

Hope for Bluebell

By Cindy Wall

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Bluebell was one of five horses that came to the rescue in November 2013. All five were part of a large seizure and rescue effort involving more than 60 horses in Airway Heights, Wash., earlier that year. She was underweight, unkempt and neglected. But in spite of what she'd been through, the rescue staff could see she had heart.



Bluebell, 10-months after arriving at the rescue

This 15-year-old sorrel Paint with a bald face, a white boot on her back right leg and a blue right eye had determination.

Bluebell settled in for several months before Stephanie Stibal, rehabilitation and adoption coordinator and Claudia Trapp, founder and president, began working with her to see what she knew. It didn't take long to realize this horse was well trained, great on the ground, used to a saddle and was a pleasure to ride. And she loved having a job.

Things were looking good for Bluebell. She had all the qualities of a nice trail riding horse and more. Until they discovered a problem with her back pastern.



Claudia Trapp on Bluebell during a basic riding assessment

It was an old tendon injury. A vet suggested surgery might repair the damage, but even that was no guarantee.

It became more difficult to find her a home. She could still be worked with and ridden, but she had limitations to avoid further injury. It seemed Bluebell's permanent home would be the rescue. Until one day in early April.



Terri with LD (left) and Bluebell with Claudia (right) walking the grounds.

In walked Terry Stocker from Chelan, Wash., looking for a pasture mate for her 20-year-old gelding, who'd lost his mom a few years earlier. The gelding, LD, had been alone since and never really adjusted to being the 'only guy on campus'. Terry came to the Rescue hoping to find a new friend for him. She met 20-year-old Bluebell, and they had an instant connection.

The following Saturday, Claudia loaded up Bluebell and trailered her to Terri's home for an introduction.



Love at first sight

All hoped this would be a good match and Bluebell would love her new home. Hope was not lost. It was love at first sight. "She looks and acts so much like my mare [LD's mom]." said Terri. "It makes my heart happy to see LD respond like this."



Weeks later, they are still inseparable. At long last, Belle, her new name given by Terry, has found a new and loving home, with her own space and room to roam. And another horse and human that she can call her own.

