



Summer Edition
2015

Horse Tales

Ryersss Farm for Aged Equines

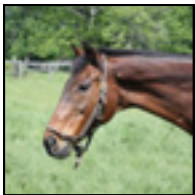
1710 Ridge Road Pottstown, PA 19465 • Phone: (866)469-0507

www.ryerssfarm.org

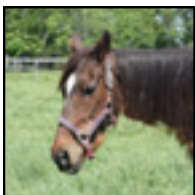
RYERSS RUN FOR THE HORSES



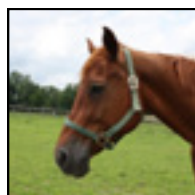
The 3rd Annual Ryersss *Run For The Horses* turned out to be another great day for Ryersss as 150 runners and walkers participated over the cross country course on the grounds of the farm. They were joined by many friends and family members who had a great time watching the horses watch the runners. They also got to meet some of the horses that they were benefitting. Since its inception, the run has grown in number of folks taking part and in the attendance by non-runners/walkers. Plans are already made for next year's event in April 2016.



Gatsby retired to Ryersss Farm at the age of 24 in May of 2015. He is a bay thoroughbred gelding who stands 15.3hh. He has settled into the Upper Barn herd nicely and has already made a very special friend in Fruitti, who also retired to Ryersss recently.

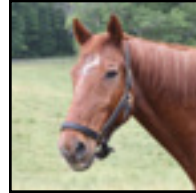


Fruitti retired to Ryersss Farm at the age of 36 on April 11, 2015. She spend the past 15 years taking care of her best friend - a horse named Toby. She has now found a new life and a special new friend in Gatsby who is also new to Ryersss.

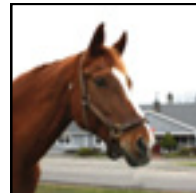


Zach , a 16 hh chestnut quarter horse who is in his late 20's, came to Ryersss in May, 2015. He spent his earlier years trail riding, fox hunting and competing in local shows. He has a friendly and sweet disposition and is settling in happily.

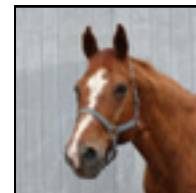
NEW ARRIVALS



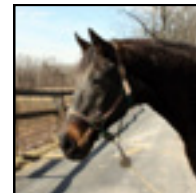
Albie (Dutch Indy) retired to Ryersss on April 30, at the age of 26. He is an 18 hh chestnut Warmblood who had a very successful career in dressage. He was, formerly, ranked 4th in the United States and was on the short list for the Olympics.



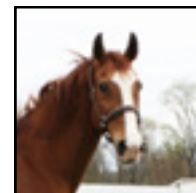
Sophie, a chestnut mixed breed, retired to Ryersss farm on April 26, at the age of 21. She showed in her younger years but a spinal injury put an end to that career and so she spent much of her life living in a pasture with another horse who was her best friend.



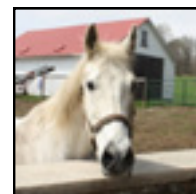
Buddy retired to Ryersss Farm on June 7, at the age of 21. He was used as a school horse at Watchung Stables for 15 years and helped teach kids of all levels how to ride. He was a favorite among the children because of his kind nature and sweet personality



Major, a 29 year old dark bay thoroughbred, retired to Ryersss Farm on March 13. As a youngster, Major raced under the name of "Gator John" and then came to the Philadelphia area once his racing days were over. Major has now become a resident of the upper barn herd at Ryersss.



On January 29, Legion, a 22 year old Dutch Warmblood, came to retire at Ryersss Farm. He is chestnut with a large white blaze and is 15.3 hands high. Legion spent most of his life in Chester County as a pleasure horse. He now lives in the main barn at Ryersss.



Corrie, a 15.1 hh grey gelding, arrived to retire at Ryersss on April 18, at the age of 29. His owner purchased him from Sebastian Riding Associates where he was a therapy horse and bought him as a companion for their other horse. Corrie has a calm disposition and is friendly with everyone.

Please visit our web site to read more about ALL Ryersss Horses, both past and present at: www.ryerssfarm.org

RYERSS FAMILY FUN DAY

NOTES FROM THE STABLE

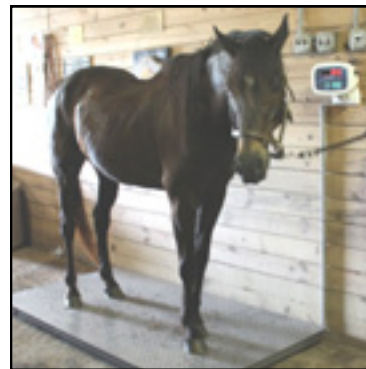


On Saturday, June 13th, Ryerss Farm hosted its second annual Family Fun Day at the farm. The event included games, food, a moon bounce, hayrides, pony rides, crafts and lots of fun for the hundreds of children, parents and others who attended. Fun Day goers also had the chance to see Ammo the dachshund perform a variety of tricks for the crowd and Minnow the talented Chincoteague pony paint his very own masterpieces!

The Ryerss horses were on hand, as well, to greet the visitors who brought treats of carrots and apples for them. It was a good day for all and successful in raising money to help with the care of the 80 retired and rescued horses that are retired at the farm. If you missed this past weekend's event, plan to join us next June for the Third Annual Fun Day!

By Amber Slaymaker...Animal Welfare Manager

Spring has sprung at Ryerss Farm and what a beautiful sight it is! My family and I are settled in the house, the kids have finished their year at school and we are all looking forward to enjoying warm weather on the farm. I have had a lot of fun this past winter getting to know all of the horses, staff, volunteers and prior owners. The horses did well over the cold winter and have all received their spring vaccines. Many are now enjoying life out to pasture with the exception of about 25 horses that come in twice daily for their feed or medication. These horses can be visited inside the barn from 1pm until 3 pm daily. There have been several changes on the farm over the winter. A big change for the horses was the decision to change feed, switching from our bulk Ryerss Feed to Nutrena's Pro Force Senior Feed. This change has been a very good one for the horses overall from body condition, healthier skin and coat to brighter attitudes as well.



Just recently we purchased a scale for the horses which will allow us to obtain exact weights and, therefore, be able to give the exact amount of feed and hay needed (in pounds) per day to maintain the horse. This will eliminate excessive feeding as well as under feeding.

In addition to the new feeding regimen, our deworming program has been substantially upgraded. Dr. Frank Reilly (Ryerss Board of Managers), Darla Kalman (Assistant Animal Welfare Manager) and I have agreed to implement the AAEP Parasite Control Guidelines Program which will mean a much healthier herd.

As we move into summer we look forward to having Blair Allen, who just finished her freshman year at Delaware Valley College majoring in Equine Business and Management, join our team as an intern to gain experience in all aspects of equine businesses and care of the older horse. She will be with us from late June until August when she will return to school. Blair also hopes to pursue vet school in the future.



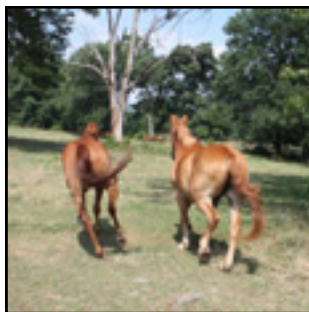
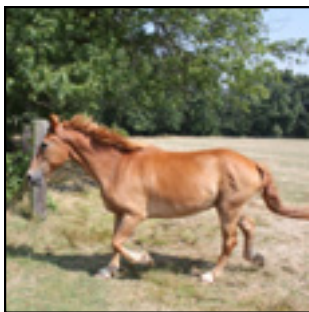
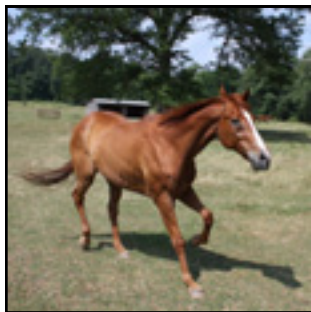
Four dedicated volunteers, Kristin, Gail, Mimi and Dee, feeding the "barn herd" on a hot summer day while Budrow and Woody wait eagerly for their grain.



He ain't heavy, He's my buddy!

Winston is a spirited thoroughbred that retired to Ryerss after a successful career as a show jumper. Handsome and athletic, he loves to be first out of the stable and race around the paddocks to stretch his legs. On his first day at the farm Winston's gaze did not fall on any of the other thoroughbreds in the herd, but instead it was an elderly Belgian draft horse that caught his fancy. Butkus is a stocky, plodding workhorse who moves with the slow determined gait of an animal that is accustomed to using his body to pull heavy equipment. As different as night and day, these two horses became instant friends.

In May the grass in the fields is lush and green and it is time for the herd to move away from the stable paddocks and onto the rolling pastures. This year Amber opened the gates and called to the horses, "Come on guys, everybody out!" Down the hill thundered the herd with Winston in the lead. He was first across the stream and raced with delight onto the wide open fields. Immediately all the horses dropped their heads down into the sweet smelling grass to graze. All of a sudden Winston stopped short! His head popped up and in a panic he frantically looked all around him. Then he took off, retracing his steps, running back across the green field and over the stream until he saw his old pal lumbering along toward the paddock gate. Winston trotted up to Butkus, turned and walked side-by-side with his best friend down the hill, urging him on across the stream and into the grassy meadow. Then, and only then, did the two horses begin to graze contentedly next to each other. New spring grass may come and go but best friends are forever.



Coming Soon!
Keep an eye out for the Ryerss Farm App, currently in development. Check our Website and Facebook for the launch date!

VANGUARD VOLUNTEERS

A large group of volunteers from Vanguard came to Ryerss Farm on January 17th and 19th for a Martin Luther King workday. They spend the mornings helping to clean and bed stalls, filling water troughs and water buckets, cleaning food buckets, organizing grooming supplies, and helping in many other ways in the main barn which houses sixty of our residents. They also helped us in the office by moving furniture as we set up a new gift shop area and switched the front office to a more convenient location. After a lunch break of pizza and other goodies, there was time to meet the horses and take a turn at grooming and also feeding them treats of carrots and apples. The hard work and dedication of these volunteers is very much appreciated by Ryerss Farm. It was wonderful to have their help for the weekend and we look forward to seeing them return soon.



UPCOMING EVENTS
October 4, 2015: [Blessing of the Animals](#)
October 18, 2015: [Anniversary Gala at Radnor Hunt](#)
December 6, 2015: [Ryerss Holiday Open House](#)
Details will be posted on our web site: www.ryerssfarm.org

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EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS RYERSS

On a recent visit to the Farm, Andrew Stoltzfus saw our picnic grove which had been built by an Eagle Scout candidate several years ago. After touring the farm Andrew (who is a candidate for Eagle Scout himself) decided that he would like to rebuild the split rail fence line at the top of the farm as his Eagle Scout project. He proposed to raise the money and do the work necessary to put in over 500 feet of fencing as a donation to Ryerss.

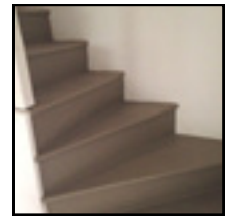
Once we accepted his proposal young Andrew set about raising donations in several ways, even selling treats at our annual *Run for the Horses* event at the farm. By this spring he had raised nearly \$800. and in addition had secured a discount for the fencing materials from Esch's Fencing. Donations from Ryerss' supporters paid for the rest of the materials.

On June 19th the fencing materials arrived, and Andrew, with his crew of volunteers, set to work tearing out the old fence line and replacing it with handsome new posts and rails. After a weekend of labor, Ryerss farm had a stunning new fence line thanks to the hard work and commitment of Andrew Stoltzfus, BSA. We look forward to this fine young man's induction as an Eagle Scout.



The Old Lady of Ridge Road gets a facelift!

At the entrance to the farm right on Ridge Road stands an 18th century farmhouse. By last year it had been vacant for nearly 20 years and was fast disintegrating under the constant assault of the weather. Rain and snow poured through holes in the roof and animals had burrowed into the walls. It was a sad old house. We were faced with a decision: to tear it down and lose a piece of Chester County history or spend the money and bring it back to life. Thankfully, a gift from Miss June Bork enabled us to replace the roof, tear out the rotted beams, and restore the old house to its former glory. Now instead of an eyesore it is a rental property that provides income for the horses. Be sure to honk as you drive by!



Here Are Ways You Can Help The Horses!

Underwrite a Stall: For a contribution of \$3,000. your name, or that of a loved one, will be engraved on a brass door plaque which will be then mounted on one of the stall doors.

Send a Memorial Contribution: Memorialize an animal lover with a gift to Ryerss, or stipulate in your will that, in lieu of other memorials, a donation to Ryerss should be given.

Sponsor A Horse: For just \$360, you can sponsor a horse of your choice. Easy installment plans of two payments of \$180 or 12 payments of \$30 are popular choices. This is a fun way for individuals and groups to help the horses.