



THE WINGS PROGRAMS, INC.

Humans helping horses healing humans

www.wingsprograms.org

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2022



THE DONKEYS HAVE LANDED!

Our Peaceful Valley donkeys arrived on May 10th. It was quite a sight to see them all jump off the trailer. You can see a video of their arrival on our Wings Facebook Page @HumansHealingHorses. They were a bit skittish at first after their long trip from California, but staff and volunteers have been visiting with them, giving treats, and getting to know them. The first two donkeys were adopted within a few days by a family in Great Falls who had filled out an adoption application and been approved.



We still have eight donkeys that are available for adoption, so if you are interested, go to our website and click on the link for the Peaceful Valley adoption application. The Peaceful Valley organization will screen and approve your application, then forward it to Wings. When your application is approved, you may schedule an appointment to meet the donkeys.

WINGS WELCOMES BABY ELLIE

We were thrilled to welcome our newest member of the Wings family on May 1st. Dolly, the rescued mini-horse who came to us pregnant, had been showing signs that she was getting ready to foal the previous week, so we had a foaling stall all ready for her and we brought her into the barn for safety. Debora and Sherry took turns checking her through the night for more than a week, and one early morning during the 2 a.m. check, there was a baby!

Dolly has been bred and has foaled five times before, so she knew what to do and has proved to be a wonderful mama. Ellie has been charming staff and visitors with her sweet face and her tendency to zoom around her enclosure and kick up her heels.



What's New?



Party At The Barn!

Wings is hosting a Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event and ribbon cutting on June 16th, from 4:30-6:00 at the ranch.

Chamber members, Wings staff, volunteers, donors and supporters are all welcome to attend.

We'll have light drinks and snacks in the barn and a short ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:15pm to celebrate our membership.

WINGS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Two of our mini-horses, Lucy and Dancer, have been our ambassadors of horse love for several visits to the Sapphire Lutheran Homes retirement community in Hamilton. We load these two seasoned travelers into the minivan and take them out for some greets and treats with the residents. They are really good at surfing the turns in the van and Lucy likes to stand in between the two front seats and look out the front window. It's kind of fun to be driving along with a mini-horse nose snuffing in your ear!

The residents of Sapphire Lutheran Homes are always delighted to see the minis, especially as many of them have previously owned horses and miss them. Lucy and Dancer enjoy getting pets and treats and are always well-behaved, even though they may leave some horse apples behind! It's a lot of fun for the Wings staff to see the residents enjoying the visit so much, and we love to hear their stories. Our May 18th visit was covered by the newspapers, which is great public relations for the Wings Programs. We were on the front page of the Ravalli Republic on May 20!



Adopted!



We've had quite a few adoptions in the past two months. Scooter and Badger were adopted together to a very nice home ranch in the south valley. Stetson was adopted to the home of one of our supporters with other former Wings equines.

Visit our **Adoptions** page on the Wings website to see our other successful adoptions since last summer.

HorsePlay Days

We are also excited to offer our new community outreach program, HorsePlay Days. This program is open to the military, veterans, law enforcement and first responders. Sponsored by a private foundation, HorsePlay Days is a chance for you to hang out with horses and learn some basic horsemanship skills.

We'll be hanging out in our new arena building, so dress comfortably. Our first sessions are June 8th and June 22nd from 4:30-6:00pm. No reservations needed, just show up!

This is not psychotherapy and no mental health professionals will be in attendance.



RECENT EVENTS

The Wings Team recently participated in the 102nd Annual Memorial Day Parade in Corvallis. Our horses Nikki, Patches, Cisco and Poco the spotted donkey were a hit with the crowd. We also had a booth and donkeys at Montana Mule Days June 3-5 at the Hamilton Fairgrounds. Visitors enjoyed seeing Louise, Zoe,

Ariel, Cisco, Poco and our special friend Abe the Mammoth Jack.

That same weekend we had a booth at the Non-Profit Fair, also at the fairgrounds. It's been a busy time for Wings Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who made these events happen.

