FEATHER SOUND NEWS

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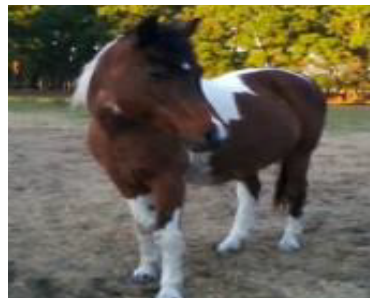
BHAYA'S CHARMING LIFE



Bhaya

From ‘rags to riches’, Bhaya’s life seemed to fit the slogan. Born into a small but personal Arabian horse farm, this little girl was one of a few foals produced in over 3 decades of kind, responsible animal care.

Sometimes a potential world does not work out quite as expected. When Bhaya was conceived, her sire lived on the farm with her dam, while she was to be birthed on premises like others before her. In fact, her owners thought so much of the pairing that later in Bhaya’s birth year her mother was bred back to the same stallion, providing a full sister and near look-a-like. So far, so good… but then…

The family was stricken with illness and the care quality for their animals waned. Slowly at first, while neighbors did not notice, then seemingly overnight a fellow they had trusted to feed and watch over the horses, kept his payment, neglecting his duties. By the time local animal control agents discovered the condition of the herd, this fellow had every excuse he could think of to pass off the derelict circumstances the officers found. Having seen far too much negligence and abuse, the agents were not fooled and began processing the situation immediately.

A friend notified me of the conditions as local agents set us up to assist. Among horses was Bhaya’s Charm. A well-marked pinto mare with such a passive demeanor that she bordered on catatonic.

In terrible shape, we vetted her, adjusted her food intake, tended to her feet and matted, unshed winter hair. We never rush a recovery but instead, allow each rescue to make their own path. Bhaya was slow to awaken. She was handled easily without rebellion, but with a dull, distant look in her eye. She had briefly seen better days in her earliest years. Now, approaching her teens there wasn’t much she cared about except one very special gelding. Authorities separated them during a headcount; we put them back together and watched Bhaya bloom.

At first, her eyes softened, then her appetite increased, next she would saunter up for a grooming or a bath with her mate alongside, seldom more than a few feet apart.

By the time animal control released Bhaya’s family she looked like a different horse. Still in need of many pounds, her coat glistened in the sun, and she began to trot rather than meander aimlessly.

While her quiet demeanor persisted, as the years went on Bhaya never made any day or any duty difficult. She remains one of the sweetest, gentlest mares I have ever known. With her mate forever by her side the duo grazed in contentment, having found a forever home with us where the pantry is never barren and hearts are catered to. Trot moved to canter and the now happy mare would call her herd to attention for every meal.

In her 5th year with us we were blessed by a visit from a prior working student. Now an adult living out of state, although we never lost contact, years had come between visits. As a previous ‘owner’ the now horseless girl became Bhaya’s focus. She felt the calm, gentle kinship and before the trip was over, we had ‘gifted’ a half interest to the young lady, healing an emptiness in her heart as well.

Bhaya's 'ragtag' look when we met was topped by a pervading sadness. The outer glow she developed is credited to quality food and healthcare, her inner glow was reunion with her mate, while snuggly mannerisms beamed through upon meeting a special person who proved to her that our crew wasn't the only kindness available in life.

Witnessing the rejuvenation of horses like Bhaya is how we can work far more than an 8-hour day, year 'round. Our own lives become enriched by helping others, receiving gratitude in expressions from this mare and others like her. Equestrian Spirits was founded on the principle of letting animals redefine their own lives rather than us 'repurposing' for them. Our board is volunteer, so all donations go to animals.

As spring settles in, our costs shift from winter to summer needs. Anyone wishing to help us care for animals like Bhaya and her mate, please consider a tax-deductible donation to our sanctuary through Zelle at info@EquestrianSpirits.ORG, or PayPal Charities through their link on our website: www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG. Thank you all and have a wonderful spring!