



Founding members reunite to bring back the dream & mission that is Cowgirl Spirit!

CSRDT was formed in early 2005 when we purchased two slaughter-bound horses, Buster and Sadie. Our dream and vision to give these horses a new lease on life by training them for drill sent the organization off in a direction with unlimited potential one could only imagine! CSRDT quickly took off, with competitions and performances as well as invitations to events and requests for magazines, newspapers, and TV interviews.

Two years into this incredible dream, and having rescued, trained, and adopted out 10 amazing horses, the time came for CSRDT to take a break. It was realized that we grew so quickly that the most important pieces of the foundation that were needed for the organization to survive long term, and grow to help



Cowgirl Spirit's 1st Place win at the Eastside Round Up Competition in Selah, WA



Cowgirl Spirit Founding members reunite! May 2008

even more horses, were missing.

Between April 2006 and April 2008, CSRDT focused on adopting out the 15 horses that remained in the organization, while leaders looked at what needed to be restructured to strengthen the team and discussed how this could be done. The time has come, and we are back!!!

With our first presentation on May 10th, 2008, CSRDT has returned into the spotlight of the public, showing the world what these "throw away horses" can accomplish when given the time, training and direction, that all horses are deserving of. Take a moment to view our Calendar of Events, and come watch these horses perform. We look forward to seeing you!

Our 2008 competition season is here!

Cowgirl Spirit attended our first competition of the season on May 18th!

Cowgirl Spirit's main tool in rehabilitating our rescues is the sport of equestrian drill. This quickly growing sport teaches horses manners and social skills as they learn to trot and canter next to other horses through intricate patterns at varying speeds. Often times, horses are taken to many different locations and arenas where they are expected to perform to the best of their ability.

We have found that many of our rescues flourish in the opportunity to be with their herd and will often learn the drill pattern even before their riders. Even horses with only a few rides in the saddle have competently taken to the sport of drill.

We are excited to show off our shining stars this year as we aim to perform with a team of four rescue horses during the 2008 season.

Our first competition of the year was at the Eastside Roundup in Selah, WA. We are extremely proud of our rescues as they tied for 4th place in the Freestyle competition and received 1st place in the Quad division.

It was extremely endearing to meet our fans who were delighted with our rescues! Thank you all for your support!

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COWGIRLS WANTED!

Committed? Dedicated? Love horses? Want to help save, train and perform on slaughter bound rescues? If so, then we NEED you! The 2009 competition season is here and we'd love to have you as part of our team!

JOIN US TODAY!



Two Cowgirl Spirit Rescues in Training

As a team, we are nothing without our horses! Cowgirl Spirit is delighted to introduce our two rescues in training, Salsa & Class.



Salsa performs at her first competition, ridden by Ally on 5/18/08



Class leads the team sweep, ridden by Lise on 5/18/08

Many of you may remember Salsa, a gorgeous 15.2hh 7 year old Arabian/Morgan cross mare picked up at a feedlot in Yakima in the spring of 2006. Our initial assessment revealed that Salsa required full training from the ground up. During the past two years Salsa has had extensive ground training and was started under saddle by Serenity Training. Her first exposure to the show scene came on May 10th during our first performance of the year. Salsa's found her niche in drill, but really loves to have any type of job. Just recently Salsa went on her first trail ride up in Sultan. She was great on the trail, and learned to face her fears of crossing water. She showed great self control and bravery the entire way. She's quickly winning over the hearts of her riders!

Our second horse, Class, is almost the complete opposite of Salsa! Towering at a whopping 14.2 hh, this 6 year old sorrel Quarter Horse mare is nothing to laugh at! Class was originally rescued from the Yakima feedlot in May 2006 and started by Serenity Training during the summer of 2007. Though initially tough on the ground, Class was a quick study, learning new skills by the day! This little mare has got amazing talent and is currently refining skills such as haunch turns and neck reining during our practices & performances. She is sane, fun, and perhaps a little lazy. She loves to have a great time whether she's in the arena, on the trail, or at the beach. Look out, world, Class is coming!

Cowgirl Spirit Spotlight Rider of the Month!

Allyson Petrenko is in the Spotlight this month—please read on to get to know our valued team member!

Name: Allyson Petrenko

Hometown: Vernon, New Jersey... now Bellevue, Washington!

Number of Horses: 3, all rescues, including previous Cowgirl Spirit rescue horse, Cabo!

About My Passion: I've been riding horses for 23 years. Starting at the ripe old age of 4, I grew up riding hunter/jumpers on the east coast. As I got older I realized my



Ally & Cabo, May 2007

true talent and passion was in starting young horses and fixing those "problem horses" nobody wanted to work with. Almost as soon as I moved out to the west coast, I found myself deep in the heart of rescue- collecting my own and helping those who needed a new start in life.



Allyson Petrenko, May 2008

Why I volunteer at CSRDT: Cowgirl Spirit defines rescue. Horses that are about to face a disgraceful death, are given a second chance by actively pursuing their athletic abilities. When we're finished, they have the skills they need to be successful in their adoptive homes. I feel very lucky to be able to work with the team to bring out the best in these beautiful animals.

Zoe: An Epic Success Story

One of our most memorable rescues finds her forever home with team member, Elisabeth!

Being one of the most unique horses that has entered the Cowgirl Spirit program, Zoe arrived severely underweight, worm infested, untrained, and ill-mannered. It wasn't long before she placed her trust in the hands of her handlers, and her performance ability soared. Through her accomplishments, we often wondered if the right home would come around, a rider who clicked with this special mare.

In March of 2008, just that home showed



Zoe, rescued in November 2005



Elisabeth & Zoe in April 2008

Lisa, offered their property for a foster horse. Zoe was chosen to be moved over, and the bond between Elisabeth and Zoe quickly took off. These two are inseparable now, and their love for each

itself, in a 14yo teenage girl named Elisabeth. Elisabeth rode on the performance team during the 2005 show season, helping to carry Cowgirl Spirit to it's first WLRC state competition. Elisabeth and her mom (and current performing team member),

have Zoe.

Zoe was in her second performance on May 10th at the Pierce County Fairground and it was the first time with Elisabeth.

They both did fabulous! It is hard to believe that just a few years ago, she was rescued and in horrific physical and emotional condition. It goes to show that you just can't give up on a horse!



Elisabeth & Zoe cantering in the surf

other is obvious. We look forward to seeing these two grow in accomplishments together! Congratulations Elisabeth!

Mother, Lisa: Zoe has found her soul mate - my daughter Elisabeth and Zoe have bonded and have made a permanent spot in their hearts for each other. Zoe shares a paddock with my horse Shakirah, another rescue. They are now best buddies but Zoe loves Elisabeth best!

Zoe calls to Elisabeth when she gets home from school and just loves the attention Elisabeth gives her every day. We are really fortunate to

The risks of re-homing your horse for free or cheap

Cowgirl Spirit stepped in to save a young OTTB from the kill buyer where he mistakenly ended up after being given to a woman for her children.

When Colin's owner found that he had been deployed to Iraq, he tried to find his horses a good home. The middle aged lady who contacted him seemed perfect. She told him she was a 4-H leader and that his horses would be used for 4-H, so he thought he had found the perfect home. Sadly, just a few hours later at least one of the horses - a seven year old Thoroughbred gelding named Petersburg Knight - was at the Enumclaw auction being sold for \$150 to a horse dealer who ships anything lame or not well broke to slaughter. Since "Colin" was lame from a splinter wedged in his hoof, thin, and only track broke, it was obvious where he was heading.

Fortunately, a fellow rescuer contacted CSRDT member Cathy Atkinson. Cathy knew the dealer in question would be happy to resell the gelding, so she set the wheels in motion. She was stuck at work, but able to collect donations through her blog. The donations were sent via paypal to Team President Juliane. Juliane immediately hitched up and headed to the auction yard to rescue Colin! A few hours later he was safe in Cathy's backyard and only days later had been adopted to a wonderful home. He is steadily gaining weight and his sore foot is healing.

This rescue showed the power of the Internet to rescue a horse in need, but it also shows how easily a kind and trusting person can be fooled by a sophisticated con artist. There are many people out there trying to profit off the "free horses" looking for a good home. Don't believe the misinformation that horses are safe from slaughter because the U.S. plants have shut down - many area dealers are still shipping to Canada and Mexico. If you must give up your horse, take the simple steps we recommend to ensure he or she gets the good home they deserve!

Re-homing Tips!

1. Check references (vet, farrier, etc.)
2. Do a site check!
3. Get a signed contract (most rescues have one you can work from)
4. Ask to do a follow up visit in a month
5. Look for a compatible home.



Colin was saved from slaughter, with the help of Cowgirl Spirit's members!

Feel the Spirit...

Keep on Riding

*Subscribe to Cowgirl Spirit's
monthly newsletter and have a
copy mailed directly to your home!*

Check out our website!
www.csrdt.org

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Meet Our Newest Rescue, Casper!

Our newest rescue, Casper, is a 3 year old APHA registered Paint mare. She joined us on May 15th, 2008 and is currently stabled in Maple Valley.

Casper has started her groundwork training, including being saddled for the first time and holding a rider bareback. She is a very mellow filly and we are eager to start her training but recognize that she is young yet and still growing, so her progress will be slow.

Check our website often for updates on this beautiful girl!



VOLUNTEER

Many of our rescues simply need the basic reassurances of daily brushing and grooming as they learn to trust humans again. If you are looking for a way to fulfill your passion for horses, you can volunteer your time to work with our rescues!

How you can help...

Your support helps us to continue our efforts to raise awareness of equine slaughter in America through the transformation of "worthless" horses into athletes trained in the sport of equestrian drill.

If have, or know someone who has the resources to contribute to Cowgirl Spirit Rescue Drill Team, please contact us at:

www.csrdt.org

INDOOR ARENA

Cowgirl Spirit is still in search of an indoor or covered arena close to Fall City, Snoqualmie or Carnation areas which can accommodate 10-12 hoses for our weekly practice/training sessions.

PASTURES

We wouldn't be able to help as many horses as we do without the generous donations of pasture space. We are always looking for new pastures to accommodate our constantly growing group of rescues.

DONATE

Most of our rescues come to us with needs beyond those of the average horse. Your donation of services and products as well as monetary donations help us meet the physical needs of our rescues.

Cowgirl Spirit's 2008 Competition Schedule

Be sure to stop by one of our upcoming competitions this season! We enjoy meeting our supporters and fans and love to show off our rescues!!

6/7/08—CC Rider's Annual Competition, Sulkam, WA

6/21-6/22/06—PNWDTA Competition, Spanaway, WA

7/11-7/13/08—WLRCA Competition, Spanaway, WA

8/23/08—SAFE Benefit Show, Bridle Trails, Bellevue, WA

Check out our website for more details!

<http://www.csrdt.org>