

Equine Voices horse bios written by the Youth Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona

The Story of Smokey Joe

By: Jessica Stetson and Laney McKay

7/18/12

Hi, I'm Laney. And I'm Jessica. We are in a volunteer youth group. This is the Equine Voices project. In this project we help out horses that either have been abused or are PMU horses. We cleaned and organized the ranch. We talked, petted, and groomed the horses, but we only groomed some of them. As we were getting a tour we came along Smokey Joe. I liked him because he was lovable and allowed me to pet him. I instantly liked this horse. Jessica likes him because he is a beautiful white-colored horse. So this is the story of Smokey Joe and how he ended up at Equine Voices.

Smokey Joe belonged to a girl who lived with her boyfriend. One day they got in a fight and the girlfriend moved away and left her horse at the house. The horse had a small stall and could not walk around. His stall was never cleaned and he was standing in his own poop. The boyfriend thought it was a good way to get back at his girlfriend so he also never cut the hooves and starved the horse.

Now Smokey Joe is at Equine Voices. Karen, the head of Equine Voices, and her volunteers helped nurse him back to health. When they got him his legs and hooves were in bad condition. He was also very hungry. Even though his legs will never be the same, Equine Voices gives him a loving home that he is happier with than where he started out.

Equine Voices: Kachina

By: Cheyenne Stetson and Aiyana Koch-Martinez

7/18/12

This week we have been volunteering at Equine Voices with the Youth Volunteer Corps. Equine Voices is a volunteer-run horse rescue and sanctuary. They rescue horses from PMU facilities in Canada and abusive homes. The first day, Jean gave us a tour of the ranch and told us how the horses got there. Throughout the rest of the week we helped by raking, gardening, and cleaning up the ranch. All of the horses were very sweet, but Kachina really stood out to us. She had a very unique story that we will never forget. Before she was rescued by Equine Voices she had an abusive owner. When she was about eight years old her owner was trying to get her into a trailer. When she refused to go in, he lost his temper and he tied a rope around her neck. He then started to pull her behind the trailer. When she couldn't keep up she fell and the man continued to drag her down the road. The man got out of the car and started to beat her. It was soon after when an off-duty cop passed by and saw what was happening. He arrested the owner and took him to court where the man was found not guilty for some unknown reason. The owner of Equine Voices, Karen, negotiated with the lawyer and settled on a price to buy

Kachina. She is now happier and healthier than ever, all because of Karen. It's these stories that really help us realize how much these type of organizations are needed to help all creatures that need help. We feel that volunteering this week really made a good impact on everyone. We love to volunteer at Equine Voices again.

Equine Voices: Spirit

By: Luis McKay

7/18/12

We came out here to help clean up the ranch. The second day I groomed a horse named Spirit. I liked how even though Spirit wasn't the biggest horse, he was the head horse. He was a very beautiful horse. His fur was a very light shade of white. He also had multiple black spots on his fur. I helped groom Spirit at Jumpin' Jack Ranch where Equine Voices is a volunteer group who runs the ranch. I found out that Spirit was bred to be an Arabian race horse. Horse racing is a dangerous sport to the horse. If the horse breaks its leg on the track it will be killed. Arabian horses are really pretty. Spirit was shipped to California to be slaughtered. Karen was able to buy Spirit and bring him to Equine Voices. Spirit seems very happy and is a very kind horse. He is a very hungry horse and likes to eat a lot.

Bo Jangles

By: Ryder White, Jesika Provateare, and Victoria Nesci

7/18/12

We all attended a volunteer project at Jumpin' Jack Ranch/Equine Voices. Equine Voices is a horse's rehabilitation center and treatment center for abused, abandoned, or unwanted horses. At the sanctuary they care for and train the horses so that they become accustomed to humans once again.

Our favorite horse is Mr. Bo Jangles due to his unique back story and gentle demeanor. He was a camp pony, a horse meant to be around kids. Sadly, he is part appaloosa, a species of a horse that has a tendency to go blind. Due to his handicap Bo Jangles owner wanted to shoot him because he became unusable when he was rescued. He is now living peacefully in his stall.