

Her Name was "Indian Sunrise"

By Gwen Cleary

There have been few things in life that have surprised me, and when I was approached recently about a "down" thoroughbred, I admit I was not prepared for what I saw. In a cattle pen before me lay a horse that was so emaciated, I could hardly speak. You could tell it was a horse, but beyond that, it was anyone's guess as to what kind. I entered the pen and moved her to see if she could get up, and to my surprise, she did....and what I saw next was horrifying. Her foot had been cut off, and she obviously suffered from severe founder...she stood, but barely. She gobbled the hay I put before her and I looked into her feces-soaked eyes. The pain on her face was excruciating. She had flies all over her, biting flies, and she was lying in her own urine, probably unwilling or not wanting to get up due to the pain. All I could think of at the time was to get a fly mask on her. I knew I had to get her away from this awful man, somehow. I was trying to think of ways that I could help her, help this poor sweet soul.

The temperature was heating up and whatever I was going to do had to be quick. For now I had to leave her behind, leave her with this terrible man, but the idea of helping her drove me on. People have a choice, animals in our care don't, they depend on us to take care of them. It was so difficult to leave her that my gut hurt, but I had to, and I immediately emailed Karen Pomroy, founder of Equine Voices, who volunteered to help through her euthanasia fund. It was now just a matter of getting this awful man to sign her over, to put her in Equine Voices name, so we could do what should be done. I checked on her and brought her a bale of Bermuda hay. She was in such pain but still allowed me and loved having me stroke her neck. I told her it would soon be over, to hang on.

I finally got the call I had been waiting for....4 days had gone by and I was finally given rights to the horse! With the help of Equine Voices and Best Friends Animal Society, there were enough funds to help this suffering mare. I called Dr. David Olsen and also Peggy Reed from "The Last Ride" and coordinated an effort to come and put this poor girl to sleep peacefully. The prognosis was as we thought, she was too emaciated and her feet were too far gone for her to be saved, she had to be put down. But, I was determined that it should be done peacefully with reverence, respect, and grace. The abuse and cruelty this horse had endured would soon be over; her lack of respect would soon end. Dr. Olsen who has seen everything was even horrified and told me that a horse in this condition doesn't die very quickly, not only had she suffered her entire life, she was going to suffer somewhat on her way across the rainbow bridge due to the limited function of her debilitated organs. She gasped a little for air, but was finally gone, we stroked her head and face....Dr. Olsen was kind and gentle. Finally she was at peace. The tattoo on her lip, D21335 proved she was a former racehorse. Her name was Indian Sunrise....found on the reservation, grand-daughter of the great "Pleasant Colony", a triple crown contender, and daughter of the horse "Don't Forget Me"...I certainly won't forget her, hopefully neither will you...

The Equine Voices Euthanasia fund was designed to assist loving horse guardians with sufficient funds to humanely euthanize their horse, to supply them with funds necessary to respectfully end their companion's life when the equine has an incurable disease or is in intense pain. This fund was also designed to help horses like "Indian Sunrise" and has so far helped 23 horses pass in dignity.

To donate to our Euthanasia Fund please send your tax-deductible donation to: (Please mark for Euthanasia Fund)

Equine Voices
PO Box 1685, Green Valley, AZ 85622

Or if you would like to donate online [Click Here](#) to visit our website Euthanasia Fund page

Thank you for helping us help them!