



## Rescues proudly represent Cowgirl Spirit at the Carnation 4th of July parade.



L to R: Christina on Cheyenne, Teri leading, Kristin on Cricket, Jen leading, Belinda on Casanova (2009 CSRDT alumni), Charlotte leading, Sarah & Kerry with flags, (not pictured) Anne & Lisa with the banner.

Cowgirl Spirit Rescue Drill Team proudly marched in the 2011 Carnation 4th of July Parade, thanks to sponsorship from [Business Telecom Products](#), a long-time supporter of Cowgirl Spirit. The rescues strutted their stuff in front of over twelve thousand spectators during the parade. Cheyenne, who performed at Emerald Downs earlier this year, and CSRDT alumni rescue horse, Casanova, were both in their element and confidently showed Cricket the ropes.

Casanova, who was rescued in 2009 and adopted by his new owner, CSRDT Vice President and Treasurer Belinda Jensen, in 2010, soaked up every second of the parade. Before Casanova came to Cowgirl Spirit, he was a Mexican dancing horse, and, though he doesn't dance anymore, he still loves to be in front of a crowd. Casanova's ears were perked and he basked in the attention he received from the throngs of people, and from his rider Belinda, and his handler, Charlotte Plouse.

Christina Caddell rode Cheyenne, who wasn't fazed in the slightest by all the commotion, noise, and thousands of spectators. She and her rider and her handler, CSRDT President Teri Gustafson, looked like old pros as the crowds cheered and clapped as they moved along the parade route.

Cricket was taken a little more off-guard by all the tractors, dancing horses, crowds, and groups of dancers (and that pesky, prickly bush that reached out and goosed her while the team waited in line for the parade to begin). After she was convinced that the tractors were not there to eat her, she settled in and actually enjoyed herself during the parade! Since Cricket was a little more nervous about the new experience than the other two horses, her rider, CSRDT secretary Kristin Brown, and her handler, Jen Rice, kept Cricket tucked comfortably between the two more experienced steeds.

The Carnation 4th of July Celebration has been a tradition in the town for over 50 years. The annual event offers a 5K run, 3 on 3 basketball, Hot Rods & Harleys show, vendors, live entertainment, an outstanding fireworks show, and more. Cowgirl Spirit is proud to have attended this hometown event for the third year in a row, and loves seeing that the group and the rescues have a local fan base! Check out [www.carnation4th.org](http://www.carnation4th.org) for more highlights.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Google work party	2
Drill team update	2
Slaughter report	3
Recent adoptions	3
New rescue—Mandi	4
New rescue—Abby	4
Rescue Updates	5
Hay donation	6
Round pen donation	6
Tracy's Clothesline	6
Our Sponsors	6

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## Google Work Party

On June 17, 2011, new member Hannah Schlesinger organized a group of Google volunteers to help with major improvements at the Cowgirl Spirit headquarters in Carnation, Washington. The organization hosted a fabulous group of Google volunteers who painted the team's storage sheds, took down wire, put up new fencing, dug post holes, and completed acres of weed whacking.

The team's headquarters looks SPECTACULAR after this recent face-lift. We cannot thank Hannah and her dedicated crew of Google team-members enough for all of their help!



## Drill Team and Training Update

Cowgirl Spirit is changing the way they document how they train and work with their rescue horses. With the input from the team's very experienced trainers, Cowgirl Spirit has initiated a "horse progress checklist" for each rescue. The team will use these checklists to make sure that the rescues achieve basic milestones before they're considered ready for adoption. By keeping these records and ensuring that the rescues reach each milestone, the organization is protecting the future of each horse that leaves their care. A horse that doesn't bat an eye at spray bottles, clippers, straight load trailers, worming, crowds, flags, etc., has a much better chance of staying in their forever home after they leave Cowgirl Spirit.

The organization is so excited about the new processes that are in place, and feels that this documentation and training will help increase the marketability of the rescues, increasing adoptions, and in turn, open spaces for other horses in desperate situations.

The team has also initiated weekly ground-handling clinics for its members and volunteers. The consistent handling that the rescues receive because of these clinics will speed their training and develop their skills when handled by the various people involved in their day-to-day care. In addition to ground-handling clinics, the team will offer other educational seminars covering emergency first aid, hoof care, and more.

Each Sunday, the team has riding practice at [River Run Ranch](#), who graciously allows the organization to use their arena space. This time together allows the team to work on suppling exercises, individual riding skills with the rescues, as well as practicing the maneuvers required for the rescues to perform as a drill team. The team is excited to have their new rescues join practices, and continues to offer riding assessments for their members who want to take a more active role in the organization.

If you'd like information on having CSRDT perform at your Seattle-area event this summer, please contact [officers@csrdt.org](mailto:officers@csrdt.org).

## GAO Report on Horse Welfare since 2007 Slaughter Ban

On June 22, 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report to Congressional Committees entitled *Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter*. The report states that “since fiscal year 2006, Congress has annually prohibited the use of federal funds to inspect horses destined for food, effectively prohibiting domestic slaughter. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for overseeing the welfare of horses transported for slaughter.” For this study, the GAO examined horse shipping data, interviewed officials from USDA, state and local governments, tribes, the livestock industry, and animal welfare organizations.

“Since domestic horse slaughter ceased in 2007, the slaughter horse market has shifted to Canada and Mexico. From 2006 through 2010, U.S. horse exports for slaughter increased by 148 and 660 percent to Canada and Mexico, respectively. As a result, nearly the same number of U.S. horses was transported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter in 2010--nearly 138,000--as was slaughtered before domestic slaughter ceased.” The report also stated that since the slaughter ban in 2007, local and state governments and animal rescue organizations have reported a rise in horse neglect investigations and horse abandonment. Data from Colorado showed a 60 percent increase from 975 cases in 2005, to 1,588 cases in 2009. Texas, California and Florida have also reported an increase in horses abandoned on public or private land, which strains resources for native wildlife.

“USDA faces three broad challenges in overseeing the welfare of horses during transport to slaughter. First, among other management challenges, the current transport regulation only applies to horses transported directly to slaughtering facilities. A 2007 proposed rule would more broadly include horses moved first to stockyards, assembly points, and feedlots before being transported to Canada and Mexico. Annual legislative prohibitions on USDA’s use of federal funds for inspecting horses impede USDA’s ability to improve compliance with, and enforcement of, the transport regulation. The GAO analysis shows that U.S. horses intended for slaughter are now traveling significantly greater distances to reach their final destination, where they are not covered by U.S. humane slaughter protections. “

The report concludes that “With cessation of domestic slaughter, USDA lacks staff and resources at the borders and foreign slaughtering facilities that it once had in domestic facilities to help identify problems with shipping paperwork or the condition of horses before they are slaughtered.” The GAO recommends that Congress consider lifting restrictions on the use of federal funds to inspect horses for slaughter or, instead, consider a permanent ban on transporting horses out of the country for the purpose of slaughter. The GAO recommends that USDA issue a final rule to protect horses through more of the transportation chain to slaughter and consider ways to better leverage resources for compliance activities.

For more information or to view the complete report, please visit the GAO website at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-228>.



## Recent CSRDT Adoptions



**Jagger (now Jaeger)** is one of Cowgirl Spirit’s original rescues from September, 2005. He was adopted in March, 2006 as a then three year old, but was returned to Cowgirl Spirit as an eight year old when his family was no longer able to keep him. He was then adopted by Peggy Jewell in May, 2011.

He is settling in perfectly at his new home, and remains his sweet, spunky little self. He is still quite a ham and remains very inquisitive, needing to be in on everything that is going on around him. Peggy introduced Jaeger to a group of visiting family and friends, when all of a sudden, he ran up to Peggy and grabbed the hat off her head! The goofball proceeded to show off for the guests with the hat in his mouth, running and playing in the pasture! Cowgirl Spirit is so happy about this match!

**Honor** was rescued from the kill pen after the November, 2010 Enumclaw Livestock Auction. New member, Lisa Harmon, immediately felt a connection with this stunning mare and officially adopted her in June, 2011. Lisa’s strong Parelli background is exactly what Honor needs to help her achieve her full potential.

Honor is a very intelligent mare, who definitely took her time in developing her trust of humans. Each training session during her time at Cowgirl Spirit saw steady advances in her progress. Honor is a beautiful, fascinating horse, and will be a trusted, lifelong partner for her new owner, Lisa, who reports that Honor is settling in perfectly at her new home and continues to progress in her training.



## Introducing Cowgirl Spirit's Newest Rescues

**Mandi (Strawberys Blossum)** is a 12 year old registered Quarter Horse (see Mandi's pedigree [here](#)). She is approximately 15hh and is a sweet Palomino mare who is very willing to please. Mandi needs to learn the importance of respecting the personal space of her handlers. Mandi is an owner-surrender who was started under saddle several years ago, but hasn't been ridden or worked consistently for several years.

Mandi has transformed by leaps and bounds when it comes to her ground manners. The Cowgirl Spirit members, volunteers, and trainers have spent hour after hour working with Mandi to demonstrate what is expected of her when working near and with humans. Mandi received two lengthy trailering lessons, during which it took over an hour before Mandi willingly and repeatedly loaded and unloaded from the team's straight-load 2-horse trailer. Mandi's lessons truly paid off when Mandi needed to be trailered to the Northwest Equine Stewardship Center for care after a leg injury (see below). Mandi walked into the trailer like a perfect angel. Mandi has also been restarted under saddle. Her manners and willingness under saddle are outstanding, and she is quickly becoming a team favorite to ride, especially of team President, Teri.

Mandi is now not only learning to interact appropriately with humans, but also with other horses in the Cowgirl Spirit herd. Boss-mare, Cheyenne, is doing her best to teach Mandi what is acceptable behavior in the pasture. Because Mandi is such an easy keeper, she is spending several hours a day in the team's "fatty pen" where her grazing can be limited and her weight can be maintained at a healthy level.

During one of Mandi's recent play dates in the pasture, she sustained a very serious puncture wound to the inside of her right knee — narrowly missing penetrating her knee capsule. She was a trooper during treatment as Dr. Hannah cleaned treated the wound. Because of the treatment regimen that would be required for the wound to heal properly, the team thought it best for Mandi to travel to the Northwest Equine Stewardship Center, where she could be placed on stall rest and treated daily by Dr. Hannah's capable staff. The team expects Mandi to return to the team's headquarters within the next week.



Mandi rests before her trip to NWESC.



**Abby** is a beautiful 15hh, 8 year old, dappled bay, Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse cross mare who was rescued from the kill pen after the June, 2011 auction at the Enumclaw Sales Pavilion. Abby loaded and trailered perfectly from the auction house, and spent a couple weeks in quarantine at the home of Cowgirl Spirit Vice President and Treasurer, Belinda. After a clean bill of health and a tooth float from Dr. Hannah, Abby was moved to the Cowgirl Spirit headquarters, where Cricket quickly took her under her nurturing wing.

Abby is still getting used to her new way of life at the headquarters. She is a very sensitive and sweet horse and tries very hard to adjust to the daily routine. She and Cricket are best pals and can be seen grooming each other and grazing side-by-side in the pasture any time of day.

Abby has begun attending drill practices and weekly ground-handling clinics. Shortly after her arrival to the headquarters, she had her first ride at Kathryn Taylor Equestrian Park in Redmond. Cowgirl Spirit trainer, Jean Chaney, assessed Abby, and within no time, they were riding together around the arena. Abby was such a doll that even Cowgirl Spirit president, Teri, took her for a spin! The group wrapped up the day with a three hour trail ride, where Abby performed like a champ, even switching riders halfway through!

Abby has already had adoption inquiries, so the team doesn't expect they'll wait too long before she finds her forever home. In the meantime, the team will continue to help Abby progress with her training both on the ground and under saddle.

Top photo: Jean assesses Abby before her first ride.

Bottom photo: Teri takes Abby for a spin around the arena.



## Current Cowgirl Spirit Rescue Updates:

Cowgirl Spirit's rescues have had a pretty eventful couple of months as far as health concerns go. The unexpected veterinary bills have taken a toll on the team's finances, especially with the upcoming bill coming in for Mandi's leg injury. If you are interested in contributing to the rescue's veterinary bills, please contact Evergreen Holistic Veterinary Care at 360-794-9255, or [info@ehvcequine.com](mailto:info@ehvcequine.com).

If you would like to arrange a time to meet Cowgirl Spirit's rescues, or visit their headquarters in Carnation, Washington, please e-mail [officers@csrdt.org](mailto:officers@csrdt.org). Members are also available to provide educational tours at our HQ to scout troops, home school groups, and more. Please e-mail for more information.

**Mollie**, a 14.1 hh, four year old Morgan cross mare, has been shipped off to Pony Boot Camp! Mollie is a great little horse who is basking in the attention she is receiving at Firecreek Farm in Monroe, WA, which is generously donating Mollie's board. Mollie is worked several times per week and is getting used to what life is like in big-girl stable — baths, clippers, cross-ties and more. Mollie's main trainer, Ally, even plans on taking Mollie to her first dressage show in the upcoming months! You can follow her progress on our website via <http://ponybootcamp.blogspot.com/>.

**Cricket** is in seventh heaven with her new best buddy, Abby, at the headquarters. Cricket is a very personable horse, and until Abby arrived, she seemed to prefer the company of humans vs. other horses. The group is so happy that Cricket has an equine pal to hang around with. Cricket had her own cheering section at the Carnation Parade — perking her ears as local families called her name. Since she has such a willing and friendly personality, and is so proportionately built at 13.3 hands (she's built like a tiny Thoroughbred), she would make an outstanding child's show horse. She is proving to be very adept at jumping, and the team hopes to start jumping her under saddle in the upcoming weeks.



Abby and Cricket snuggling.

**Cheyenne**, a 14.3 hh black Morgan cross mare, is a sweet horse who has had a bit of a rough summer so far. Cheyenne developed severe allergies to bug bites, and has had to be placed on Benedryl to help with her itchy skin. She is finally improving thanks to some herbal anti-itch supplement recommended by Dr. Hannah. Cheyenne was a super star at the Carnation parade, and continues to be a team favorite at ground handling clinics and riding practices. She stops on a dime, neck reins, and is very sensitive to leg cues. Cheyenne is ready for adoption when the right home comes along.

**Ruben** is still enjoying his time at [National School of Academic Equitation](#) in Woodinville, Washington, where he is being sponsored by Christie and Nate Fisher for his full board and ongoing training. Ruben is an original Cowgirl Spirit rescue from 2005, who was returned to the organization when his adoptive owner ran into financial difficulties. Ruben is blind in one eye, is approximately 18 years old, and is a creature of habit. He would make an outstanding pasture friend, and bonds quickly with another horse if pastured together. If you are interested in adopting Ruben as a pasture pal, he is available on a gift contract with no adoption fee.

**Amira** is a sweet, wonderful mare who is by far the current "Cadillac" of the Cowgirl Spirit herd. She is basically bomb-proof, has great ground manners, and will do anything she is asked under saddle. She has the most darling habit of flapping her lips when she gets the slightest bit concerned about something. Amira is also ready for adoption, and would make an outstanding beginner's or child's horse. Amira recently had to have two abscessed teeth removed, but is quickly on the mend! She is currently recuperating at Belinda's house, and will return to the Cowgirl Spirit headquarters when she has fully recovered.



**Maya** is a gorgeous 14.2 hh, 3 year old Quarter Horse filly with a chestnut coat and flaxen mane and tail. Maya was rescued from starvation and neglect, but has recovered beautifully thanks to the care of the [Northwest Equine Stewardship Center](#). Maya was born blind in her left eye, but is not letting it affect her training. She has been started under saddle and is proving to be a willing student! Maya continues to progress with her training on the ground and under saddle. Maya is also proving to be a very easy keeper, and has been relegated to the "fatty pen" with Mandi for a few hours a day to help her watch her figure. She has begun to lose those spring pasture pounds and is looking fantastic. She will be ready for adoption in the next few months.

**Sunny** is a 4 year old Thoroughbred who was rescued in early January 2011. She was to be euthanized by her original owner because of ongoing health and behavioral issues, but came to Cowgirl Spirit as a last chance for rehabilitation. She hasn't joined the Cowgirl Spirit herd yet since she currently requires regular medication as well as regular bodywork treatments. She is currently receiving treatment at the [Northwest Equine Stewardship Center](#) in Monroe, where she is receiving regular medication, acupuncture, and chiropractic work for her chronic body pain. NWESC has arranged for her necessary ongoing treatment and board to be sponsored at the center for the next several months. Cowgirl Spirit cannot thank Dr. Hannah Evergreen and NWESC enough for their assistance and generosity with Sunny.

*Feel the Spirit...  
Keep on Riding*

### **Cowgirl Spirit Wish List**

*If you wish to donate to Cowgirl Spirit, they would be thrilled to provide you with a tax receipt for the donation or discount provided! The following items are on the team's current wish list:*

- *Tractor with brush hog*
- *Round pen panels*
- *Gooseneck stock trailer*
- *DeYoung's senior feed*
- *14"-16" Barrel saddles*
- *Parelli training tools*
- *Medical supplies*
- *General horsie supplies*

### **Cowgirl Spirit Rescue Drill Team**

P.O. Box 83  
Fall City, WA 98024  
Phone: 206-617-1136  
www.CowgirlSpirit.org  
Email: officers@csrdt.org



## **Hooray for Donated Hay!**

Art Reid of North Bend, Washington, donated over four tons of grass hay to Cowgirl Spirit. This donation puts us in a great position as we prepare for the upcoming winter months. Dedicated Cowgirl Spirit volunteers loaded, transported, and unloaded the hay donation over two weekends in June. Huge thank you to Art, and equally huge thank you to the members and volunteers that helped out!

## **New Round Pen**

In late May, Ivy Meadors made a greatly appreciated donation to Cowgirl Spirit! She donated a sixty foot round pen to the organization, which is in pristine condition! This was a much-needed donation that will benefit the team and their rescue horses for years to come. Before the round pen was assembled, team president, Teri, harrowed the footing which had been saturated and dried several times during the spring floods and rains. The rescues now have a perfect area for training at the Cowgirl Spirit headquarters!



## **Super-Supporter: Tracy's Clothesline**

Tracy's Clothesline, the premier equine blanket service in Duvall, WA, is generously sponsoring Cowgirl Spirit by cleaning and repairing the organization's blankets as needed. This is such a huge help to the group because this covers a very large portion of their expenditures during the winter months. Our rescues come to us in various physical states, so the right blanket is really, literally, a matter of life and death for some of our rescues.

As a special for Cowgirl Spirit supporters, Tracy's clothesline is offering a 15% discount for any order in July that is paid within ten days of receipt. If you need blanket cleaning and repair, please try out Tracy's Clothesline. They have taken exceptional care of our rescues' blankets and saddle pads for years, and even offer convenient online bill pay!

Please visit them online at [www.tracysclothesline.com/](http://www.tracysclothesline.com/)

## **As always, we're so thankful to our sponsors and sustaining donors:**

We could not do this without the generous support and donations of our sponsors. Please show your thanks for their support by patronizing these organizations whenever possible:

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Special thanks to our dedicated sustaining donors: **Sylvia Starr, Belinda Jensen, Christie and Nate Fisher, and Anne Polavin.** If you're interested in becoming a sustaining donor, please contact officers@csrdt.org.