



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

BACK AT THE RANCH...

August 2013

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HOPE



GRACIE

Last month we left you hanging a bit with the outcome of our trying to load two rescue horses into our trailer. It quickly became an exercise in futility. Hope refused to get in, and without her getting in we knew her filly would remain in the back corner filled with trepidation. Dejectedly we told the people who had been observing us for nearly 6 hours that we would not be able to rescue these horses after all. We weren't sure exactly what the plan was at that point, but we knew it was out of our hands. A few days went by and one afternoon we received a phone call from Sound Equine Options ([SEO Facebook](#)), a rescue operation out of Gresham, Oregon. They were working with their board to gain approval of rescuing all of the remaining horses but wanted to know if we would still consider taking two of them and if so, which ones? Well, it took Steve and I about 2 seconds to concur that we would take the mare and her filly after all the time we had spent with them the previous weekend. So, a few days later SEO arrived on the scene and loaded Hope and her filly into their stock trailer (we realize now that a stock trailer is the way to go, and hope to acquire one in the near future!). When they arrived at ZPR, they backed up to the pasture gate, opened the trailer doors, and unloaded the two exhausted horses. It was such a beautiful moment to see them cantering across the field enjoying their new environment. In the days that followed a new name was chosen for the filly: Gracie. A vet came and made recommendations on improving their diets and the hunt for more hay began! Mac was beside himself, calling and whinnying all afternoon and throughout the next week. Steve furiously worked to complete the construction of the fencing on the second pasture and installed an electric wire across the top. As of this writing we finally separated the mare and her filly so that they can begin to adjust to life without being quite so dependent on each other. Next step....introduce Hope and Mac into the same pasture! We will keep you posted!



The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

ZAC TAILS: Order! That's what's important. Things have a place and a destination. This is a big ranch with a lot of responsibility, and I have been managing to maintain things fairly well, if I do say so myself. Mr. Baggins submits to my rough-housing sessions, Mulan is teaching me to hunt (more about that next month), and Jasmine --well, she can be bossy, but she knows I am still the head honcho. Mac is fairly well self-contained and does not mind my occasional bark to get him to pay attention to me, and the cars, trucks, and trailers that drive by the house are escorted from one end of the property to the other without incident. I recently acquired an old tether ball that Mac popped and tossed out of the paddock, and that keeps me busy in my otherwise idle moments. So, imagine my frustration when two new four-legged animals arrived on our ranch a few weeks ago requiring additional duties to be added to my roster. At first, running alongside the fence seemed to keep them in place, but as they became more familiar with their surroundings, I found it necessary to find a way into the pasture to make sure we had an understanding of my objectives and their place. But as they became more and more comfortable, and seemed to think the pasture was THEIR pasture, I realized that stricter herding requirements were necessary. I have since located the "weak links" of the pasture area and know how to get in and maneuver these creatures. They still do not completely respect me, but I am tireless in my efforts and know that it will only be a matter of time before I gain their confidence and acceptance of me as their shepherd. After all "order" is in my B-ORDER Collie name!



"Compassion isn't compassion without action; it's just feeling sorry for someone."
~Vivienne Harr, 9-year old founder of "Making a Stand" in her fight to end child slavery.



But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

~James 3:17



Our mission/vision: To provide free equine experiences for youth in a safe, loving, and encouraging environment that is fun for both children and horses.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS: **FIRE!** August marks the beginning of the hot, dry, windless days that turn the fields golden with hay, straw and wheat...and threat of fires. I will never forget the thoughts going through my head the afternoon of July 22nd. I glanced out a window on the north side of the house and spotted a huge billow of smoke arising from the hill above us. It looked incredibly close and very ominous. I conversed with a neighbor who was able to find out a wild fire was raging about 15 miles north of us and with the winds were blowing to the east so we should not be in danger. As the week progressed the smell of smoke pervaded and the fire ultimately grew to over 26,000 acres, endangering many structures and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people, not to mention animals and livestock. It was a very real reminder of the hazardous summers

here in Goldendale where nearly every year a large fire engulfs hundreds of acres and displaces hundreds of citizens. Had the wind shifted even slightly to the south I have no doubt we would have been put on high alert.

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As it was, we were at "level 1 evacuation" (precautionary) and Steve prepared our travel trailer in the event we needed to evacuate, and we had no less than 4 offers of help should it come to "Level 2" which is when we would have to move the horses. Such a caring community! There were signs all over down town thanking the fire crews for their tireless work to save us all.

HAY! We have been purchasing tons (literally) of hay in preparation for the coming months. Since this year we spent many weeks locating people with a bale here and a bale there, we knew that we would need enough for Mac plus several extra tons in the event that we would acquire additional horses in the coming months! We learned new vocabulary, theories on cutting, weight options, types of mixes (straight hay, hay with oats and barley, hay with pea grass) and learned how to get the most for the dollar, and preferably include delivery (believe me, unloading 3 tons of hay and then stacking it up manually is NOT the way to go!).

Our current projects include building a run-in shed in the pasture for the horses to retreat in inclement weather, digging a trench from the well to the pasture for running water, and building a 50' foot diameter round pen so we can continue training for all three of our current horses. If you would like to help, please send donations to ZPRanch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620.



LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET THE WORD OUT!!

Email us at: robin@zephaniahspromise.org or steve@zephaniahspromise.org

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