

IERAL FUNd RaiSers For 2012

IERAL's First Annual



The Iowa Equine Rescue & Awareness League will be holding a **Chili Cook-Off** in early 2012!
(January or February or March)

Watch our website for details.
www.iaeral.org

CALENDAR



Iowa Livestock Laws in Need of Change

By Karla Sibert, IERAL
Iowa Equine Rescue & Awareness League
www.iaeral.org

IERAL and what we do....

The most recent rescue for IERAL was in Jasper County on August 22, 2011. Two very thin stallions were removed from an acreage located in Newton, Iowa. Another Percheron stallion was euthanized that same day. The owner had slid the almost-dead horse to the curb (like a garbage pickup site).

When I arrived to remove the two stallions, I assumed the horse was dead, but I was wrong. He looked up and whinnied at me as I walked by. I have to say that the memory of that haunting whinny will never leave my mind for as long as I live. I've seen plenty of horses being euthanized, including my own, but this was different. Here was a once-large draft Percheron horse with hooves as large as 12 inches in diameter, lying there suffering while someone had to make the decision to end his life. I quickly asked the veterinarian his opinion of the animal, and he agreed that it was time to assist the horse toward greener pastures.

IERAL then proceeded to remove the other two stallions; one, an offspring of the dead Percheron, and the other a yearling paint colt. The paint colt was a "1" based on the Heineke Body Condition Scale.

IERAL rehabilitated the two horses for 55 days by feeding over 1000 pounds of grain and two bales of hay per day.

Later, Dr. Doll and I received subpoenas for a civil hearing to appear in front of a judge in Jasper County. We both traveled

to Jasper County (Newton, IA) and waited for three hours to defend our stand on why these horses should not be returned to their owner. This never happened. Instead, the assistant County Attorney showed up, trying to "make a deal" with IERAL and the owner's ex-boyfriend. In my six years of experience in testifying on behalf of neglected/abused horses, I've never had a county attorney try to strike a deal between IERAL and the owner. Needless to say, I was shocked and offended at the same time. The "owner" said he had \$434 to offer me that day; I explained to him the bill was \$1780 from IERAL. He then got extremely defensive, saying that he owned four other horses and their care was not that expensive, etc. I ignored him, keeping in mind that the horses we took on behalf of Jasper County were extremely emaciated, so his definition of "his care" meant nothing to me.

After three hours of not seeing the judge, the assistant county attorney explained to me that "Jasper County is not in the horse business," and if this guy could pay the cost of these horses' care, he should get them back.

It should be noted here that this so-called "ex-boyfriend" never could show proof of ownership; yet the "Judge" said that he *could well be* the owner and so should have the horses back.

The ex-boyfriend actually did come up with a check to give to the Jasper County Clerk and I was informed that I had to give the horses up to him that day. I asked the assistant county attorney, "How do you know the check is good?"

She said, "Karla, the law reads that if he can pay, he can have the horses back." So, we had to let the two horses leave that day.

On October 26, 2011, I discovered that a "Bad Check Notice" was filed against this ex-boyfriend and the owner of the horses. I tried contacting the County Attorney's Office to ask what this meant for the care of these two horses, but my calls were not returned nor acknowledged.

...IERAL FUND RAISERS...

IERAL CALENDARS FOR SALE

(see page 8 for photo of Calendar)

Help IERAL continue our efforts in helping horses! IERAL is offering a one-of-a-kind calendar of our horses that have been adopted, and some that are still available for adoption. This calendar shows "Before" and "Now" photos. This work of art shows the success of our dedicated volunteers and all of the efforts over the past FIVE years!

If you would like to donate \$15.00 for this great calendar, we would be happy to get it to you before the holiday season.
Email: ieralhorse@gmail.com
Contact Volunteer Coordinator:
Lisa. Itakes@southslope.net

PLEASE COME TO OUR BENEFIT HORSE SHOW and DINNER

on January 27-29, 2012 at the Iowa Equestrian Center, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids,

CHILI COOKOFF THIS WINTER

Just in time to warm us all up!
Please watch for details on our website, at www.iaeral.org