

Casey's Prince —PART III

A Recap of Prince's Rescue and A Little History

On Friday January 31st we rescued a 10-year-old horse that we named Prince. His Coggins papers said he's a standard bred (cart horse) but Sue thinks he's half Andalusian.

Prince was an Amish owned horse for the first 10 years of his life. Many times, that means they are trained out of cruelty and brutality. This past December he was gelded and was most likely gelded inhumanely. He was left in a stall to heal after this and the stall was not cleaned. Horses are usually gelded before the age of one and Prince was gelded at age 10. Most often newly gelded horses are expected to run in the pastures so their incision can drain and are kept in very clean stalls to keep away infection. Hormones do not go away overnight on newly gelded stallions. When the Amish are done with their horses, they take them to auctions to get rid of them. He was probably tranquilized for auction and the woman who bought him from auction, was probably thinking he was a much different kind of horse. After two days in his new home, he bit her and could not be handled at all. We got a phone call from an out of state third party who wanted to save this horse. This horse would have been euthanized the next day. Of course, every equine we rescue, we never know the whole story. Once the equine is at Casey's, we have to let the horse tell their story through their actions and behavior. Sue knew right away that Prince needed lots of time to decompress and lots of time to be left alone.

We made a chute from his stall into the indoor arena so he could decompress. The first day he went into the indoor arena, he stood in the corner for two hours and did not move around the arena. He had a routine of being in his stall and the indoor arena for about 5 weeks. On March 7, he went outside for the first time. Based on his reaction, we are not sure if he ever saw the outdoors because he was afraid of sunshine. He froze when he walked outside. The first time we tried him in the outdoor run, he turned around and walked back into the indoor arena. On March 19, we set the gates in a V so he could look down the aisle without anyone bothering him.



ONE THING we know for sure is that it is very important that our volunteers, staff and visitors WATCH from a distance and do not interact with him. It's important that he develop trust with ONE person at this point. PLEASE continue to be patient and follow the directions regarding Prince. He's made incredible progress because he has been protected with the gates. LEAVING HIM ALONE right now is the best thing we can do for him.

March 25, was his first contact with a human. Sue first touched him on his neck while he was in the outdoor run and she was in the run next door.

Soon Mitch Bornstein, author of "Last Chance Mustang" will be coming to evaluate Prince and help us get him ready for his forever home. If you haven't read this book, and you're interested in knowing what Prince is feeling, this is a great read!!

From his actions, he has told us that he has lived his whole life in a stall. So he has stimulus overload with all that he is seeing and learning. That's why he needs to be left alone and decompress.

So please remember that LEAVING HIM ALONE right now is the best thing we can do for him.

On April 4, he met Rio in their runs side by side and both boys showed that they liked one another.



On April 8, we had a hail and rain storm and he just stood out in the rain and hail and seemed to enjoy it. Since he hasn't been handled much at all and probably not groomed at all, so the rain and hail probably felt good to him.

Eventually he started to feel comfortable going outside in his run. We had made his run smaller-- about one third of its size.

On April 25, he let Sue put a halter on for the first time. This was almost three months after he came to Casey's. He has to learn how to walk with a halter and lead. He is just starting to do this and by the way he walks on his lead, you can tell that he is very unsure about this.

Prince and Zeus met on April 26th and Prince got a little too excited so that visit had to be cut short.

His hooves were trimmed for the first time on April 30 and he was a "PRINCE". He only had his front feet trimmed then but we will do the back feet in a few weeks. He was afraid when his first foot was lifted but seemed reassured that Sue was there.

Now he wants to be around people and he's strolling through the arena and playing with the toys. He loves to come over to the window and look into the kitchen and see what his humans are doing.