

A LIFETIME FRIENDSHIP

The story of keeping a horse through longevity.

In 1991, Deborah Hord moved from crowded California to the Roaring Fork Valley. She was a beach girl who discovered the mountains and she was starting over. Debra grew up riding horses on her grandparents Missouri farm. Her Colorado dream would include a horse.

In 1992, Deborah married Jody Mack, who helped her buy “Tonto” a two year old Paint/ Arabian cross gelding. Tonto (reg. name – Prince Scipio) is now 38 years old and his health and wellbeing is due to the love and care that Debra gives him.



She has created a safe, comfortable, homogeneous environment at Gianetti’s Spring Creek Ranch for Tonto with two wonderful companions, another horse, “Wotai” meaning “Gift From God” and “Peanut” the goat. Deborah has rescued all of her animals and she gives them a meaningful life.

Deborah drives RFTA busses from 2 PM to midnight, 5 days a week. Every day, before she goes to her work, she stops by her animal sanctuary to make sure all of her animals are thriving. She cleans their bedding, makes sure their feed is available, grooms them and gives them love.



She has taken her Spring Creek shelter area and added rubber mats on the floor for easy cleaning and sanitary conditions. Also she installed a gutter over the roof entrance to send water away, keeping the area mud free. The whole shelter area is dry and well bedded inside for the three amigos. Peanut the goat has his own little house for resting undisturbed.



There is a small creek running through the south end of the dry lot corral and a heated tank in winter for ample access to water. Every day the animals get to go out on open pasture behind their corral. Deborah monitors their grazing for a limited amount of time in the spring, summer and fall. Our Colorado high country grasses have a heightened sugar spike, when the sun shines. The rich grass can cause a quick founder for many horses, especially for older ones. Deborah limits the time of grazing to protect her senior fellows.



Horses react to the attention that they are given. Time and effort of their owners keep them happy, healthy and give them incentive to keep on living a quality life. Horses and all of our animal friends enrich our souls. When we are with them, we are present in the moment and in the reality of “the now”, which is a healing practice that fills the heart with contentment and joy. Ask anyone, who has the loyal companionship of an animal friend. They will tell you that their animal comrades have brought love, compassion and healing into their lives.



Fall 2022 – Deborah and Tonto on the trail.

Written by Holly McLain – 3/11/2023