

SPRING 2020

MEET OWEN



**OWEN ON HIS WAY
FROM SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY ANIMAL
SHELTER (LEFT)**

**AND ENJOYING
RETIRED LIFE AT
REDWINGS (RIGHT).**

Early one morning, a woman woke to a noise outside her window. She caught just a glimpse of a person tying a white horse to her fence post before the shadowy figure disappeared. Poor Owen had been abandoned.

Luckily, the kind woman had horses herself and led Owen to her barn while she waited for our partners at Santa Cruz County Animal Services to arrive. Investigators determined that he was a body score one at the time of abandonment; he was emaciated, with ribs and hips showing. Owen is also a senior, approximately 28 years old, with melanomas – bulging skin tumors – on one side of his mouth and around his tail.

Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter took Owen in, gave him the initial vet care he so desperately needed, and began his refeeding regime. As an animal shelter in a town-setting with only a small area for farm animals, they needed to find Owen a home – but who would adopt an emaciated senior with expensive medical care on the horizon? If they could not find a home, the animal services staff worried, would they eventually be forced to euthanize this sweet old horse?

As an abandoned horse in need of specialized care, Owen was a perfect candidate to join Redwings' herd.

The dedicated animal services team that had saved Owen greeted us and handed Sara Ruggerone, Redwings' Equine Care Manager, Owen's halter. Owen had never met Sara before, but he was extremely docile, haltered easily, and walked right into our trailer. He must have known he was coming home to Redwings.

Upon arrival, Owen took a long look around, spotted his soft rice hull bedding, and immediately rolled and rolled with joy. Under our care and after vet visits, Owen has steadily gained weight. His tumors, while luckily benign, are past the point of being operable, but he is still able to eat heartily and enjoy his new life. Owen's white coat has started to shine again. When he's been groomed by our staff, his Andalusian features stand out, and we see a glimmer of what a strong, handsome horse he was in his younger days. Thanks to our supporters, we are thrilled to be able to provide this kind, old gentleman with the retirement he deserves.

We truly appreciate donations to support Owen's ongoing long-term care; simply note "Owen" on your donation envelope or online gift. All gifts are tax deductible.

Redwings Hoofbeat: Horse Care During the COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Friends:

It has been a trying time for the nation and the world as we learn to cope with the threat of the COVID-19 virus. The threat is particularly frightening to those of us caring for animals. Like many of our fellow shelters and rescues, Redwings has had to shut its doors to our adopters, volunteers, and visitors – who are the lifeblood of the work we do – in order to safeguard the staff who provide daily feed and medical care to our 70 horses. While some supplies are harder to come by, at the time of print, our key feed and medical supply chain continues to operate for essential goods.

As our Foster to Adopt process can take time even without a crisis – from the foster parent's first ride to our in-person property inspection to hauling the horse to its new home – it has been absolutely heartbreaking to pause our fosters in progress. Virtual viewing is a wonderful solution for dog and cat rescues, but potential horse fosters often need to ride before making a lifelong commitment to a horse. We also have begun to experience and expect to see a rising tide of owner-surrender requests as more families lose employment and can no longer afford their horse.

For those of you who can afford to give and have been our loyal donors, we need you now more than ever and we are humbled by your selfless support of horses in need. I would also like to thank our equine care team and ranch hands for their tireless efforts to provide exceptional horse care despite reduced staffing.

Please explore our virtual options of engaging with us and experiencing the sanctuary's tranquility until the happy day that we can resume normal operations. I hope you and yours stay healthy and well.

Warmly,

Sara Ruggerone
Equine Care Manager



Fire Fly and trainer Katie White

Each foster and adoption enable us to accept more horses to the sanctuary. We would especially like to thank the Esty Family, the Iverson Family, the Thomas Family, and Sarah Leon for finalizing their adoptions during this uncertain time. We are thrilled to announce that after completing her training at the Cal Poly Colt-starting class, Fire Fly's foster will go through as planned. Special thanks to Fire Fly's student trainer at Cal Poly, Katie White. *New fosters will be on hold until we can offer riding trials and home inspections once again.*



Our dedicated equine care and ranch hand team continues to tend to our horses' daily needs and train during the crisis. Please follow us on Facebook (Redwings Horse Sanctuary – California) and Instagram @redwingshorses for some horse cheer and updates.

Welcomed!



Defense Minister



Owen



Quick N Dirty

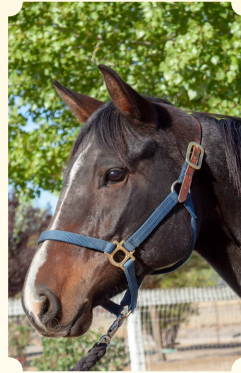


Splash Down

Adopted!



Capone



Sophie

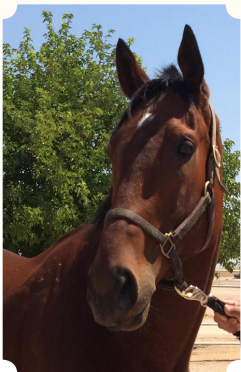


Trigger



Patrick

Fostered!



Borden County



Fire Fly



Duke



Mora

***Until We Meet Again Over the Rainbow Bridge –
Rest in Peace, Dear Friends.***

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two of our senior residents and staff favorites, Duke and Mora.



47240 Lockwood-Jolon Rd., Lockwood, CA 93932
P.O. Box 58, Lockwood, CA 93932

Info@redwingshorsesanctuary.org
www.redwingshorsesanctuary.org
Phone: 831-386-0135
Tax ID: 77-0269641

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Every Horse Deserves Humane Care.

Featured Fosters



Sweetest Caroline

Sweetest Caroline came to Redwings from the CARMA Placement Program. Caroline ran three races but was not competitive and was unable to place in her races. Due to a lack of speed she was retired without injuries. True to her name, Caroline is a sweet three-year-old filly. She is still learning and will require a knowledgeable rider but will make an excellent riding horse suitable for many different disciplines. She will likely make a nice hunter or jumper.



Don't Stalk Me

Don't Stalk Me, aka "Stalker," is a very kind and gentle five-year-old thoroughbred. Stalker raced 17 times, with 6 wins and won \$126,000. In May of 2019, Stalker retired after sustaining a bowed

tendon in a race. During the first few months of his rehab, Stalker bumped his head in his stall resulting in a bone chip. He has a small but permanent bump on his nasal bone due to that injury, but it does not bother him at all. We hope to find a foster parent who will see past this cosmetic bump to his incredible personality; he is very quiet and gentle. Stalker was a perfect gentleman throughout his rehab and never puts a foot out of place. Stalker has been restarted in our retraining program and is doing very well under saddle.

To request detailed information on an available horse, please fill out our "Foster Application" on our website:

<https://redwingshorsesanctuary.org/how-to-help/foster-to-adopt/foster-application/> Your form goes directly to the Equine Care Manager and does not obligate you to foster. While our Foster to Adopt program is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, we are accepting foster applications and will resume fostering as soon as possible.