



Ronda Ewing with Garth, a rescued horse that is in recovery at HARPS. Four miniature horses were rescued by HARPS. So far, two have been adopted.

## A Happy Holiday for Two Small Horses

THE PRITZKER FAMILY ADOPTS TWO RESCUED HORSES THROUGH HARPS

When Ronda Ewing, president of the Hooved Animal Rescue & Protection Society (HARPS), received the call from McHenry County Animal Control about seven starving horses on a farm in Marengo, Illinois, she and her team readied themselves to carry out HARPS' longstanding mission of providing hooved animal welfare.

Sadly, tragedy had already struck. Upon arriving at the ramshackle farm on the morning of November 22, 2019, Ewing found two dead miniature horses, their bodies skeletal, in a small, filthy paddock. The remaining five horses, four miniature horses and one Arabian/Quarter Horse mix, were alive but severely malnourished. To date, the property owner, a caretaker, and the owner of the miniature horses have been arrested on animal cruelty charges.

According to local veterinarian, Dr. Ann Macombs, the body condition of the five horses was, on a scale of one to ten, at a two. They were emaciated, dehydrated, and full of lice. They were in dire need of medical and nutritional help. Granted permission from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to impound the five horses, Ewing brought them to the HARPS facility in Barrington Hills and put them on a "starvation recovery" treatment plan. All the horses are expected to make a full recovery.

How these horses ended up in such abysmal circumstances remains an unanswered question. The Marengo farm, rented by multiple boarders, was

also home to horses in normal health, but either no one noticed the starving horses, or no one cared enough to report them until it was too late for the two that died. According to Ewing, this sort of negligence and abuse is unfortunately all too common. "In spite of all our educational and legislative efforts, including my mother's (Donna Ewing) key role in the update of the 1973 Illinois Humane Care of Animals Act, we continue to see these atrocities committed."

On the flip side, says Ewing, "is the kindness and support for animals in need, often from complete strangers." This was exemplified in the philanthropic actions of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's wife and daughter, MK and Teddi Pritzker, both long-time equestrians and animal lovers, who, upon hearing of the plight of the tiny horses, volunteered to adopt two of them.

Lollipop and Remy have been transported from death's door to a loving new home, where they will enjoy the comforts of proper care and an adoring family.

For information about adoption of the remaining rescued horses, or any other inquiries, please contact HARPS at 847-382-0503. [U](#)

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