



The Year 2020 started with a BIG, bang. BOOM! During the first week of January, the only thing on our minds was preparing for foals. Then BAM! A Cavalcade of Clydesdales. We got a call that twelve--yes, that's right--TWELVE Clydesdales were in need. I remember thinking, "Sheesh! If this is how we are starting the year, I wonder what lies ahead (kinda glad I didn't know.) It took a minute or two to wrap our heads around it then hit the phones. The Clydes were under the care of the local humane officer who had called us as soon as the owners made the decision to surrender them. The owners had been going through a personal turmoil and an unfortunate result was that the stalled horses had been overlooked. Forgotten, without food nor care had put their lives in peril.

It took us a whole day to assemble a caravan of trailers (because not any old trailer would do) and make the three-hour trip. One even came from as far as RI and belonged to our east coast liaison. She agreed to adopt three of the Clydes and rehab them at her farm in RI, not only to help us out, but because she really wanted to.

Finding enough space for these giant horses at our facility took a bit of creativity. For those that didn't get stalls in our Recovery Barn, panels were set up to create comfortable stalls in the foal barn. We use this model when we need to separate groups of foals. I must say these huge horses made our little farm feel so much smaller. It seemed as if every available space was filled with a BIG horse. With just enough space reserved, we were ready and waiting for the possible call for the first foals of the season.

Taking advantage of our nation-wide network, we made a few phone calls to the "right people" in order to place them appropriately. When you've been doing this as long as we have, you get to know the who's who of the equine world and what they like and what they are capable of handling. Within 48 hours, they had their forever homes.

Generally, we like to keep horses at the farm until they have achieved their optimal health and have been completely evaluated for health, training level and personality before being paired up to the appropriate owners. But with foal season just inches away and Clyde adopters who wanted to be a part of their recovery waiting and at the ready--literally begging to get them--it was decided that they would be allowed to go to these homes which were well known to us and were equipped and prepared for the challenges ahead.

These massive animals had arrived with various health issues. One of the young horses that we did not feel was fit for travel was adopted by a qualified facility nearby. Justin Leveris of Leveris Farms took five, then a few months later adopted the stallion, 'Cash' who was originally placed with our east coast liaison.

They have all been getting the very best of care. Due to the neglect they had endured, a couple of them had conditions that led to untimely death (one before we got called and one of the very young ones.) The others are doing well and receiving continued treatments, lots of love and groceries, frolicking in the green grass as they should be.

