

Spring
2010

Rainbow Ranch Ranch Hand News

Hi everyone, and welcome to the fifth edition of Ranch Hand News. I hope you enjoy reading it, as much as we enjoy putting it together. And as always, we welcome your input.

In this edition:

- Where's the newsletter???
- BIG Tack swap & Flea Mkt
- RR Snowplowing
- All riding program
- Registrations are now open
- New Addition / Bandit
- Benson and the tree
- Skippy Retires
- Goldie Lost to colic
- Lino goes to college
- Riding Trails expanding
- Best Picture of the Quarter
- Best Joke of the Quarter
- Down the road a bit

Where's the Newsletter?

My sincere apologies for not publishing a newsletter since last spring! Where did a year go? Well, there is a lot to catch up on.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
and get all those items
that no longer serve you
together.**

RR is hosting a
Tack Swap and Flea Mkt.
Bring your table, Bring a tent,
and most important, bring your
STUFF!

The event will be advertized in local publications and equine related businesses throughout the area during May & June. Spots are limited, so book yours now. There will be refreshments and pony rides available to visitors.

Tack Swap & Flea Mkt

The Date: Sat June 26th
The Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM
Vendor's access: 9 AM to 4 PM
Rain Date: Sun June 27th
Cost: \$15 per spot (non commercial vendors)
Call: 908-715-6472 to reserve your spot or go to web site and e mail.

Rainbow Ranch Snowplowing



Yes, RR is now offering this service at discount rates. And, with the winter we had, I'm happy to say it was a very successful endeavor. So even though the leaves are not fully on the trees, keep us in mind this fall, and don't forget to mention it to your friends and family. But now the plow is off the truck, and we can turn our attention to the main activities of Rainbow Ranch.

Register Now for Riding Programs

This season's riding programs will be filling up soon, so be sure to secure your spot.

Pee Wee Riding (Ages 5 to 7)

A five week program giving the young rider an introduction to riding,

Beginner Riding (Ages 8 to 12)

A eight week program giving the rider an understanding of horses, riding, and safety, from the ground up.

Private lessons (open to all ages)

Private and Semi Private (2 riders) lessons geared specifically to individual levels of experience. One hour lessons on a flexible schedule.

MEET "BANDIT"



Born: April 12, 2009



At about 9 weeks old



At 1 year old

Hi there! My name is Bandit. I came to live at Rainbow Ranch in June 2009 from Missouri. I'm an Australian Cattle Dog, and I just turned one year old on April 12th. My markings haven't changed much at all to darker like Spices'. I've heard that is a sign of maturity, I think that means I can still get away with puppy mischief for a while. Spice is the other ACD that lives here. She is in charge, and has taught me a lot about life on the farm. She's like a big sister to me.

We wrestle a lot to keep in shape, but I think I just tire her out most of the time.



Sometimes I torture Benson the cat who lives inside the house. I like to pin him down and lick him. I think he likes it, cause he doesn't really put up much of a fight. Cats are strange. I also live with some humans; Joe, Valerie, and sometimes Salem. I love living here at the farm; there is so much to do. In the mornings, I go up to the barn with Lou and wait in the tack room, until the horses are fed and have gone back out. Both Spice and I have experienced a hoof, and we were both real lucky, so it's for safety that we aren't around when the horses are coming and going. After feeding though, we help with barn chores. There's always lots of horse 'droppings', which to Spice me, are like cookies. And when Lou drags the hose out to water the horses, I like to 'help' reel it back in. At least I think I'm helping. Lou usually yells at me to stop so I figure she's good on her own. Then we help with feeding the petting zoo animals. I like to smell the pig and rush up to the goats and sheep to make them run, but they usually just butt heads with me. There are so many smells around the farm, it's enough to make a dogs' nose fall off. Sometimes we go for walks out back on the trail. I'm always up for an adventure. But, the thing I like the most is to fetch. I'll pick up one of the jolly balls, or find a stick, and drop it in front of anyone willing to toss it for me. I love catching the Frisbee, and if I must say, I'm getting pretty good at it. After about thirty minutes or so, the

person I've enticed, which most of the time is Lu because she's a sucker for my cuteness, to play with me will get tired and that's when I have to rest. But, I'm back up in five minutes and yep, looking for another game.

Well, I hope you come and visit me on the farm soon. I bet I can find a nice stick for you to throw, and I'll add you to my list of playmates.

Happy Tails to you!

Benson and the tree

Last summer Benson lost his outside cat status, and is now lives a life even Garfield would envy. The story behind this change in his life is quite amazing. It seems that Benson learned to climb up trees, but not down. Last June he went up a very tall tree. It was a couple of days before we even located him. We tried bribing him down, to no avail. We tried a bucket truck with a step ladder in the bucket, and Rick on the ladder; Benson only went higher. As the days clicked off, we thought for sure he was using up all 9 lives. Then it must have been divine intervention; Leslie typed "How to get a cat out of a tree" into her web browser. What she got, was a coast to coast network of professional tree climbers that rescue cats from trees! We called the local number, and within a few hours, a fellow named Randy showed up with his climbing equipment, and was up the tree after Benson. Before long Benson was in a carrier, and being gently lowered down to Marilu, who rushed him off to the vet. Benson was in the tree for NINE days and went through two storms. He was skinny, and

weak, but alive. After some meds, and special food, he pulled through. He now spends his days sleeping in the guest room bed, now and then getting attacked by Bandit, and his nights, keeping unwanted critters out of the farmhouse. He seems content in his new role because he really doesn't try to venture out the door.

Skippy Retires (Fall of 09)

After years of faithful service, and at the ripe old age of 29, Skippy was stricken with a debilitating disease called EPM. The disease attacks the nervous system, and presents itself similar to a stroke victim. After trying every treatment modern medicine has to offer, along with some not so conventional treatments, it was evident that Skippy's riding days were over. With that realization in place, Josh Smith, the farrier, pulled Skippy's shoes for the last time, and he was turned out to enjoy the good life with his fellow retiree, Mac. They spend their days together watching the activities on the farm. Sleeping in the sunshine, eating, and of course, like all old guys, enjoying a good BM now and then.



Goldie Lost to Colic

Goldie, the pony that inspired and who the concept of RR was built around, at about 25 years



old, had to be euthanized on Sunday Dec 27th after a 48 hour bout with colic. He was laid to rest shortly thereafter, next to Poco.

Wearing his signature red bandana, he was very gently lowered into his final resting place very early that Monday morning. It happened so quickly there was no time to let any of you know about his illness, and I really thought he would pull through. After all, there are countless children out there that will be looking for him this spring, and I could not imagine him not being here. But as the hours passed it became evident he was losing his battle, and we needed to give him relief.

If you would like to read more about Goldie's story, go to the bulletin board page of the web site.

Lino goes to college

Yes, early this spring, Lino had gone down to West Virginia to spend a few months with Michelle. She will work with him to put the finishing touches on his abilities. Early reports are that he is progressing, although he has a few youthful quirks that she uncovered, she projects he will come home someday ready to begin to fill his brothers shoes. I will be visiting them in a few weeks to observe his progress first hand. Look for my first

hand report in the summer issue of the newsletter.

Riding Trails Expanding

As some of you know, riding on the State land behind RR was a nice but kind of a short ride. And after years of having to double back on the same trail when riding back from the ridge, Marilu and Kim have trail blazed a loop that circles around in the foothills of Montana mountain. This loop will extend the ride by about 75%, and make it a bit more of a workout for the horses at the same time. Even when cleaned up, the trail will still not be a bridle path, so there will still be somewhat of a challenging ride. We're putting together a group that will pool resources and manpower this spring, for a weekend project to clean up the trail to make it a bit more of a comfortable and relaxing ride. The date for the group effort has been chosen as Sunday, May 2nd, so if you would like to help with the project, please send us an e mail and we'll keep you informed.

AND, after a day of riding this summer on the new trail, don't forget to get a soothing massage at;

A Therapeutic Touch

A full service Massage Studio, right here on Rainbow Ranch.

To schedule a human massage contact Marilu at 908-319-7381

We also are offering Equine massage for your horse or pony, either on RR, or at your barn.

To schedule an equine massage contact Robin at 908-763-2309

Best Picture of the Quarter



How many horses do you see

Best Joke of the Quarter

A champion jockey is about to enter an important race on a new horse. The horse's trainer meets him before the race and says, "All you have to remember with this horse is that every time you approach a jump, you have to shout, 'ALLLEEE OOOO!' really loudly in the horse's ear. Providing you do that, you'll be fine."

The jockey thinks the trainer is mad but promises to shout the command. The race begins and they approach the first hurdle. The jockey ignores the trainer's ridiculous advice and the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

They carry on and approach the second hurdle. The jockey, somewhat embarrassed, whispers "Aleeee ooop" in the horse's ear. The same thing happens--the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

At the third hurdle, the jockey thinks, "It's no good, I'll have to do it," and yells, "ALLLEEE OOOO!" really loudly. Sure enough, the horse sails over the jump with no problems. This continues for the rest of the race, but due to the earlier problems the horse only finishes third.

The trainer is fuming and asks the jockey what went wrong. The jockey replies, "Nothing is wrong with me--it's this bloody horse. What is he, deaf or something?"

The trainer replies, "Deaf?? DEAF??

He's not deaf, he's BLIND!"

Down the Road a Bit

- * May - Trailblazing Day
- * June - Tack swap & Flea Mkt
- * July - Pow wow
- * E mail us any stories, pix, or jokes you would like to share with the RHN readers.

Until next Time:

*Happy Trails to
you, and Yours.*