

Horse Rescue – The Story of Two - Week 5



Storm

Initial Assessment

Temperament: Absolutely lovely; sweet and gentle; a dream to lead. She was relaxed and calm, yet alert and incredibly free of stress, considering what she'd gone through. She lifted all 4 feet easily (even the one that is infected).

Condition: Very, very thin. She is starting to shed out, which is an indication that she's starting to regain her health [loose tufts of hair could be pulled from various parts of her body - this is very different from the regular seasonal shedding]. She's got an infection in her Near Hind Leg. The vet diagnosed her with mud fever and she is on anti-inflammatories and antibiotics and they are bathing her leg regularly. There is a fair bit of heat in the Off Front hoof.

Hooves: Her hooves are in rough shape, although not terribly overgrown. They are chipped and cracked and very dry from the mud, but she doesn't have any rings indicating Founder.

Legs: Strong and healthy and she allowed pressure to be applied without issue.

Eyes: Very alert and clean.

Ears: She has a growth in her ear [possibly a wart].

Week 1 – April 29

Storm has lost a lot of her winter coat which is a good sign and new fur is starting to come in. She is a pleasure to groom staying very still and quietly eating while being brushed and touched her everywhere with not a single complaint - ears, eyes, muzzle, inside her mouth, body, tail, legs and hooves. She was walked over the poles and in arena. She walked nicely on a loose lead and had great stops and kept her head at leader's shoulder. Put her in a sweet spot and she stayed there while being walked around. She was introduced to a responsibility circle (line lunge with 14ft lead). The first two times she spooked, not sure what she was being asked but on the third time, she walked around twice. She was given a hind quarter yield and she stopped and looked forward. Directions were switched and again, on the third try, she did well with another yield and forward facing stop.

Week 2 – May 8

Weight – 980 pounds

Health – TBA

Conditioning:

- We're starting with walks over the cavaletti poles
- Pasture time is an absolute joy for her as you can imagine
- She also had some time in the arena

Week 3 – May 14

Weight – 986 pounds

Health – her book shelf spine is filling in as are the hips and ribs; she has been walked by the volunteers twice a day to help with her mud fever; her cellulitis has flared up twice since her arrival but with daily cold hosing and the help of our new EcoWash-n-Vac, the inflammation has been controlled. Along with potentially removing some of the bacteria contributing to her cellulitis, the bath has given her coat and skin that much needed shine. She received her vaccinations on Tuesday, May 10th. True to her wonderful personality, she stood patiently and didn't mind at all. She has a growth in her left ear which has been diagnosed as a papilloma. Because of its size, it will be removed at the next opportunity. Her coat is coming in well (no more bald patches) and her skin is no longer dry and flaky. She is gaining weight and the integrity of her topline has improved immensely. Her energy has also improved and she will often chase Thunder around their paddock. Spending some time in the pasture has also done wonders in lifting her spirits. Due to burrs, her tail was cut but a wonderful volunteer has taken the time to braid red string into her tail so that she can combat the flies. *[see pics in Smilebox video]*.

Week 4 – May 22

Weight – 1000 pounds

Update – This week we worked some more on her lunging, her desensitizing to things moving around her, some trotting around on line, and walking over the cavaletti poles. She has more energy and her spirit soars! She groomed well as usual and lifts all her feet nicely. We put her in the arena and she ran around and played; kicking and farting - strutting her stuff. She then went for a big roll, completely rolling over from side to side. ***NB: The way a horse rolls is a health indicator. A healthy horse with a good, strong back will vigorously roll from one side to the other without standing up first. When he stands up after a good roll, he will usually go for a nice run &/OR buck a bit. Many horses with high set withers will lay down and vigorously roll on one side, stand up, and immediately lay down to roll on the other side. The horse must stand up because his conformation does not allow him to roll completely over. Rolling plays a very important role in your horse's health. When he rolls, he is stretching all the muscles in his spine, neck, barrel, flanks, and buttocks. Rolling helps maintain his body's flexibility and health.*** Her leg/foot seem to be back to normal and she will soon be ready for under saddle work.

Week 5 – May 28



Weight – 1005 pounds

Update – Only her top line has any leftover winter fur. She is looking sleek and shiny. She always looks forward to her pasture time. She was tacked up for the first time and she was so easy going. She was worked in the arena with the tack on and asked to walk around and to trot. She was a natural; never missed a beat. She is such a beautiful girl!