you guess what this cat is doing & *WHY??* OR how come I care how to say Beaver in the language of the Chippawa Indians? Look for these unusual topics & more in our next issue!

Between your guesses about our August issue, once again I pause to thank a few of the humans who keep us going, near & far; some recent, some addicted to helping us throughout many years, many stories & much gratitude from me & the animals. Normally these special spirits are called volunteers – but to us, they have become friends & part of our ES/Amik Run/Centaur Family. The list goes on, but this crew jumped out at me today as I reminisced between yesterday & times gone by. A few go back into the 80s, others were just here yesterday. Omissions are only for want of print space! Thanks to one & all!!!

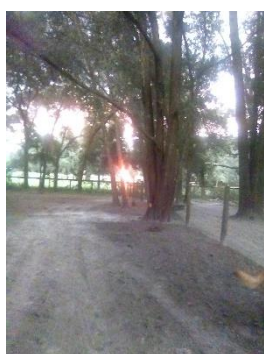




The quiet, & the bright. Peace can be found for all who roam within.



Please consider donating to **Mhinah's Rescue Fund** or **Save the Animals** by visiting our website: www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG. All proceeds go only to the animals as our board is unpaid. Donations cover food, medicines, items like blankets, bandages & various health care needs.



our paths are lit by those we love... may every heart travel free... & full

Newsletter for Equestrian Spirits, Inc. 501(c)(3) EIN: 35-2384797 (863) 368-0775

www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG P.O. Box 237 - Morriston, Florida 32668

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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