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# Every Horse Deserves Humane Care



### Ernie:

Ernie is a cute 6 year old Irish Thoroughbred gelding. Ernie raced 4 times in Ireland before being brought to the US. Ernie retired sound after losing interest in racing. Ernie spent 30 days with a trainer in the fall to get him going under saddle again and now he is ready to find his forever home. Ernie is a very energetic horse that will do best in a performance home. Ernie is best suited for an intermediate to advanced rider. The Redwings staff feel that he will probably excel in the jumper ring or eventing, but he has not been started over fences yet. Ernie would also be suitable for many other disciplines. Ernie has a "pocket pet" personality and absolutely loves attention. He is the first one in the herd to meet you at the gate and is always ready for whatever you want from him. If you are interested in learning more about Ernie please contact our office and set up a time to come meet him!

### Mossy:

Mossy is a sweet 4 year old Thoroughbred gelding. Mossy retired from racing after sustaining a bowed tendon on the track. For the last year Mossy has been rehabilitated and is now ready to start back under saddle. So far he has only been ridden a handful of times at the walk and trot, but he has a quiet and gentle demeanor and has been a perfect gentleman under saddle. Mossy has excellent ground manners, loves attention and gets along great in community pasture. Mossy should make a wonderful lower level performance horse or pleasure horse. Contact our office if you are interested in meeting Mossy.



**Don't forget you can see more photos of Ernie & Mossy and other available equines on our website at [www.redwingshorsesanctuary.org](http://www.redwingshorsesanctuary.org)**

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## Horse Tales from the Heart!

### DEVIL'S GARDEN MUSTANGS

The staff and directors at Redwings have followed the plight of the mustangs here in the US since we were incorporated in 1993. We remain very concerned about the health and well-being of the animals as well as the efforts to control the population on American range land.

Over the years Redwings has provided sanctuary or approved foster homes for many mustangs. Redwings currently has 16 mustangs in our Mustang herd from the Pryor Mountains of Montana. Redwings also has 3 branded BLM mustang mares from different herds in California and a gelding that was rescued from a horrible situation of neglect in 2014.

Recently, in late October of 2017 a devoted supporter called to inform the staff at Redwings that there were some Mustangs from the Devil's Garden Herd in Northern California that were in desperate need of homes. These mustangs were all mares with young foals and with winter fast approaching the local supporters were working hard to find homes for the pairs. Redwings acted immediately and agreed to take 2 mares and their foals. The mustang advocate graciously offered to pay for 30 days of gentling with a trainer who specializes in gentling mustangs, as well as their board during their stay with the trainer.

Finally in late January the mustangs were ready for their journey to our Sanctuary. Redwing's Equine Care Supervisor drove up to bring home one of the pairs and the trainer offered to bring down the second pair. After almost 6 hours in the trailer the mustangs cautiously took in their new surroundings, hopped out of the trailer, and settled into their new home.



The new mustangs are doing great, but they still have a long way to go before they are ready for our foster to adopt program. Each day the equine care staff spend time with each mustang getting them more comfortable with handling, leading, and

other aspects of equine training. None of them have names quite yet, we are waiting to know their individual personalities more before we decide on their names.



It is our hope that in a few months these amazing horses will be ready for new homes. The mares are only four years old and should make lovely riding horses with a little more time and training. The foals will need time to mature, but in a couple more years they too will make wonderful riding prospects. All four are beautiful specimens of their breed and we know they have a bright future.

Today it is estimated that there are nearly as many horses in BLM holding facilities as there are out on range land. There is a significant concern that 80% of existing herds on BLM land today are not genetically viable. This means that there is not enough genetic diversity among the herd members to keep the herd healthy. Currently, Nevada has the highest population of mustangs living free, but there are many other states including California that are home to a significant number of herds.

A strong controversy exists today between support groups and the BLM. We need to come together to find an appropriate solution and ensure that these wonderful horses can continue to live in sustainable numbers in healthy herds. We also can't forget the thousands of mustangs in holding facilities that have no hope of being returned to the range land, these horses desperately need homes. Mustangs are hardy horses that are strong, sure footed, and smart. With proper gentling and training mustangs make wonderful riding horses and have been successful in most disciplines. Are you considering adding another horse to your family, consider adopting a mustang!

# HAPPY 2018

Last year was a great year for Redwings. We fostered and adopted many of our horses and we continue to have success with our permanent residents and others who have varying health needs. They are happy and healthy. We also had to say goodbye to several of our horses whose health was diminished, and their quality of life was poor. It is always a sad day here on the ranch when we are faced with these decisions, but ultimately, it is for the best.

We want to thank all of you who made donations throughout 2017 to help support our mission. The commitment and expense of taking care of 80 horses and growing is no easy task, but we love what we do. Thanks to all of you, we continue to provide shelter, food, medications, farrier, and vet care for all of them and they are thriving.

Many of you have supported our Sponsor Horses, for which we are very grateful. However, we are looking to expand our sponsorship program in support of our larger population of permanent residents and companion horses who are blind, injured, and old. They will live out their days at the Sanctuary with lots of TLC. For those who have a love for horses, sponsorship is a great way to honor loved ones, celebrate special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries – not to mention the perfect gift for that horse crazy little girl or boy. We recently had a woman sponsor several of our horses via her grandchildren. She felt very strongly about the importance of “giving back” and wanted her grandchildren to learn about philanthropy at an early age.

Consider “Duke” our 29-year-old beautiful buckskin gelding. How about Jasper, a thoroughbred who is our oldest horse at the Sanctuary at 35 years old, and he still looks amazing. Sponsorship for any of our horses helps with their daily feed and care, which is so critical as we see our costs rising. Thank you to many of our supporters who consistently make monthly sponsorship gifts for one of their favorite horses here at Redwings. Please go to our website [www.redwingshorsesanctuary.org](http://www.redwingshorsesanctuary.org) and look at the many sweet faces of our sponsorship group.

As I may have mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we were fortunate to have a donor give a substantial gift which allowed us to purchase property for Redwings in Paso Robles, CA. Currently, it is a blank piece of land with a pending build out, which will take quite some time. We are unable to determine the exact completion date, but we will keep you posted. In the meantime, the real work begins! Raising the capital to pay for the stalls, shelters, hay barn, the med room and office space etc. The list is long, but we will get it done and we will celebrate our horses permanent home!

*P.S. April 26 is "Help a Horse Day"*

Warmly,  
Andie Wilcox  
Executive Director

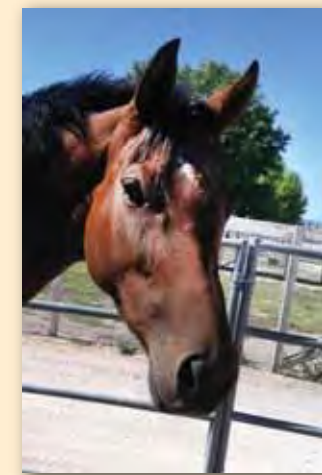
## Welcome



*Mossy*



*Chocolate*



*Chuchotti*



*"Z"*

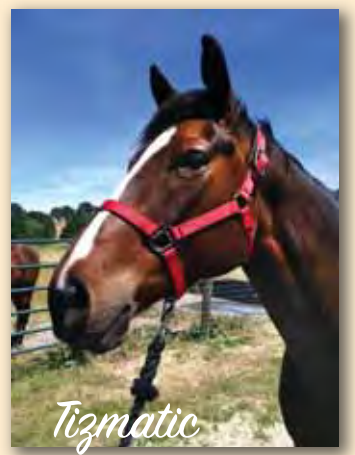
## Fostered



*Finnegan*



*Joy*



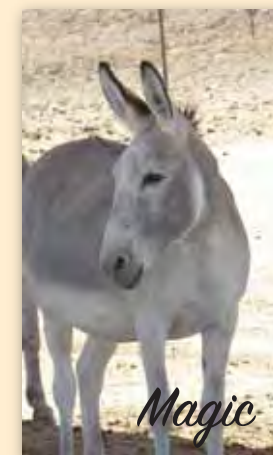
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## Farewell

*Until we meet again over the rainbow bridge...rest in peace dear friends*



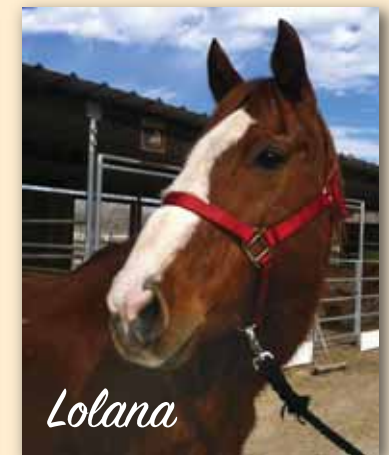
*Dodger*



*Magic*



*Pegasus*



*Lolana*



## Happy Retirement Pam

Long time volunteer and staff member Pam, will be hanging up her boots so to speak. Pam has been a devoted member of our team for the past 11 years - first as a volunteer, office worker, then as an Equine Care Assistant. Always with a smile on her face, her commitment to the organization; her love and care for all of our horses has been so appreciated by staff and board alike. She will remain a significant member of our family and will be volunteering in the future.