



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

BACK AT THE RANCH...

February 2015

No. 2, Volume 4



February is a month early in the year that often catches us mid-winter cozied up to a fire, baking comfort foods, and perhaps enjoying a snowstorm or two. On the calendar it is known as the month of Love, Heart Awareness month, and at many veterinarians around the country, it is also Dental Awareness Month. I'm pretty sure Zac will have something to say about that. Here in Goldendale we have been enjoying sunny skies, occasional rain, and a spring-like aura around the pasture lands. The pond is once again full to capacity and we've

even seen an occasional duck or two spending time on the water. The horses are in great health, maintaining their weight, and haven't required their horse blankets for weeks and are enjoying the sun's full benefit. The trough heaters are all unplugged and the grass is coming in in small little clumps here and there which the horses are enjoying in addition to their hay. With this unseasonably warm weather and the longer days, Steve has been able to devote several hours an evening and more time on the weekends to completing the hay shed. All the beams are up, and with a few more cross supports to go, we will be ready to put the roof on and pick up the last of the hay!



ZAC TAILS : An interesting thing happened to me the other morning. I had a great night's sleep and was looking forward to another sunny day of chasing stray plastic bags, herding the chickens back into their hen house, and making sure the property was in good condition. This usually all happens right after breakfast--I come in to eat after the horses have been fed, then enjoy a great breakfast before heading back outside. Only this time, instead of coming in and getting breakfast, I was asked to jump into the back of the car. Since I totally trust my people, I figured we were going to have breakfast later because of an important errand we had to run. Off we went down the familiar bumpy road to the main street, then on into town. We pulled up in front of a building that looked vaguely familiar--pretty sure I had been there at least one time before but I must've blocked it from my memory. My halter was put on and the leash was attached and I hopped nimbly out of



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the car and strode into the building. Next thing I knew I was being handed over to a friendly but unfamiliar person and Wait! It couldn't be! My person gave me a big hug, tussled my ears and then she was gone. She was leaving me there?! What in the world was happening? Well, before I knew it I was up on a table and suddenly felt very, very sleepy. I certainly don't normally nap this time of day and my stomach was beginning to growl. Well, after an uncertain amount of time went by, I found myself walking shakily back out to the car, was lifted in and we began the drive home. For some reason I was still really sleepy, and my hunger pangs had strangely disappeared. I still don't know what exactly happened, but my people seemed very pleased with my newly trimmed nails and my sparkling white teeth. Sometimes things happen for a reason we don't understand, but I'm pretty sure I'm better because of it even if I still don't really know why.



The best things are nearest: breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you.

~Robert Louis Stevenson



.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.



SADDLE STORIES: Gracie has completed her first month of training. Twice we have visited her and spent time with Taylor at Diamond T. Horsemanship. She has been haltered up, ponied up, tied up, saddled up, and tacked up. She has had ground work, lead work, and trailer work. She has been ridden in the walk and the trot and is figuring out all the commands for her new life as a working horse. We are so thrilled with her progress and smarts that we are really looking forward to these new skills to be reinforced and progressed even further in the month to come. You can visit Taylor's website at <http://www.diamondhorsemanship.com/> to read about his philosophy and training techniques. I also found a couple of YouTube videos that he has done.



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. I Corinthians 13:4-7



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OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS: Here's something new for you to consider: We recently linked Zephaniah's Promise Ranch with Fred Meyer Community Rewards! Each year they donate over 2.5 million dollars to nonprofit organizations. If you shop at Fred Meyer and have a rewards card, please take a moment to log in and visit their Community Rewards link. You can click [here](https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4) and then sign in. <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4> If you aren't a Rewards Card Holder, but want to sign up, here's your chance to earn rewards not only for yourself, but also have a donation sent to our nonprofit on a quarterly basis.

Financial update: ♦ We purchased another 2 tons of our hay for this year and still have 5 more being held for us. The hay shed construction is nearly completed, and we are almost ready to begin roofing it. One ton of hay is \$225. ♦ We have tentative plans to begin working on a large arena this spring. Any dollars designated for this project will be a huge help!

If you would like to help, please send donations to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



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