



Circle A Home for Horses

*Equine Rescue, Therapy and Rehabilitation Center
Non-Profit Organization in Virginia Beach, Virginia*

Newsletter

January 2022



Circle A Got It Done in '21

It was a tough year, but Circle A Home for Horses is proud of its service to horses and kids in 2021.

- * Eighty-three horses, ponies, and donkeys (nearly all from kill pens) were adopted by their forever families.
 - * With the help of The Barry Robinson Center in Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools, The Norfolk Police Department, and other organizations, Circle A horses enriched the lives of 767 children and adolescents.
 - * Volunteers devoted over 7,000 hours to support Circle A's mission. We are so grateful for this dedicated and hard-working group of people. We could not have achieved what we did without them.
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Happy Pops, Happy Horses, Happy Story



Left is Owen, 13; right is Merrill, 15. (In the middle is Louie, about 18.)

Meet Owen and Merrill Schmidt, animal lovers, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists. Owen and Merrill are the creators of Happy Pops, a frozen treat for horses, dogs, and farm animals of all kinds. Because of their dedication to saving animals, particularly horses, Happy Pops contributes a portion of its gross revenue to horse and dog rescue organizations, like Circle A Home for Horses. In fact, Circle A was the inspiration for Happy Pops – *oops*, we mean a Circle A rescue horse was the inspiration.



Meet Louie. When Owen and Merrill's mom, Kim Schmidt, was regular volunteer at Circle A the boys would often help out. It was during one of those visits that they met Louie, the sweetest draft-cross gelding anyone could imagine. Louie was also a refugee from a notorious Louisiana kill pen. It wasn't long before the family fell in love with the big boy and Louie found his forever home.



Kim's dad, Larry Torrance, joins the family on adoption day, June 26, 2018.

Owen and Merrill learned the details of the cruel life Louie endured at the kill pen, and that he was far from alone. They also recognized the wonderful work Circle A was doing to alleviate that cruelty and they committed themselves to helping. After much research and development Happy Pops was born.



In just ten months Happy Pops has contributed over \$5,500 to dog and horse rescue organizations. There are 15 retailers in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Maine carrying Happy Pops products and 40 states with Happy Pop customers. And this is just the beginning. Owen and Merrill have solid plans for expansion and a future dedicated to rescuing animals.

Circle A is proud to be a part of the Happy Pops story.



Learn more about Owen, Merrill, Louie, and Happy Pops at the [Happy Pops website](#).



A Merrier Christmas for Two Families

The Circle A family stepped up to help two Norfolk families have a merry Christmas. Staff and volunteers collected toys, home goods, and groceries and delivered them in time for Christmas day.



Gara Adoption

Congratulations to Streetgara "Gara," a gorgeous chestnut off-the-track-thoroughbred, who has found her forever home with Alyssa Miller. Kentucky-bred Streetgara was foaled March 31, 2019 out of Street Boss and Tenggara by Super Saver. As a [Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance](#)-accredited organization, Circle A is thrilled about this happy ending in Gara's journey to a second career. Thanks to a conscientious racing owner donation, Gara will be safe, loved, and cared for, as she so deserves, and will never see a kill pen.



New Design for Circle A Tees

Check out our new long-sleeve tee shirt featuring the redesigned Circle A logo on the front, and the Thoroughbred Accreditation Alliance logo on the back. [Shop here.](#)



Brrrr! Volunteer Training Continues

Volunteers Jen, Hope Settle, Rachel, Alyssa, Ryan, Reilly, and Tim (in red cap) braved the cold on Saturday, January 5th, for lessons on haltering and leading a horse. Hope was primary instructor with help from Carol Simpson (upper right.) Equine assistants, Blaze and Adari, didn't seem to mind the weather! Interested in becoming a Circle A volunteer? [Check us out!](#)



Happy Belated Birthday, Betty White!

Betty's 100th birthday may have passed, but I bet she'd be delighted with a few extra dollars to help rescue horses. Let's keep Betty's Birthday Challenge going with a donation to Circle A. As always, 100 percent of your donation will benefit Circle A equines.

Happy Belated Birthday, Betty White!



**Hi! I'm Jack the Donkey.
Got a question or a comment? I'm all ears!**

Click to contact Jack

Circle A Home for Horses Key Staff and Volunteers

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*The Editor would like to thank:
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and Carol Simpson
for their contributions to this newsletter.*



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To protect all the children whose images appear in this newsletter Circle A chooses to withhold their names.

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