

My First Horse
By Debbie R.

Throughout my life, I have always marveled at the beauty, grace and freedom that horses portray. My dream has been to be able to provide a safe and loving home for horses in need of rescue with no other place to go.

“I will never have my own horse until I can house it on my own property” I would say. In 1999, with the purchase of our home, we have two grassy acres and plenty of room to add to our four-legged family.

With the purchase of our home came not only the work of moving and settling in, but the opportunity of researching and planning for the accommodations needed for our future family members. This was an exciting time, as we would be designing the living arrangements for the horses. Visiting with other horse owners and learning from them, we discovered which products and setups would work best for us.

As we began to erect safe fencing around the property and arrange for the mare motel to be crafted and then later installed on our property, I came across a website from California called TIER (True Innocents Equine Rescue) <http://www.tierrescue.org>. I maneuvered through the site originally for education and curiosity, only to realize just how devastating the future was for these horses. I read through the pages of “Horses In Need” to discover each horse’s story and tried to understand why people had given up these wonderful creatures. With each story, I discovered that I needed to find out more about this particular organization and how I could help!

I emailed the contact person, Gail, to find out about adoption procedures and how I could help. I wanted to get more information about specific horses and learn about their personalities and special needs, if any. Since I was new to horse ownership but not to working with horses, Gail was a wealth of knowledge and caring. As it turns out, the horses in that section on the website were in a feedlot awaiting a truck ride to a slaughter plant in Texas. I knew that time was of the essence and began the process to become a forever home to a cremello colored Quarter Horse mare which I had named Dynasty.

The very next day, Gail received the monies needed from me to purchase Dynasty from the feedlot along with getting the needed Vet check and paperwork together. While I was arranging for transport to bring her safely home, Gail was whispering into her ears “Dynasty, you are going home!” I could not believe that I would soon realize my dream in owning my own horse!

That week seemed like an eternity, but finally the day came for Dynasty to arrive home! As the morning drug on waiting for the transport driver to call, a sense of excitement and fear came over me. Was I really prepared for Dynasty? Would I be able to make her a wonderful life? Did I have enough knowledge to properly care for her? I knew that my heart was full of love and she will be a cherished member of our family, but was that enough? And just as if it was magic, the transport truck pulled up to our home and I realized that my fears were unfounded.

Dynasty came down off of the truck and it was like a dream. She had an aura about her that made my heart melt and I knew we did the right thing. As she and I walked back through the gates to her stall, she was calling out to the neighborhood to announce her arrival. She settled in as if she had been here all of her life and has proved to be an inspiration to me. Her gentle nature and patience has allowed me to learn from her. We are as one while we ride and she is a big puppy dog when she is out in the pasture. How could anyone have used her up and thrown her away? It brings tears to my eyes every time I think of this. She is my ground when things are unsettled, she is my friend when I need to talk, she is my kid when I need to mother and she is my de-stressor when times are tough.

Because of Dynasty and her teachings, we have since rescued nine more horses that will live out their lives with the dignity they deserve. Our lives have been changed forever!