

SUMMER 2019

## MEET FIRECRACKER, SALLY, and KAI

Firecracker, Sally, and Kai have been under San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Animal Services' care since they were seized in a large-scale 34-horse abuse and neglect case at the end of 2018. At the time of the seizure, Redwings took the three horses most in need – Josie, Oliver, and Cooper. Now that they are healthy and happy, we have been able to accept three additional horses from the same case. These three newcomers

have not been socialized, and we will soon learn more about their personalities. At the time of print, approximately 12 horses still remain in the care of SLO County Animal Services – and each of these horses needs a safe forever home. Can you help Redwings and SLO County by giving a home to a horse in need? Please call County Animal Services at (805) 781-4400 if you can help.



**Firecracker** is a kind gelding who loves to take carrots but is still a little uncertain around new people. We hope that he will regain his trust in people so he can eventually join our Foster to Adopt program.



**Sally** is an older Appaloosa mare who is the most friendly and easy to handle of the group. She has lasting damage from her mistreatment, including eye and health conditions that may eventually cause her to lose her vision; she will be a permanent resident at the sanctuary.



**Kai** is a beauty who is learning to trust again; she is shy but sweet, and she has already made good progress working with our caring staff.

### Redwings Hoofbeat: News in Brief

Dear Friends: We were truly humbled by the outpouring of support for Josie, Cooper, and Oliver following our last edition. Thanks to you, they are thriving at Redwings and we were able to take in three more rescues profiled above. We are pleased to share some additional news highlights with you:

- Please join us in welcoming two new members to our Board of Directors: Gretel Crum and Cece Campbell. We are thrilled to have these local horse advocates helping guide our progress and our move to Paso Robles.

- Redwings is honored to have been selected as a grant recipient for the ASPCA's Rescuing Racers Initiative, which will specifically support rehabilitation and retraining for our

retired racehorses. The grant will increase our capacity to ready these wonderful off-track Thoroughbreds for their forever homes.

- Paso Robles here we come! Our construction materials have been delivered and we are one step closer to breaking ground on our new sanctuary home. Please look for our full project update in the Fall newsletter.

Thank you for all you do to support Redwings and horses in need!

Warmly,  
Sara Ruggerone, Equine Care Manager

# Senior Success Stories



Stacey Iverson with Patrick and Charisma, two seniors she fostered from Redwings.

## Loving Foster Homes

It is not often that we are able to celebrate a senior horse finding a loving home, let alone four senior companion horses! We would like to congratulate two of our foster parents – and thank them from the bottom of our hearts – for each fostering a pair of our senior companion horses this spring.

Bringing Patrick and Charisma home was an easy decision for Foster Mom Stacey, who had gotten to know them both over her 5+ years volunteering and “quickly fell in love.” Patrick, 22, is a Bay Quarter Horse who was abandoned by his original owner at a boarding facility and came to Redwings in 2003. “Patrick’s goofy, gentle and endearing personality drew me to him right away,” she said. “I knew he would be an excellent fit for our family with two young girls. Here at home, one of his favorite things is gentle hugs from kids.”

Charisma, 23, is the offspring of a Premarin mare; she was rescued from auction and came to Redwings in 1996. “Spending time with the draft mares in their pasture, Charisma was the one who would approach me first and quietly stand near me,” said Stacey. “I had always been slightly in awe of her - she’s intelligent, strong and shares only part of herself with you, as if she’s keeping a secret.”

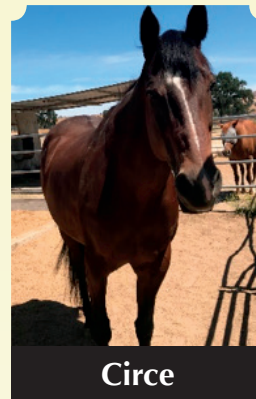
Redwings staff expected Chocolate, 27, and Molly, 25, to be permanent sanctuary residents due to their ages, but they have also found a loving home with foster Mom Robyn. Robyn originally fostered Molly as a companion horse, and then added Chocolate. She “could not imagine her daily life without a horse in her stables” and is delighted to spend time with Chocolate and Molly every day. Chocolate was rescued in Santa Clara County in 2017 and Molly was rescued in 2009 by Santa Cruz County Animal Services; both were emaciated at the time of rescue but made a full recovery.

Redwings staff will miss seeing these beloved residents daily, but we are thrilled that they have found their loving forever homes with all the one on one attention they deserve.

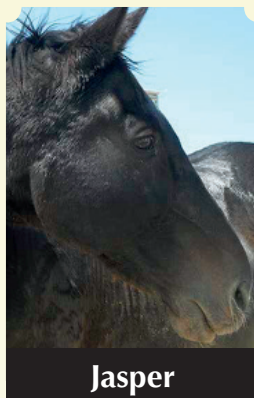
## Seniors at Redwings



Anna



Circe



Jasper



Brownie

Anna, Circe, Jasper, and Brownie are some of the 42 seniors at Redwings.

**Did you know that 42 horses at Redwings – over half of the herd – are “senior citizens” over 20 years of age?** On average, seniors require more costly care, including more pelleted feed than the average horse, due to dentition issues; anti-inflammatory medications to treat arthritis and Prascend to treat Cushing’s, which are both common conditions in seniors; and more frequent hoof, dental, and vet care.

Caring for a senior, however, can be extremely rewarding. “Many senior horses want to keep doing something useful, even if it’s simply groundwork or “helping” with chores,” Stacey explains. “A few gray hairs or arthritis won’t keep them from being active and happy. They are generous and wise companions, and still have a lifetime of wisdom to share with us.”

We truly appreciate those of you who support senior horses here at Redwings, like Anna, Circe, Jasper, and Brownie (pictured). Anna, 30, and Circe, 22, were each rescued from neglect cases that caused lifelong consequences – Anna is blind and Circe has a severe limp – but both are now healthy and happy at Redwings. Jasper, 35, and Brownie, 41, are our oldest animals at the sanctuary. Our deepest thanks to all who have opened their hearts and their homes to senior and non-rideable horses.

*Special thanks to the Mary Jo and Hank Greenberg Animal Welfare Foundation for supporting the care of 20 of our seniors this year. To contribute toward Redwings’ seniors, please note the horse name or “senior horse” on your donation. To learn more about fostering a senior or companion horse, contact [info@redwingshorsesanctuary.org](mailto:info@redwingshorsesanctuary.org).*



# Welcome



Mr. Opportunist



Firecracker



Sweetest Caroline



Kai



Sally



Bourbon Dude



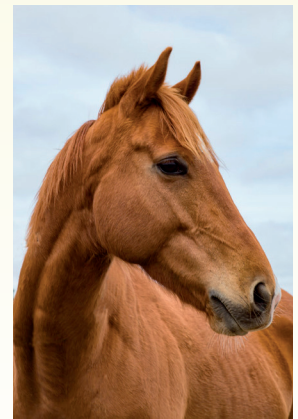
Chocolate



Patrick



Charisma



"Ernie" aka  
Ernest Shackleton

# Adopted



Hero Ten All



Thunder's Legacy



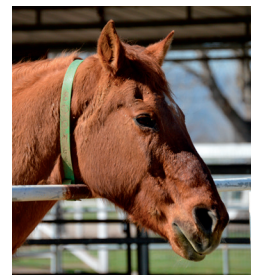
Tucker

## Charlie and Boomer:

### A Tribute



CHARLIE



BOOMER

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





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**Every Horse Deserves Humane Care.**

## Featured Fosters



**Triple Play Hay:** Triple Play Hay, aka "Trip," is a bigbodied and handsome four year old Thoroughbred gelding. Trip never raced due to a bone chip fragment in his left knee. The chip was removed surgically and Trip has finished his rehabilitation and recently begun light work under saddle. Trip is very outgoing, eager to please, and suitable for many disciplines.



**Eugene:** Eugene has officially completed his training at the Cal Poly Equine Center's colt-starting class and is available to foster! We thank those of you who supported his surgery last fall; he would never have gone to "pony school" without you giving him a second chance. Eugene is still very green under saddle, but he is kind and eager to learn.