



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

BACK AT THE RANCH...

September 2013

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Fall is fast coming upon us, though the weather remains warm and sunny. The days are already getting shorter, but our barn is full of hay (12 tons, to be exact!), and our battle with the bot flies has begun (they lay eggs on horses' legs which are ingested when the horse tries to scratch his leg and then hatch in the horses' intestines). Every month we learn something new about what the different seasons bring and yet we embrace each change and greet each day because we feel so privileged to be here. Mornings here are sweet. We take our time delivering the hay to the horses, do some cleaning, check the water levels, and some days I even get my flowers watered before work. It's fun to hear the horses calling to us the moment the screen door slams behind us (or maybe it's just that their tummies are rumbling and they are ready for fresh hay!). Once the rains and snows come, mornings won't be quite as blissful, so we are trying to enjoy and savor them as much as we can now. Mornings here are peaceful. The meadowlarks are singing, the cats are waking up from the slumbers out in the barn, and Zac makes the first of his many rounds of the day "securing the property." Mornings here are blessed. Some of the most beautiful moments of the day occur at sunrise. Steve took this picture at daybreak a few weeks ago, and it is the perfect example of how glorious it can be here.



ZP

ZAC TAILS: Some mornings as the sun is coming up, and my people are starting to stir, I request a rub on my belly. This morning for example, I gave Robin a big hug (put my front legs around her neck and nuzzled her ear for a moment) and then slowly sank back down and rolled onto my back. She obliged and rubbed my tummy. I



lay there making my plans for the day. First the circuit to make sure all was well on the property, then find a couple of flocks of birds to scare up and chase around, and then check out some of the passing cars to make sure they are getting by okay. Somewhere today I will find the time to dig a good hole and see if there's anything at the bottom of it. I will drink at least a gallon of water, eat a hearty breakfast and a light dinner, and make sure the cats and the horses are obeying the rules of my order. My tummy rub, in the mean time, is going well. A good scratch here, a soft pat there.

I nibble at her fingers and playfully encourage her keep rubbing and scratching. Let's see, what else do I need to do today? Oh! That big yellow bus is going by again, so that's always a fun way to start my morning and finish the afternoon. Of course, Mr. Baggins and I will have a good session of roughhousing while the other cats look on. I would love to play with them the same way, but mostly they just run or hiss at me. Well, my plans are

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made and the tummy rub is nearing its end. I'd best be getting on with my day--there is always so much to do. I hope your mornings get off to as good a start as mine do!!



Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing, fresh from The Word.

~Eleanor Farjeon



For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10



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: This past month we (mostly Steve) spent a lot of time working on more fencing--



both on pasture completion and on a smaller fence to complete the front of the house and continuing it around the courtyard with the ultimate goal of lining the entire driveway in the years to come. A fun, easy project we encourage all our visitors to help with. Speaking of visitors, earlier in the month we were visited by overnight guests Ron and Melanie Mock and their two sons Sam and Ben who are both entering the 6th grade. This provided us the perfect opportunity to practice what it would be like to have a kids program here at the ranch, and both boys were given the opportunity to "play" with Mac.

Of course, their search for snakes and other creatures of the high desert was also fueled by the open fields and Sam proudly showed off his catch of a grasshopper. It was great to have them all here and we hope they will come and visit again soon! Oh, and if you want to have a really good meal, you should ask Ben about a pickle on a stick! (☺) A few weeks later, Chris and Steph came for the weekend (their first trip to the ranch since the wedding) and we had a wonderful time catching up. Steph got to spend some quality time with Mac and we worked on several different projects and even visited the Saturday market in Goldendale where the produce this time of year is in its prime! Our guest book is filling up--we hope YOU will come up soon and see what we are all about!



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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