

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

'Bad pasts, brighter futures' motto of horse rescue ranch

By [Salina Sialega](#)

Managing Editor

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Kayla Anderson will hold a dying horse in her arms until it passes from this world. It's the least she can do for "one of her kids."

And for the abused or neglected horses still living at the New Hope Ranch in Chino Valley where she is director, Anderson will make sure they have the best life they can until their end comes or until their "forever family" adopts them. She cares for about 32 horses right now.

"They deserve a happy retirement; they've given years of service," Anderson said.

The non-profit 10-acre ranch off of east Road 2 North, owned by Anderson's parents, Lon and Heidi Anderson, will take in horses no one else wants or can no longer care for. Director Anderson hand-selects those she takes in, often just seeing something in a horse's eyes, such as with a horse named, Risky Business, who was headed to the slaughter market, so skinny she couldn't stand.

"I saw a gentleness in her eyes," Anderson said about the first day 13 years ago she saw the 5-week-old horse at an auction. Risky Business became the ranch's first horse resident.

Twelve years ago, the Anderson family started the non-profit. They each help with many aspects of the ranch, including overseeing volunteers and every day hands-on care of the animals. As director, Anderson writes grants and handles the non-profit's public relations, including the many donations they receive. With the poor economic times right now, the ranch needs additional donations, and could use a few more volunteers. All donations go strictly for care of the horses - their food, supplements and veterinarian care. To donate or become a volunteer, contact Kayla Anderson at 636-2230. People also can visit the ranch's website at www.newhoperanch.org.

Anderson calls the horses her "kids," and cares for them the way a mother would her own children - feeding



New Hope Ranch owner Heidi Anderson, on left, and Director, Kayla Anderson, show Pops, one of the rescued horses at the non-profit ranch in Chino Valley.

them, treating their illnesses, breaking up fights in the corral. Well, sometimes, she lets them work out their own problems in the corral. But she has no favorites and loves them all the same, and wants the same for each - a good life until their time is up.

"I owe that to them," Anderson says. "These are my kids. They're still nice to look at," she smiles.

Pops, for example, is about 35-40 years old and was 150 pounds less when he arrived at the ranch. He's nearly blind and deaf, and was headed to a slaughter buyer.



The ranch's group of volunteers

"He's going to die happy (here) with his belly full," she said.

And from there, the Andersons bury the deceased horses on their own property.

Occasionally, Anderson agrees to adopt out the horses, but she's very selective and says she knows when she meets a "forever family" for an animal to be adopted out to.

Anderson says the horses they rescue come with both physical and mental problems, often with a defeated attitude.

"Their heads are down and they've given up on life," she said. "They need to be with a herd."

So, most will go into the corral with the other horses and she'll often see a quick improvement in their attitude, while the physical usually takes longer.

A veterinarian comes to the ranch to treat the animals.

When it's time to put an animal down, Anderson gives of herself emotionally, but it's worth it for the animal's sake, she said.

"I cry. I have to hold them (as they die). I started this and I have to finish it. You're giving them peace."

Related Links:

">Content © 2010

">Software © 1998-2010 **1up! Software**. All Rights Reserved