
LIVING EDGE

Welcome to our Inaugural Newsletter!



We hope you like the name of our new newsletter. We think it captures the essence of our daily lives at the rescue and those of all the equines in our care.

**Lead mare Promise
(right) with her foal
Elliot (left)**

For those of you who may not know us, we are a non-profit group located in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Humanity for Horses Foundation was established in 2015 with the purpose of saving horses bound for slaughter. Over the years, we have also helped many in the community that have needed our assistance due to job loss, relocation, illness or the death of an owner. Since inception, we have rehomed more than 630 equines.

Horses end up at our rescue for various reasons: owners can no longer keep them, are unable or unwilling to pay for veterinary care, or they have a surplus of offspring from careless breeding/ racing programs. Sometimes a child outgrows their pony or peoples’ interests change and they no longer want the horse. When they decide to send their horse to auction they assume it will be bought by other individuals and go to a good new home.

Unfortunately, the reality is that a great majority are bought for slaughterhouses. Horses are bid on based on their weight, and buyers will take ponies, drafts, foals, pregnant and nursing mares, as well as sound riding horses.

Sanctuary

Of particular concern are horses that are bought for live export for slaughter abroad as the transportation conditions are inhumane. Many do not survive the voyage.

On February 2, 2024, we were relieved to learn that Bill C-355 that seeks to ban the export of live horses overseas for meat consumption has moved forward to the Committee Stage for further consideration by the Canadian Government after many, many years. While this is great news, the Committee Stage is a place where sadly most bills sit and stagnate. We encourage you to follow the progress of this bill and to let your local MP know where you stand on this tragic issue. Pressure is most certainly still required.



Mitchie, a 11 yr old cross gelding permanent resident.



New Sponsorship Program

While we have been in existence for nine years, our operation remains very precarious, to say the least. A lot of conditions have changed since our inception: land rents have soared, as have veterinary costs; drought conditions have wreaked havoc on the price of hay in Western Canada, and on Vancouver Island in particular; other feed has doubled in cost in the last two years alone.

We're determined to change our constant-state-of-being, of living on the edge. It's emotionally exhausting for everyone involved at the rescue. And, of course, the horses pick up on our stress — it's hard on them too. **Our dream is to become sustainable!** In order to do that we need to better develop our core funding.

Sponsorship is essentially indirect adoption and is a very rewarding endeavour. It takes caring and committed individuals to do this. First and foremost, we'd like to extend our on-going gratitude to our loyal sponsors for their long-term commitment in helping us care for the horses. Although we don't get to see many of you in person, we consider you to be an extension of our family. Thank you for your dedication and support.

We have created **four new levels of herd sponsorship: Farrier, Hay and Feed, Veterinarian, and Total Wellness.** Horses are herd animals and we firmly believe that you help any one horse the most by caring for the herd collectively and prioritizing available funds to the greatest need. We also continue to offer sponsorship of individual horses for our permanent sanctuary residents as their needs are more unique (please contact us directly for this).

In the Monthly Sponsorship Program table that follows you'll notice that we've included the number of sponsors per area that we require to be sustainable. We've based these numbers on actual expenses incurred over the last three years. By far, our greatest need and concern in the current environment is having sufficient funds to feed our herd. As many of you can attest, we constantly try to raise funds on Facebook to pay our monthly hay bill. We don't always make it which puts our secured supply at risk.

Our over-arching focus for 2024 is to encourage you, our supporters and followers, regular and new, to consider joining an area of our Monthly Sponsorship Program that speaks to you. When we say we can't do this without you we really mean it. **We can't do it without YOU!** We invite you to join us in providing hope and sanctuary, temporary or permanent, for these beautiful deserving souls.

<https://humanityforhorses.com/sponsor>

If you're undecided about sponsorship, we greatly welcome donations, no matter how small. Every cent makes a difference! We promise to treasure your contribution and use it preciousy.

e-transfer : humanityforhorsesfoundation@gmail.com

Note: Regretfully, we are unable to provide tax receipts for your sponsorship or donation.

MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM		# OF SPONSORS REQUIRED
Farrier \$50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular hoof trimming every six weeks 	100
Hay & Feed \$75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hay Timothy pellets Fiber Plus loose & block salt camelina oil supplements 	100
Veterinary \$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual check-ups vaccinations rehabilitation intervention de-worming medications dental floats 	100
Total Wellness \$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all of the above + bedding winter blankets fencing emergencies transportation site management 	25

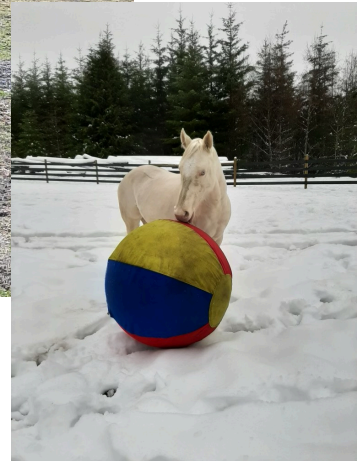


Successful Adoption Highlights

It can take a long time to find the right home for a horse. Sometimes it is tempting to just try to get a horse placed as fast as possible as it's so hard to have adequate funds to support the rescue. But experience has taught us that it is far better to wait and make a good match rather than have a horse returned to us, often in much poorer condition than when it left us. Or worse, to have to seize back a horse that has not been properly cared for. It happens.

So when we do find great matches we love to celebrate that and share the good news! We had several successful adoptions last year. **In total, we had eleven successful adoptions in 2023:** Cassanova, Elliot, Tokoda, Major, Felix, Holly and her foal Flora, April, Cotton, Amora and Valentina are our other horses that all found wonderful new homes with responsible adopters. In this first newsletter we two feature adoptions and will shine the spotlight on others in our next edition.

In June 2023, Samantha & Adam adopted **Casanova and Elliot**. Cassanova was an 18 year old Percheron stud that we gelded (now 20) when he came to Humanity for Horses. Elliot is a quarter horse gelding that as born in our care in 2019. The happy duo have new jobs as therapy horses in the Cowichan



Takoda is a 16 year old gelding Medicine Hat horse. Native American legends claim that these rare horses have magical, almost mystical powers that protected the tribe and warriors.

In the Winter, Takoda was adopted into a new home on the Saanich Peninsula of Southern Vancouver Island by Georgia.

Tacoda is now a companion for Georgia's mare who had become too lonely after the passing of her previous companion. She plans to start riding him on occasion as well. We are delighted with Takoda's new forever home where he gets an abundance of love and attention. We cant thank you enough Georgia.

Thank you so much to all of you for opening your hearts and your homes to these so-deserving horses.

Fundraising

Throughout the year we receive donations from such a wide range of people near and far: those young folks who opted to make a donation rather than receive a birthday present, those who hosted a bake sale and send us the proceeds, those who offered us contributions in-kind such as extra horse blankets and hay nets, and those of you who forsake your Friday coffee. It is impossible to thank all of you individually in this humble newsletter, but we want you to know we value your initiative, moral support, and financial contributions.

Facebook

This has truly been our live line over the years. We are most active on Facebook. As many of you well know, we constantly turn to our followers on facebook to raise funds. In addition to raising enough money to feed a hungry herd in cold weather, this Winter we also successfully raised over \$8,000 for two new large shelters with mats for the horses. It was a very cold and wet Winter on Vancouver Island and the horses benefited immensely from the extra refuge these additional shelters provided. We thank all of you who contributed to this endeavour.

Bottle drives

Weather you live in the area for far away, this is a great way to support the horses. Dev, Dawn, Cara, and Antonia of the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island sorted and bagged a whopping \$740 worth of empties for Humanity for Horses. They officially helped us pay off the remainder of our January hay bill. On top of this, the ladies have offered to come down to Duncan in the Cowichan Valley where the rescue is located to pick up our empties and do it all over again. And of course, Michelle has been doing a bottle drive year round in Langford. Michelle, thank you for long term commitment to us in raising funds for the horses! So gratefully appreciated!

A huge THANK YOU to each and every one of you!



Never forgotten

Daisy

Miss Daisy came to us from the Dawson Creek Auction in 2018. She was a favourite of all the volunteers. Man, could she go in the morning when let out of her stall!

Daisy was ~39-40 years old when she passed in her own time. She had Cushing, night blindness and was hard of hearing. Still, her quality of life was rich and rewarding until her last day. Rest in peace Daisy. You will forever be in our hearts.



If anyone in the Cowichan Valley has some pasture land available, we would love to hear from you.

We hope you have enjoyed our first newsletter. For now, we plan to publish periodically.

To donate: humanityforhorsesfoundation@gmail.com