



Community Rushes to Cowgirl Spirit's Aid

On February 23, 2010 Cowgirl Spirit experienced a theft at their headquarters in Carnation, WA. When volunteers arrived that morning to take care of the daily chores, they realized that the majority of their supplies were missing. The team was in the process of fund-



Casanova and VP of Membership, Gina Salmeri face the reality of the theft.

raising to purchase a shed to secure their supplies so it was a shock to realize that thieves had stripped them of their bare essentials: halters, lead, pitchforks, brooms, blankets and tack. When KOMO 4's Problem Solvers caught wind of the theft, they immediately came to the team's headquarters, and ran a story about the theft the very next day. From that moment on, the team and volunteers were overwhelmed by the seemingly limitless generosity of horse people and non-horse people across the state. Word spread quickly through the Internet, and the team began receiving donations and well wishes from across the country — some from as far away as Hawaii.

Within hours of the story airing on KOMO, the team was contacted by a Mercer Island man who offered to pay for the replacement of all items stolen. The Grange in Issaquah provided further discounts on the items to maximize this generous donation. KOMO arranged to come back to the headquarters under the pretense of doing a "follow up" on the story. When The Problem Solvers arrived, they presented the team with a \$1000 donation from a Seattle woman who contributed her tax return to the team, plus over \$400 that was collected by KOMO for the team's cause.



Another generous man donated a shed on wheels which has been a lifesaver for the team who was finally able to lock up their tools. A short time later, [Bird Boyz Builders](#) of Spokane donated and delivered a 10'x10' shed kit, the construction of which was donated by Patrick Egan of Artisan Carpentry in Seattle. The list of generous donors goes on to include neighbors, local businesses such as [Lazy K's Pizza and Pasta](#), area riding clubs, and countless groups and individuals that have replenished the team's tools and supplies.

The team has been overwhelmed by the veritable mountain of grooming supplies, halters, leads, tack, and medical supplies that has been donated. In an effort to share the generosity that has come out of this heartless theft, Cowgirl Spirit plans to pass along surplus supplies to other horse and pony rescue groups and 4-H clubs in the Western Washington region (if you know of a group in need of supplies, please e-mail officers@csrdr.org).

Words cannot begin to express how thankful and grateful Cowgirl Spirit is for all the support and donations they have received.

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PRACTICES START!

We have started practicing for the 2010 competition season! If you are interested in changing the life of a rescue horse, just come to one of our practices! We are now accepting new members for this year's competition season and we'd love to have you be a part of our team! If you're dependable and committed to the well-being of horses we have a place for you!

E-mail questions about membership and practice times to us at team@csrdr.org
JOIN US TODAY!



Grace gets adopted!!!

Grace is a breathtaking 6 year old, 15.1hh Paint mare with loads of potential. She was started under saddle in October 2008 and competed with the drill team during the 2009 season. Grace tries very hard to do what is asked of her, but is also very sensitive.

Grace was a special case that was out of Cowgirl Spirit's league. Instead of passing her along to someone before she was completely safe, we adopted her to a dedicated trainer who will give Grace the one-on-one attention she needs. Grace's continued training is being overseen by our founder, Juliane Hanley.



Available For Adoption



Casanova ~ Beautiful rose grey 10 year old; 15hh; Registered 1/2 Arabian gelding. Well trained, level headed and easy to ride. Cas has the beginning stages of DSLD and will need a light rider. Adoption fee - Free on gift contract.



Piper ~ Chestnut TB mare, approximately 15.3hh and approximately 12yrs old. Sound and athletic, Piper is a lovely mover with a long and low stride. She has been doing a great job training with our drill team. Adoption fee - \$750

Ready Say Go.

Ready Say Go, a beautiful espresso brown off-the-track Thoroughbred rescued by Cowgirl Spirit in October of 2009, has been brought back to a healthy weight thanks to hard work and dedication of team members — especially Ally and her barn, Fire Creek Farm in Monroe, who donated for Ready's board during his time with Ally. After recuperating from his "cowboy castration" and detoxing from his life as a racehorse, he was put on a strict feeding regimen to gain weight after his time away from the track.

He then went to stay with our president, where he has been receiving one-on-one training by Cindy, one of the team's coaches and Kristin, the team's Secretary. In honor of the Kentucky Derby, (rather, coincidentally on the day of the Kentucky Derby) Ready had his first ride! Kristin said he was an amazing boy — totally solid and willing to do what was asked. Ready is a very sensitive gentleman, who really needs to make a deep connection with the people around him. Everyone who meets him immediately falls in love with his peaceful spirit. Ready has recently moved back to the HQ in Carnation, where he will receive daily one-on-one training with Kristin and other team members.



Ready's first ride with Kristin, team secretary, riding and Teri, team president, leading.

Ruben



Ruben, who is the most beautiful deep caramel color and is blind in one eye, was returned to Cowgirl Spirit after his owner came upon financial difficulties.

Ruben hadn't had one-on-one attention for a while, so Gina, our VP of membership has spent hours working with him while he stayed at our president's barn to settle back into the group. Because of a generous donation of instructional DVDs from Parelli, Gina was able to use basic Parelli groundwork to get Ruben back on track. He had done extensive Parelli work in the past so this was the perfect thing to get him back into the swing of things. Within days of working with Ruben (who purportedly was a "bolter"), Gina was in the saddle, taking Ruben calmly through his paces. He is going to be an amazing horse for the right person. Ruben's blindness in one eye has surprisingly been not that big of an issue in his training. "He is a great joy to work with," said Gina.



Baz Begins His Training!

Meet one of our latest rescues, the adorable Bazkhen Devinci, better known as Baz! Standing at a proud 14.2hh, this registered Arabian gelding was rescued from the Enumclaw auction in October 2009. Baz has a lively, sweet personality that doesn't take long to fall in love with! Being only three years old, he is a very curious little guy, who often seeks the safety and security of the herd. He came to Cowgirl Spirit underweight and without previous training, and has spent much of his time enjoying his food and learning ground exercises.

In February, Baz was started under saddle and handled the new situation very well. After he carefully inspected the saddle, Baz stood patiently as it was placed on his back, and only did a little dance as the cinch was tightened. He had no problem carrying a rider, and listened as well as one would expect of a curious three year old! After his first ride, it was clear that that Baz needed consistent work on understanding signals from the rider, such as leg pressure and bridle cues, as well as improving his confidence.

On his fourth ride, Baz hit the trail alongside other CSRDT horses. We were unsure of how he would handle all the new sights, as we had seen nervous insecurity get the better of him before. Happily, Baz did wonderfully! He started out full of nervous energy, but soon quieted down as he entered the trail sandwiched between two of his pasture mates. We were all proud of how brave he was, with the only exception being those scary puddles of water, which he took great care in avoiding!

Baz soon joined the other CSRDT horses at drill team practice. As Baz walked through the drills, everyone was impressed by his willingness to be close to the other horses and execute drill maneuvers. Although not always sure of what is asked of him, he is very smart and certainly tries his

best to understand. He continues to be very considerate of the rider, and is becoming much more trusting and confident. We have high hopes for Bazzy as he progresses in his training!

Coaches' Corner

The 2010 drill season has gotten off to a slow start this year since Cowgirl Spirit members have been spending much of our time working on the new property at Meadow Lake Farm in Carnation. Another distraction at the beginning of our practice season was fundraising and recovering items we lost in the recent burglary.

With our herd of green horses, and some green riders too, our early practices have had a lot of emphasis on riding technique and training. Many of our riders this year are new to drill, so they've been learning the foundations of correct spacing and alignment in various drill maneuvers, as well as learning their new mounts and memorizing two new drill routines.

Recently during practice we've been working on our Quad routine, which is a drill comprised of 4 horses and riders, set to a theme with costumes. The riders and horses have the entire drill down at a walk, and have begun moving it up to a trot. There's a few fun themes we have in mind so we're excited to pick out our costumes and music! We've also be working on tailoring our freestyle and short program drills to 4 to 6 horses until some of our greener horses are ready to be ridden in competition. The team hopes to attend a few drill competitions this summer, so if you are able, come out and watch us compete!

Another thing we hope to do this year is go to some local horse shows we hope to make our horses and riders more well rounded. The shows will also provide another avenue to promote our group and help find forever homes for our rescue horses.

Special thanks this year to our founder, Juliane and riding team member, Pauline, for hauling the horses to and from practice. We couldn't do it without you!

Coaches Kelly & Cindy



2010 Cowgirl Spirit Rescue Drill Team practicing at Redmond Arena with Coach Cindy

Feel the Spirit...

Keep on Riding

Subscribe to Cowgirl Spirit's quarterly newsletter and have a copy e-mailed to you four times per year!



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Northwest Women's show was a huge success!!!

Cowgirl Spirit was honored with a booth donation for the Northwest Women Show. Kate W., one of our volunteers, was able to secure this wonderful donation. This is the largest women's expo in the country, and it was an honor to be there and spread the word of Cowgirl Spirit's mission.

We took this opportunity to also have a fundraiser while at the show. We raffled off three amazing baskets of goods donated or secured by our members and volunteers. One basket was a Starbucks and events basket, won by Sara Plata. A Spa basket with a personal trainer, Corey Galusha, from Ultimate Results, was won by Pam Trumminello. Our Grand prize basket included a one-night stay at the W Hotel in Seattle and a private lunch at Ru-ins private dining, won by Tambi Wille.

We spent three full days telling our story of Cowgirl Spirit and how we rescue slaughter bound horses, showed video of our drill competitions and of course sold raffle tickets. We had a great time and educated many people on the plight of slaughter-bound horses and what we do to make a difference in their lives.

Tragic news of one of Cowgirl Spirit's 2009 Rescues



Catcher was rescued from the Enumclaw Auction in May of 2009. He was a sweetheart and was adopted out after only 2 weeks of being with Cowgirl Spirit. On Wednesday, February 17th, we received the horrible news that Catcher and his owner, Delaney Taylor, were hit by a car while riding. Catcher took the brunt of the collision, saving his rider's life in the process. Unfortunately, Catcher passed away from his injuries. Our hearts go out to Delaney, who was described as being like "2 peas in a pod" with Catcher. He will forever be in our hearts.

If you would like to donate in Catcher's honor, please visit our website and click on Cather's link on our home page.

Upcoming work parties

We have accomplished so much at our new headquarters, but there is a lot more to be done. So we need YOUR help! In addition to horse grooming, feeding and watering we can also use in continuing to get our new property up to snuff. If you have any experience in construction, blackberry bush removal, or fencing repair we would be thrilled to hear from you.

Our next Volunteer Orientation Day is Sunday, June 13th at 10 AM at our headquarters in Carnation. For more information on volunteering email our Vice President of Membership, Gina Salmeri at officers@csrdt.org.

Café Manson holds benefit dinner for Cowgirl Spirit

Café Manson held a "passive" fundraiser for CSRDT, which allowed their customers to support our rescue spontaneously and enjoy a four-course meal. "I wanted to raise money for CSRDT in honor of my late mother because they epitomize her life-long belief in marrying passion and humanity," said Adrienne, Café Manson's owner. To find out more about Café Manson in Manson, WA, visit their web page at www.CafeManson.com. Thank

Cowgirl Spirit's 2010 Competition Schedule

Be sure to mark our competition schedule on your calendar! We love meeting our supporters and fans while showing off our rescues!!

6/5/10	CC Riders Annual Competition	Salkum, WA
6/19-20/10	PNWDTA Regional Competition	Spanaway, WA
7/16-18/10	WLRC State Competition	Spanaway, WA