

A BIT OF NEWS

NOVEMBER 2011 VOL 1, ISSUE 1



Haunted Barn Proves "Fang-tastic"

September and October are extremely busy at DITR. Haunted Barn creator and coordinator, Brenen Head, eats, sleeps and breathes, Halloween, along with many others on his crew. Our second annual Haunted Barn was a HUGE success! DITR grossed over \$5,000 in profit from entry fees and concession stand.

Once again, our volunteer force was the key to the Haunted Barn's success. Thanks

to those who spent most of September preparing the barn and decorating. Thanks also to our costumed workers. Each weekend, an average of twenty-two people donned costumes ranging from babies to the frightfully wonderful headless horseman. We are especially grateful to the community for supporting the Haunted Barn. The

profit was used to help pay for our veterinary bill, which averages \$1,350 a month, and the purchase of a much-needed round pen. If you missed this year's Haunted Barn, mark your 2012 calendar. Brenen's crew is already in planning mode to make it bigger and better. Haunted Barn 2012 will be held every Friday and Saturday in October.

GREEN, YELLOW, RED, & DIAMONDS

Diamonds in the Rough Training Manual is going to print! You're probably wondering when you missed that piece of information at the barn. Several months ago, our wonderful vet, Kathleen Lombardi, suggested that we classify rescues according to their ground manners. DITR took Dr. Lombardi's suggestion to heart. Each rescue will now be

classified as GREEN, YELLOW, or RED. One of DITR's goals is to encourage continual equine education among our volunteers as well as our community. The manual will help us launch our new program to train volunteers and become a more efficient and effective 501(c)(3) volunteer rescue operation. We desire to serve not only our

rescues well, but also build a strong community of volunteers. Please give the board your feedback on the new training program and manual. Plan to make the November 12th Volunteer meeting (10am-noon) to receive your manual and information on the new training.

- WHAT is DITR?**
 D- Diamonds
 I- In
 T- The
 R- Rough
- Special Interest Articles:*
- Haunted Barn Proves "Fang-tastic"
 - DITR Partners with Newsome-Bailey Academy
 - "Main Street Magic"

Mark Your Calendar

- 11/12- DITR Volunteer mtg. 10am - noon at Barn 2
- 12/3- DITR Volunteers and Newsome-Bailey Academy 10am - noon
- 12/10- Christmas Parade
- 1/7/- DITR Volunteers and Newsome-Bailey Academy 10am - non

Look for the next issue of "A Bit of News" January 2012

WHO'S WHO AT DITR?

With almost seventy DITR volunteers, (many are found daily at the barn anytime between 6:30am and 11:30pm), it is likely you may not know each other as well as you think! Can you guess this month's featured DITR volunteer? Be the first to correctly inform Jennifer Homan of our volunteer and win two free tickets for the "Name Breezie's Baby" drawing. (Unless she delivers before a winner is determined!)

Our featured volunteer is not only crazy about horses, but also loves canines and cats. He trained his lab to respond to hand signals and regularly plays "hide and seek" with his cat. He spent a couple years training walking horses in Tennessee. He loves eating beans and rice and watching his favorite movie, "Red October." He often

reminisces his chance meeting with G.E. Smith and his days competing in archery. You have likely met his lovely wife, but maybe not his son and two daughters. Have a clue who this decorated war veteran is? Be sure to be first to tell Jennifer Homan.



Casey



MEET DITR NEWCOMERS

Winter is just around the corner and DITR is gearing up for the expected increase in rescues. A word for our new volunteers: hibernation is not allowed with the onset of cold weather. Put on an extra layer or two of clothes and come on out to muck a stall or groom one of our rescues! (Anyone up for a winter fashion show featuring popular barn gear?)

In the past six weeks we welcomed ten new rescues. Jersey Girl, adopted by DITR volunteer Stephanie, moved a short walk down to Merry Oaks Stables Barn 1. How fun it will be for us to watch Jersey Girl's progress!

Many fell in love with Sundance soon after his arrival. So did his new owner, Cathy.

Unfortunately, Cathy will not be able to ride anytime soon. She broke her arm the day of Sundance's delivery. Wish you a speedy recovery, Cathy!

Deal and Scooby are great trail horses for any age. Be sure to tell your trail-riding friends about them.

Thanks, Bruce, for investing in Lincoln! Another adoption...maybe?

WELCOME

- Jersey Girl
- Old Man
- Lincoln
- Sundance
- Casey
- Scooby
- Deal
- Sailor
- Candy
- Little Bear

NEW WEBSITE

Diamonds in the Rough sends a HUGE thank you to Mr. Ringer and his company (Visit ringerrg.com) for designing our new website and Facebook page. We appreciate all the valuable time and

expertise you continue to donate to DITR. He is still adding new information to the website, so be sure to visit it often. Also, you can get the latest news on our Facebook

page...adoptions, cancellations, news of Breezie's status, etc. By the way, check out the new t-shirts and sweatshirts that you can order from at adoptditr.spreadshirt.com

EQUINE HILARITIES

HORSE NUTRITION

You know you're a horse person when:

- Your horse's mane is in better condition than your own hair!
- You refer to your car as "my portable tack room."
- Your house is a mess, but the barn is as neat as a pin!
- You cluck to your car when you go up a hill.

I went riding today.

Horseback?

Sure! It came back before I did.

What is "horse sense?" Stable thinking and the ability to say "nay."

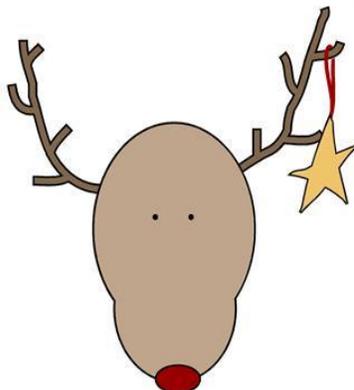
When does a horse talk?

Whinney wants to!

"MAIN STREET MAGIC"

2011 Smithfield Christmas Parade

The Smithfield Christmas Parade is just around the corner...December 10, in fact! Be sure to sign up if you want to ride your horse or walk a rescue in the parade. (We are putting together a performance!) We also need volunteers to help with the float! If you can "paint by number," then you will be a big help. Come to the volunteer meeting, November 12, to hear more about it, or contact Sonja Reuter, Brenen Head, or Cheryl Clapp to find out how you might be help!



"Horse by nature are grazers; they are designed to eat for about 18 hours a day. In the wild, horses grazed on whatever shrubs, grass and weeds were available as they moved with their herds. Because of domestication, horses have changed to only eating two times a day. Horses were not designed to fast. They fast only when they are sleeping; the rest of the time, they eat (or should be eating). When a horse's diet lacks enough long stem fiber (hay), the cecum is only partially filled. This causes a gap in the intestinal tract, which can result in ulceration or potentially even colic. To keep the intestinal tract full, a horse needs to be fed frequently.

The Anatomy of a Horse's Digestive System

Stomach: creates acid to break down protein.

Small Intestine: digests fat and carbohydrates.

Cecum: digests long stem fiber (hay) through fermentation.

Horses do not have a gall bladder so they cannot store digestive enzymes. They were not designed to eat sugars or carbohydrates. Horses had the opportunity to feed on complex carbohydrates once yearly in the spring when the grass would "head out" and seeds were formed. This was perfect timing because most years horses were lean from a hard winter. Today, not only are most feeds grown with chemicals, fertilizers and herbicides, but the commercialization of nutrition and the genetic modification of feed have resulted in a change in nutritional habits."

Article taken from www.depaoloequineconcepts.com.

DITR welcomes donations for hay or grain! Take a guess how much it costs to feed our rescues each month. (Answer found in this issue, buried in yellow.)

CONTACT DITR AT:

E-mail:

Jennifer.DITR@gmail.com
or Sonja.DITR@gmail.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/AdoptDITR

WEB: www.adoptditr.org

Phone: 757-642-8840
or 757-846-6076

*Rescue, Restore,
Retrain, Re-home!*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.adoptditr.org



DITR Partners With Newsome-Bailey Academy

Newsome-Bailey is a non-profit organization that provides NILD educational therapy for urban at-risk 2nd - 4th graders who are failing, but do not qualify for special education.

Virginia is now planning the number of jail cells based on the number of 3rd graders who cannot read at grade level.

Newsome-Bailey believes they can reduce this statistic by providing a

holistic program that embodies intellectual, emotional, moral, spiritual, social, and physical development.

DITR is privileged to partner with Newsome-Bailey and teach this year's class of 8 year olds about equine care the first Saturday of each month. More importantly, they will experience the therapy of caring for a wounded horse, earning

the rescue's trust, learning responsibility, etc.

Volunteers often express how they receive just as much therapy at DITR as the rescues.

We trust our partnership will afford these students the same healthy therapy!

Want to help? Immediate needs include donating boots for the children. See Cheryl Clapp for more details and other ways you can help!

BARN MOM and DADS NEEDED!

Are you in a situation where you would love to own a horse, but you just can't at this time? Consider becoming a

"Barn Mom or Dad." These special volunteers choose one rescue, help with the care prescribed by the vet, and spend

quality time with the rescue to earn trust and love on them. What a wonderful way to give to DITR! Thanks to all of our Barn Moms and Dads.

About Our Diamonds in the Rough...

Vision Statement:

Fostering nurturing relationships between abused, neglected, or surrendered horses and caring individuals.

Mission: Rescue, Restore, Retrain, Re-home!

Our Goals:

- Provide quality care & training for abused, neglected or surrendered horses
- Identify life-long, healthy homes for rescued horses that have been restored to health and retrained.
- Educate and foster cooperation with the community and local officials.
- Provide a nurturing family-friendly environment that encourages continual equine education and builds moral character.
- Provide a positive environment for urban children to learn patience, kindness, trust, forgiveness, and responsibility as they work with DITR rescues.