



Thursday, January 30, 2003

Local horse-lover awarded for her care in recovery of abused horses

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One local horse has been through more suffering in 18 years than any animal should have to endure in its lifetime. But thanks to Chino Valley resident Heidi Anderson, Shasta, a horse she rescued, can now enjoy a life of good food, quality care and the affection of people who care.

[Review/Salina Sialega](#)

[Chino Valley resident Heidi Anderson shows off a healthy Shasta.](#)

Anderson, who works as a court stenographer, has now received recognition for her devotion to horses. Last week she, and Shasta, won the Purina Super Senior Horse Award for their tale of heartwarming recovery, and for Heidi's belief in the quality of Purina's Equine Senior horse feed.

Shasta's story begins as one of 13 horses found in the care of a Chino Valley woman back in 2000. People had filed complaints with authorities as early as 1999, but no real investigation was launched for about a year. When the Yavapai County Sheriff's office discovered the abuse, two of the horses had already died of starvation or untreated illness and the remaining displayed signs of serious neglect. The woman served one year in the Yavapai County Jail for animal abuse.

Shasta would not cross paths with Heidi Anderson until the State Livestock Auction in the winter of 2000.

"I immediately fell in love with Shasta and located the borders who owned her. They wanted a bit much, so I ended up trading a bearskin rug for her, which is ironic because the rug was a gift to us from a man who was a horse lover. Shasta was easy to turn. She recovered in a short time.

"Equine Senior takes the risk out of rescue...turns horses a lot quicker and safer."

Shasta and Anderson's story will now move on to the National contest level.

Anderson has been rescuing horses for about 12 years and currently has five.

"I believe more and more horses are suffering today. Many reach starvation because of the economy. When money is tight, the animals are the first to suffer."

Anderson recommends that all animal lovers remain vigilant.

"If you suspect abuse, contact the County Livestock Inspector first, then the sheriff's office. Don't assume that one call will do it though. You have to keep on them until you hear back. Get a police report...get in their face. Animal abuse can be like child abuse, except animals are completely trapped. We have to watch out for them."

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