



Volume 8, Issue 2

Summer 2008



NATIONAL WILD HORSE ASSOCIATION

Desert Hoofprints

Rosie by Craig Leets

So, as these stories always start, it was a Tuesday afternoon when the call came in from Jerrie Bertola from the BLM, saying there was a foal in trouble out at the rock quarry in Goodsprings and would we be interested in taking her on. What I didn't know is that she had already talked to Shari and Shari had told her to call Becki and Craig because they never say no. Anyway, of course I said yes, and Jerrie was to call me when she was on her way back from Goodsprings, so I could meet her at Desert Pines Equine where the foal was to be assessed.

It was around 7:00pm when we went up to meet our new project. 'Rosie' was in pretty bad shape with her right rear leg ripped open and two broken ribs. It seems that she was attacked and was not expected to survive. That was the first time she showed she has incredible spirit. The vet said there is no way this little horse should be this spunky and full of life with all her injuries. The NWhA agreed to pick up the vet bills from this point forward and Becki and Conni jumped into the horse trailer with Rosie for the ride home. The vet figured her to be between 10 days to 2 weeks old.

When we got home I picked her up and started to carry her into the backyard; all was going well until she heard our horses calling to her and she felt it was time to get down and show she could walk on her own. We had set up a corral for her and made her some Foal-Lac to drink. Thankfully, she took to it right away. She drank it

down and that is when we notice how sharp the broken rib on her side was. Becki mentioned the fact it felt like it was going to poke out through her side. We called over our friend and medical consultant (and previous NWhA president), Byrdie (Coleman) Royal, from across the street and she was also amazed this little filly was doing so well. She came up with the great

idea to keep Rosie in a 12' x 12' screen room (like you would take camping) to keep the flies off her. So Wednesday Rosie got her own screened-in corral and it worked perfectly. However, on Wednesday night during her wound cleaning, we noticed that Rosie had been chewing on the site where the rib was sticking out and had broken through the skin. We also noticed what I can only describe as the feeling of bubble wrap under her skin. As it turned out, air was being sucked in under her skin (through the hole). A call to the vet on Thursday and it was back to Desert Pines Equine. Unfortunately the prognosis was not good. Surgery was needed or Rosie was not going to make it. Now keep in mind during all this she is trying to run and kick and play. Because of her incredible spirit we all knew she would survive the opera-

tion. So, on Friday, they did the surgery, with Conni overseeing the whole time to make sure the vet did everything right. When they got in, they found that the broken rib had also cut a hole in her diaphragm, causing her chest cavity to fill with air; without the surgery she would not have survived. They re-

moved one of the broken ribs, closed the hole in her diaphragm, and stitched her rear end back together as best they could. Becki



and I joined Conni about 4:30pm, and were able to see her come out from the anesthesia and that was a show in itself. Rosie thought she was ready to get up and go and, when they did let her up, she wobbled and stumbled but still didn't want anybody helping her. The vet said the first 24 to 48 hours would tell us whether or not she would make it. We went home knowing this tough little horse would be ok. Sure enough, come Saturday, not only was she doing better than they could have hoped, she was winning over the hearts of all. We met at the vets at 5:00pm Saturday and they said if all went well overnight she could come home on Sunday. Unfortunately I was working, but Becki, Conni and Wes brought her home. She gets stronger and feistier by the day. The last two nights we have taken her for walks around the neighborhood and people driving by actually pull over to see her. Her wounds are healing and her attitude is also getting stronger. That Mustang Spirit is why she is here today.

