



Winter at GRS

It's taken a few years to get good at handling the 1-2 weeks of severe winter weather we experience every year, but we were ready this year. Tank heaters, blankets, extra hay, and a routine made all the difference. Not that it's fun... but we can deal with it.

We are very blessed to have a handful of hearty volunteers who show up no matter what!

Not only did we get blankets on all our equines, except RJ (more about him shortly), we once again offered free blankets to anyone locally who needed one for their horse and had several folks take us up on the offer.





What's happening in the industry, and how YOU can help

I'm not sure what's different this year, but I am seeing more small rescues desperately looking for help --- not able to meet feed bills, selling what little they can online, and really ready to give up. It's at odds with what I'm seeing -- I'm getting fewer requests to take new horses, which tells me more owners are able to keep theirs. But what I do know is that we need every single one of those rescues (and more), so I'd ask that everyone spread the word and look for a rescue near you -- one that tugs at your heart -- and set up a small recurring donation to help them out. \$10 or \$20 a month, from enough people, can change the world for these smaller rescues. Do a quick Google search to find someone you'd like to support and ask your friends to do the same!

New Residents

Although the most common phrase outta my mouth is "we're full", I don't think I've ever sent a newsletter when I wasn't introducing you to someone new.

Buster, RJ, and Rosie are our newest residents.

Buster is a super-cute 17-year-old Pony of the Americas who is mostly blind from UVitis. His lifelong buddy, RJ (who's name was Romeo, which we modified to Romeo Jr and shortened to RJ to avoid confusion with our existing Romeo), is a 14-year-old mini-donkey with a ton of personality.

Rosie is a beautiful 17-year-old sorrel quarterhorse (part of a 35-horse surrender) that we brought in to be a companion for Buster. Although Buster had RJ with him here, Buster would not settle. He cried and paced the fences that he and RJ share with Koni, Raie, and Peso. He would calm down when one of the horses would stand at the fence with him but then get even more upset

when they walked away. Rosie is probably the most calm horse I've ever met, and she is the perfect companion for Buster. He no longer runs the fences.

With Rosie taking the role of companion for Buster, we were able to move RJ in with Angel, who has been missing Waylon. Now that was an adventure – moving RJ from his pasture to Angel's. He does not trust people and isn't halter broke. He won't let us scratch his shoulder or approach him (although he will take a cookie with his nose stretched all the way out), much less catch him. We're working on it. But to move him, we had to turn him loose and hope he'd follow Rosie and Buster. Which he did eventually, after running all over GRS and getting everyone stirred up. Hilarious.

RJ and Angel are doing well together. Not yet bonded like I had hoped. We will keep an ear out for potential donkey companions.

These moves also allowed us to let Abby move into the pasture with Koni, Raie, and Peso, where she has always wanted to be. I would frequently see her at the fence leaning across and watching their small herd. We moved her in with them with zero drama. A really good move.

An additional positive result of collaborating with the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) to bring Rosie to GRS is that we learned that they currently have room for more horses. We were able to help several owners get their horses placed with HSNT, including Fidget, who we've been trying to get placed for almost a year! A big win for the owners and their horses!



BUSTER



RJ and Angel



ROSIE



How's everyone doing?

Everyone is healthy right now!

Maggie will always have stifle issues, but she had a new round of injections and is comfortable.

Kaylie's hygroma (growth on her elbow) has improved greatly with the Dogleggs recommended by the specialist (a kind of wrap that covers her elbows, wrapping around her shoulders). Liberty had another round of injections (Propoflo) on her bad back leg last week, and I'm seeing some improvement, so that's fantastic!

The horses are doing better with the cold than their human counterparts – sassier than normal for sure, and then taking long naps in the sun.



New Additions & Upcoming Projects

New additions:

Our other kind of new addition... building projects! Thanks to a number of year-end grants, we were able to get a new hay shed/storage building and build a new shelter and paddock for Buster and Rosie.

Coming up:

Drainage work. Did you see that we flooded on Christmas Eve? It was A MESS. But another divine connection – the gentleman who sold us the hay shed also has a construction company and is going to help us with our drainage issues! Not for free, but he is being very flexible and appreciates what we do.

FINALLY, we are planning to build a new shelter for the Littles. Bravo and Onyx's area floods in the back. Their current shelter is made of heavy tarps on horse panels and has worked well but is wearing out. It's under two ancient pecans that are slowly dying and dropping large branches occasionally. The new shelter will be permanent and purpose-built for the Littles, tucked against the house away from the big trees.



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We need your help!

Donations keep us going and growing. Many of you donate already. Please share our newsletter and **Facebook** page. We need to reach more people and more donors so that we can help more horses.

We are very blessed to have most of our equines sponsored. If you (or one of your friends) is interested in helping with a partial sponsorship, have them look at our website. Rexi, Peso, Buster, RJ, and Isa all need some support.



What's Next?

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