

THE CONQUISTADOR Program



Champion Rayo de Olimpico CdeA - Conquistador

Newsletter Fall 2007

The Conquistador Equine Rescue & Advocacy Program

2121 S. Mill Ave, Suite 103 - (480) 232-8068

Tempe, AZ 85282

A nonprofit 501c3 equine welfare organization

Federal tax identification number #20-8776240

www.conquistadorprogram.org

CONQUISTADOR PROGRAM – NEWS

CONQUISTADOR PROGRAM BRINGS 11 PERUVIAN HORSES WHO ARE VICTIMS OF SEVERE NEGLECT TO LOVING ARIZONA HOMES

Peruvian Paso horses rescued from squalor in Colorado by Boulder resident, Rita Anderson, and Conquistador Program President, Dr. Pat Haight, were brought to new, loving homes in Arizona by the Conquistador Program and its coalition member, Hacienda de los Milagros Animal Sanctuary with the help of grants and assistance from compassionate friends in Colorado. Eleven horses formerly in the custody of a Longmont, Colorado man charged with animal cruelty and 19 counts of improper care of horses came to their new Arizona families on May 23, 2007. All of the horses have been placed in families who know and love Peruvian horses.



M.M. Figuero, 14 year-old Peruvian stallion in May 2007 in Colorado before he arrived in Arizona



MM Figuero eight weeks after care in the Conquistador Program. Figuero is one of 11 Peruvian horses who started their new life in Arizona.

HISTORIC SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WILD HORSE ADVOCATES AND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE REACHED

Because of the work of Phoenix attorney, Anthony Merrill, a coalition of animal organizations including the Animal Welfare Institute, The International Society for the Protection of Wild Mustangs and Burros, In Defense of Animals and private individuals including the Conquistador Program's Dr. Pat Haight, the U.S. Forest Service will keep the Heber Wild Horse Territory and create a management plan for horses in the territory and on adjacent federal lands. In March 2007, a federal district court judge signed an order based on a stipulated agreement between plaintiff and the US Forest Service. Among other things that agreement stipulates that the Forest Service will manage the Heber Wild Horse Territory and will conduct a NEPA and develop a management plan for the wild horse territory and for unbranded, unclaimed free-roaming wild horses in the Heber Wild Horse Territory and on surrounding lands in the Sitgreaves National Forests.





ATTORNEY, EQUINE WELFARE ORGANIZATION & ARIZONANS REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO PROTECT RIM COUNTRY WILD HORSES

Anthony Merrill, JD, of the law firm Bryan Cave, LLP, and Conquistador Program President sign agreement to continue protection of Rim wild horses

(Phoenix, August 14, 2007). The Arizona-based Conquistador Equine Rescue and Advocacy Program has signed an agreement with attorney Anthony Merrill, JD, and his firm Bryan Cave LLP that continues Mr. Merrill and his firm, Bryan Cave LLP, as the attorneys representing all unbranded, unclaimed, free-roaming horses in the Heber Wild Horse Territory and on all associated lands in the Apache-Sitgreaves National forests.

Anthony Merrill and his firm successfully prevented the removal of the unbranded, free-roaming horses in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in 2005 by first filing for and receiving a temporary restraining order from a Federal District Court judge and then by successfully arguing for a temporary injunction preventing the removal of the horses.

In March 2007, plaintiffs for the horses, including national animal welfare organizations and Arizona community members, represented by Mr. Merrill, signed an historic agreement with the US Forest Service that stipulated, among other things, the US Forest Service agreed that the wild horses were an integral part of the public lands and that the Forest Service would manage the Heber wild horse territory and horses in the territory and on associated public lands in the Sitgreaves National Forest of Eastern Arizona.

The Forest Service has begun the required study under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). However, some concerns have been raised by community members living in Apache-Sitgreaves and in the Rim area who attended public comment meetings by the Forest Service on the horses and who have read statements from the Forest Service regarding the 200 to 400 unbranded free-roaming wild horses and their foals.

Dr. Pat Haight, President of the Conquistador Program said, "While we hope the Forest Service will manage the horses in viable herds, we felt it was necessary for the horses to be continually represented by Mr. Merrill and Bryan Cave LLP for their protection."

Individuals who would like to contribute to the preservation of the Heber wild horses as they have come to be known by donating to their legal fees may send donations directly to Bryan Cave LLP marked for Rim Country wild horses or may telephone Dr. Patricia Haight at (480) 232-8068 or Mr. Joe Wager at (928) 535-9258. Community members who donate \$2500.00 or more will receive a two-night stay at Bison ranch and a personally guided photo safari to the horses by Mr. Wager, former Arizona horseman of the year. Donations not used for legal fees for the Heber wild horse will be returned on a pro rata basis.

Supporters of the horses also have organized the Heber Wild Horse Preservation Coalition. Anyone wishing to join the coalition may contact Mr. Wager or Dr. Haight or email: heberhorses@yahoo.com.



UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN HONORS ARIZONA'S RIM COUNTRY WILD HORSES

Congressman Raul Grijalva Reads Tribute to Arizona Wild Horses in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests into United States Congressional Record

(Phoenix, July 11, 2007). Arizona residents are especially proud and honored today after learning that United States Congressman Raul Grijalva read a tribute to wild horses living in Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests into the record of the United States Congress last week. Congressman Grijalva read a tribute to these magnificent and unique horses in Washington, D.C. on June 6, 2007.

The rim country wild horses are culturally tied to Arizona for more than 400 years since Father Eusebio Kino visited the Rim Country on horseback bringing as many as 130 horses or more with him on each trip in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Father Eusebio Kino, the Padre on horseback, was known for his ranching abilities and horsemanship and visited the Arizona rim area while exploring for places to establish new missions. Historical documents verify that Father Kino took extra horses with him as remounts. Historical research on these unique horses also establishes the connection of the rim country horses to Father Eusebio Kino and possibly to the Spanish explorer Coronado as early as 1508.

In his tribute, the Congressman described the rim country wild horses as a precious natural resource to be preserved for our children and for generations to come.

Dr. Pat Haight of the Conquistador Equine Rescue and Advocacy Program said, "We are thrilled and proud that Congressman Raul Grijalva honored our beautiful rim country wild horses in the United States Congress."



HONORING ARIZONA'S WILD HORSES

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arizona's wild horses living in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The residents of the State of Arizona deeply value these magnificent wild horses.

These beautiful wild horses are truly the "Living Symbols of the West," as described by the Wild Horse and Burro Act passed by Congress in 1971 to protect the wild horses of the United States.

The Rim Country wild horses date back to mounts brought by Father Eusebio Kino, who began his 1653 mission to eastern Arizona by setting out from the lands of my constituency in southern Arizona and traveling across our State northeast to the "borders of the lands of the Apacheria which border on New Mexico."

These original Spanish horses are the great ancestors of the Mogollon Rim country wild horses. They were the mighty Andalusian war horse, whose origins go back more than 28,000 years to the original Iberian horse; the magnificent Spanish Barb; and the graceful and fluid Spanish Jennet, the mount of many of the great kings of Europe; and the strong bloodlines of these original horses appear almost unchanged in our Rim wild horses 400 years later.

Our Arizona Rim wild horses are the direct descendants of the Spanish horses prized by the conquistadors so highly that the foals were carried in hammocks to protect their legs until they were old enough to travel on the forced marches; and prized by the early cattlemen for their endurance and heart and were the very mounts of the U.S. Cavalry as they rode to protect and expand the American west.

The Arizona Rim Country wild horses living in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are a most precious natural resource to be preserved for our children and grandchildren who will be able to see them for generations to come.



*Liberty, wild stallion of the Tonto National Forest seven months later in July 2007.
Photograph c/o Chris Palmer (c) 2007.*



Liberty, shortly after he was separated from his mother and herd in January 2006 and purchased at auction.

“Liberty”

Wild stallion of the Tonto National Forest brings good luck

In July of 2006, Dr. Pat Haight purchased/rescued a little wild mustang colt from the Pacific Livestock Auction (PLA) in Chandler, AZ. He had been removed from the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

The Tonto National Forest contains a protected wild horse and burro territory, the Saguaro Wild Horse and Burro Territory. However, Liberty and his family had been removed without the Forest Service doing an environmental impact study as required under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Documents secured from the Tonto National Forest under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) even suggested their concern that the little horse and his herd might be wild horses.

One of our equine foster care homes agreed to care for the little horse. He was only about 7 months old and had been separated from his mother and his herd. The little colt's auction number was 1776 so therefore Dr. Pat named him Liberty.

Our foster's mom and aunt thought that Liberty was incredibly cute and that for some reason he would bring them luck. So they played his number 177 and 776 as a pick three for several weeks and after three tries won \$1000.00.

Thank you, Liberty!!

If you would like to help sponsor Liberty's care and training, please send your donation to the Conquistador Program and mark your donation, "for Liberty."

Thank you so much.



Sienna, feet trimmed, fed & hydrated five days after her rescue with Wynne and Dr. Haight

SWEET CHESTNUT MARE ABANDONED AT CAVE CREEK HOME FINDS HELP

Sienna will go to loving family in Chino Valley with help from House of Miracles Animal Sanctuary, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, & the Conquistador Program

(Phoenix, August 15, 2007). A Maricopa County woman checking her vacationing mother's Cave Creek home found a disturbing surprise on Friday. A lovely chestnut mare had been abandoned in a stall on the Cave Creek property. The mare was thin and her feet were in terrible condition. The mare had been placed in the stall with no food or water. A halter and lead had been left with the mare. A tag on the halter carried the name, Sienna.

Sienna's luck has changed for the good, however. Deputy Rowe, a kind Maricopa County Sheriff's Office deputy and horseman from the MCSO Cave Creek District, responded to a call from Dr. Pat Haight, member of the MCSO Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MPCA) Posse and Conquistador Program President about the mare. The officer took a report and released the mare to the Conquistador Equine Rescue & Advocacy Program for care.

The Conquistador program arranged for Sienna's feet to be done while she is fostered briefly in Cave Creek at Blue Grass Arabians and then, with the help of Wynne Zaugg, President of Hacienda de los Milagros (House of Miracles) Animal Sanctuary in Chino Valley, Sienna will go to a permanent loving home in the cool country near Prescott.

As the incidence of families in foreclosure and losing their homes climbs in Maricopa County, rescuers have noticed a sad increase in the number of animals including dogs and cats surrendered to local shelters and horses surrendered to rescue organizations or, like Sienna, abandoned. Abandoning an animal is a crime in Arizona. If you are not able to care for your animal, do not abandon your animal. If caught, you will face criminal charges. Sienna could have died of dehydration and starvation.

If you cannot care for your animal, consider the following options: 1) Log on to www.PACC911.org and click on partners for a list of animal shelters and rescues in Arizona. 2) Place your animal in a new home. Some local newspapers offer classified ads for free or at reduced rates to help place animals in need of a home. Carefully screen prospective homes. 3) If your friend has a condition that makes it impossible to be placed, consider humane euthanasia, letting your friend go peacefully in your care. 4) MCSO also offers a program for spouses in abusive homes to place their animal companions in temporary care allowing the spouse and children to leave the home and live in a safe shelter.

Community members who would like to help homeless animals can do so by adopting an animal from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Safe Hospice (MASH), Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, or from a rescue organization listed on PACC911.org.

Blue's story



I met Blue for the first time about two years ago. Blue (then called "Cancer") was safely ensconced at the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Animal Safe Hospice II (MASH II), the facility built by MCSO, under the guiding eye of Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and with hours of volunteer time from MCSO staff and donated materials.

The First neglect case for Blue

The facility had covered stalls to house about 30 horses and other large animals. I was training officer for the Sheriff's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Posse (MPCA Posse) and was at MASH II for a training session. Over twenty of the stalls at MASH II that night had lovely horses who had been nursed back to health after being so neglected and emaciated that they were seized from the "owner." One of the horses was a truly lovely little paint with one eye sewn shut. Her name was "Cancer" because of the removal of that eye. Cancer looked very good when I saw her and a lot younger than her 20 some years. However, she did not look so good on the day she was taken to MASH II starved and emaciated with her other fellow horses. It had taken the deputies and trustees who work with them months to bring Cancer back.

The case went to court:

I was elated when I found out the case was going to court, that everyone involved hoped for an outcome in which Cancer and the others would be permanently awarded to MCSO so that good homes could be found for each. Later, I was not so elated when I learned that the judge ordered the horses back to the person who had neglected them. I was outraged. I felt better when I learned that MCSO staff had been worried about the horses too and had spent time educating the custodian, repairing stalls, building her new stalls and doing what they could to try and reassure the care of the horses.

By: Patricia Haight, Ph.D.

The Conquistador Program

Starved a second time:

However, in November 2006, I received a call from a very compassionate livestock inspector for the Arizona Department of Agriculture. She told me the story of this little horse she called "Blue." The inspector said that Blue was a paint, 22 years old, with one eye sewn shut, who had been first at MCSO. I started to see red. The inspector went on to say she had been forced to seize the horse again because the horse was skeletal and dying. The inspector had taken Blue (Cancer) to her home to nurse her back from her second bout with starvation in the hands of the person she had been returned to. The inspector told me what I already knew that under the state law, ARS 3-1721 (D), after petitioning to take custody of Blue, being granted the petition to take Blue, nursing her back to health, she was obligated by law to take Blue to auction, and if no one would take her, it would be at the Pacific Livestock auction in Maricopa County. This is the facility used by the State for seized horses, and a facility notorious for patronage by killer buyers who purchase horses like Blue at rock bottom prices and then ship them thousands of miles on crowded trailers to slaughterhouses in Mexico or Canada.



Blue is doing fine now. We held the auction at Blue Grass and we bought her. She spent time recovering with us and with Colonel Happersett and then she went to a wonderful sanctuary program for animals taken by law enforcement from cruelty and neglect cases. It is Healing Hearts Animal Sanctuary in Wilcox, Arizona. We are deeply grateful to Director, Betty Welton, and her staff for giving Blue a lifetime home with the best of care and love everyday.

Sunrise Becomes A Star



Sunrise (Sol Y Luna) today, a gorgeous multiple blue ribbon winning Peruvian mare, who was thrown away as an accident of birth at 4 months old.

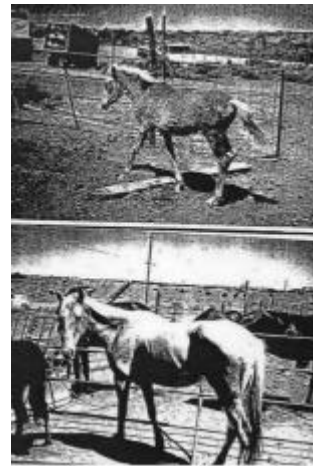


Sunrise & her trainer & friend, Juan Garayar, won blue ribbons, in every class they entered, in December 2006.



D.O.R. Velocipede, sire to Sunrise and a gorgeous stallion, took ribbons in 1999, then was kept in a small pen for 7 years after that and rarely, if ever, got out to exercise before his rescue. Last year, with the help of many kind friends, the little family was reunited.

Sunrise was only four months old when she was rescued by Pat and Bill Haight with the help of many kind people. She was a baby Peruvian Paso filly living in filth with Conquistador and many other Peruvian horses outside of St. Johns, Arizona. Sunrise was a throw away, an accident of birth, the custodians told the Hights.



Arizona Department of Agriculture investigation file photo, 2001

Sunrise & her mother, Oro Lisa Sur, in 2001 shortly before Sunrise was rescued with Conquistador & several other Peruvian horses. It took us five years of work but in 2006 we rescued Sunrise's mother & father too.

Sunrise was adopted by the Hights, and with much love and care, and with the help of many kind people, Sunrise recovered and flourished. Her trainer and friend, Juan Garayar, gave her the Spanish name she should have, *Sol Y Luna* (which means "Sun and Moon"). With the help of friends in southern Arizona, the parents of Sunrise were located in July 2006 and rescued from squalor. It took five years but with patience and kind help, the little family was reunited. Today, Sol Y Luna, has won many blue ribbons in regional competition in Arizona under the kind training of her chalan, Juan Garayar. She is coming into her own as her own star.

There are happy endings!



We could not have done it without you

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- Anthony Merrill, J.D., and the law firm of Bryan Cave L.L.P.
 - Rita Anderson
 - Best Friends Animal Society
 - The Bridle and Bit Newspaper & their staff
 - Cody Wilson and CW Equine Transport
 - Dick and Elaine Chapman
 - John and Nancy Epp
 - Julianne French
 - Fay Fredricks and KPNX Channel 12 television
 - Juan Garayar
 - Marjorie Groom in memory of Dr. Dale Groom
 - Jay Hearst
 - Dr. Gerry Longworth
 - The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and M.A.S.H.
 - Modern Age Printing
 - Peggy Dyer-Brock and the Sonoran News
 - PetsMart Charities
 - The Petco Foundation
 - The Pioneer Newspaper
 - Newlin and Joyce Happersett
 - Julie Hilyard
 - Sharon LaPierre and David Bruce
 - Delia and Jack McCormick
 - B.J. McIlvane
 - Mike's Hay Barn and the staff of Mike's Hay Barn
 - Rose Marie Nichols
 - Wynne Zaugg and Hacienda de los Milagros Animal Sanctuary
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- Ceda Austerman
 - PACC911
 - Chris Palmer
 - Pamela Reed
 - Dr. Adrianna Stinnett
 - Jeannie Sullivan
 - Team Printing Plus
 - Claire Thompson
 - Luis and Jennifer Trujillo
 - Gerri and Joe Wager
 - Tracy and Rex Wager
 - Thelda Williams
 - Tom Wilmeth
 - Annie and Michael Woods
 - Mike Wood
 - Wynne Zaugg
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Our indispensable and compassionate coalition members and foster families

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- Blue Grass Arabians, Newlin and Joyce Happersett
 - Ceda Austerman
 - Cliffrose Ranch and Rescue, Gina and Mark Muha
 - Richard and Elaine Chapman
 - Ofelia Cardenas and all of her wonderful family
 - John and Nancy Epp
 - Hacienda de los Milagros Animal Sanctuary
 - Barb Harden
 - Luis and Jennifer Trujillo
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Thank you so much to:

The many, many kind friends who have supported our work with donations, volunteering and attending our events and all of the wonderful families who have given adoptive homes to our horses. You are the Champions who make us roll with joy!



The Conquistador Equine Rescue and Advocacy Program

2121 South Mill Avenue, Suite 103

Tempe, AZ 85282 - Telephone: 480-232-8068

A registered nonprofit 501c3 equine welfare organization

Federal Tax identification #20-8776240

The Conquistador program is an equine welfare organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of horses from neglect, cruelty, abandonment and homelessness and to advocating for the welfare of domestic and wild equines.

www.conquistadorprogram.org

In the heart of every rescued horse there is a champion.





Help the Conquistador Program rescue and rehabilitate more horses, advocate for wild horses and for equine welfare and to take our message of triumph to inspire others with physical or developmental challenges.



The Conquistador Equine Rescue and Advocacy Program is a registered nonprofit 501c3 equine welfare organization. Your donation is tax deductible and we will send you a donation receipt.

_____ My donation of _____ is enclosed. Please send my donation receipt to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Please charge my credit card:

Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Credit card number: _____ / Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

You may also call us with your credit card information and we will send a receipt to you.

Telephone: (480) 232-8068 Thank you so much!

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