

Greetings from Last Chance Corral

**“Success is not final, failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue that counts.”**

-Winston Churchill



As Last Chance Corral enters its 35th year, light should be shed on the true heroes. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the people who have been the steady, strong backbone supporting this work. My appreciation bounds beyond words. *“La reconnaissance est la mémoire du cœur”* (gratitude is the memory of the heart). My passion alone could never have been enough to achieve, nor sustain, this level of success for so many animals. It has taken the vital resource of your unwavering commitment and steadfast loyalty to sustain this cause. Together, we have intervened on behalf of and offered asylum to countless equine.

The year was 1971, when I took in my first “unwanted” horse. His name was Gerry. He was a big ol’ raw boned starving black gelding. I paid 50 dollars for him. I had saved long and hard to raise that kind of dough. I decorated an old coffee can with a drawing of a horse and the simple words “Horse Money.” Every penny, nickel, and dime that I came by went into that can. When Gerry was restored to health, I sold him to a friend for 100 dollars. I put that money back into the can for the next horse. So it went until, in my late twenties, I made a promise to a dead horse that I couldn’t help. At the time I didn’t know that I could have done more for him... not until it was too late. I promised that horse that I would never knowingly allow any horse to suffer. That horse was the catalyst for the formation of Last Chance Corral.

As the time went by, I became aware of just how many more “at risk” horses were in need of intervention. I needed to be able to help more than one or two at a time. If I was to become an advocate for all these animals, I would need help. So, in 1986, LCC became a non-profit organization and... the help came! Years, like all the horses, passed through my life. This thing started to snowball on me. My help (that being you, the donor) stayed on and together we have maintained the promise made so many years ago. When I started, there were no “horse rescues.” It was an unnamed concept for me. Now there are hundreds out there!

Still, there is always plenty of work to be done. This is not just a “one and done” job; it is a forever commitment to these animals. Not only do we help the animals that we offer direct care to here at the farm, but we have also become a resource for both horse owners and their vets. Most horse owners have never considered the possibility of having to raise and orphan foal until the situation is thrust upon them. During foaling season, our phone rings constantly (seriously – off the hook!). Many of these calls are from folks in desperate need of advice regarding our highly specialized set of skills... “raising baby without mom.” Our website and facebook page have gained worldwide recognition as well, from both the potential adopters and those seeking information from our knowledge base. Every foal season (January to August), we try to improve on the care that we offer to our babies. There is always more to learn! Boy Howdy – do we have experience with diarrhea! The fact is that there will always be orphans, whether by design or unintentional.

It is our vision to be here to help them step into the light of life. Whether it’s on the farm or on the phone, we will dispense the kind of help that comes from years of specialized experience and dedication. I am so grateful for folks like you who not only share in our vision (our 2020 vision) – but have also made a commitment to making this a reality, not just this year, but an ongoing “ad infinitum” promise of life, giving opportunity for horses. I recall a passage from a Robert Service ballad; *“A promise made is a debt unpaid.”* Together, we will make this coming year and those that follow successful for every horse, big or small, old or young, unwanted or misunderstood, that walks into our lives.

“... it is the courage to continue that counts.”

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads “Victoria Goss”.

Victoria Goss founder / president

“I wish you and yours the most wonderful and warm Holidays. Take a moment to reflect on and appreciate your good fortune, then to consider those with so much less. Share your bounty and love for life with them. This will make your Holidays, and indeed every day, even more rewarding and wonderful.” **Happy Holidays**

