



## Horses at Mill Creek Farm

Retirement Home for Horses, Inc. PO Box 2100, Alachua FL 32616

Established 1984

**A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing lifetime care for old, abused and abandoned horses.**

### BENEFIT FOR OUR HORSES DECEMBER 2, 2007

A Holiday Tea, Tag and Silent Auction will be held at the home of Bob and Ursula Watson, 5412 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville on Sunday December 2, 2007 from noon to 3 pm. Follow signs at Newberry Rd and NW 55<sup>th</sup> St.

Items available will be collectables such as Waterford crystal, Hummel plates, Steiff, Limoge, tapestries, paintings and more. WCJB Channel 20 anchor **Paige Beck** will be there to auction one of her famous cakes.

All proceeds are tax deductible and go to help our horses.

The Watsons' home is located in the Suburban Heights neighborhood in Gainesville. For more information, call Ursula Watson at 352-371-8365 or Vija Purs at 352-378-5432. A great way to kick-off your holiday shopping!

### TOO MANY HORSES?

According to the United Nations, there are approximately 58,372,000 horses in the world. Of these, 9,500,000 are in the United States, 7,402,000 are in China, 6,260,000 are in Mexico and 3,655,000 are in Argentina. Guam (20) and Grenada (30) had the least number of horses. Two countries, Rwanda and Saint Helena, reported a zero horse population.

In the U.S., the American Horse Council estimates that Texas has the largest number of horses with 978,800 followed by California (698,300), Florida (500,100), Oklahoma (326,100), Kentucky (320,200) and Ohio (306,900). The state with the fewest number is Rhode Island with 3,500.

### CHEW ON THIS

Horses chew about 60,000 bites per day. This enables their feed to be broken down into smaller particles so it can be swallowed. It also makes it easier for digestive enzymes to break down the food as it passes through the digestive tract.

### WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

We don't have an office in Washington D.C. or anywhere else. We work out of an office in our barn. We don't have a full-time secretary or bookkeeper. Our office work - typing letters and paying bills - is usually done after midnight.

We don't mail free address labels, greeting cards or coffee mugs to our supporters. We prefer to spend our money on our horses.

We don't send out mass mailings from lists purchased from others and we pledge to our supporters that their names will never be sold to any other organization.

**THE SLAUGHTER CONTINUES** According to the American Horse Council, 444,829 horses were slaughtered or sent to Canada for slaughter in 1990. The annual number diminished over the years, until in 2006 a total of 105,000 horses finished up in one of the three foreign owned slaughter houses in the U.S.

Slaughter at these plants was not quick and painless nor was it humane. The captive bolt gun, the same as is used in killing cattle, shoots a metal rod into the horse's brain, which is supposed to render the animal unconscious. Many times though, the bolt misses its mark leaving the horse conscious as his hind leg is chained so he can be hoisted up for his throat to be slashed.

The three foreign owned equine slaughterhouses - two in Texas and one in Illinois - are now closed due to state laws. But the slaughter continues. Horses are now being shipped to Mexico and Canada to be butchered. In Mexico, a knife is repeatedly plunged into the horse's withers in an attempt to sever the spinal cord so the horse is paralyzed and then hung, drawn and quartered.

### GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE.....

Prince, a 20-year-old Belgian was retired with us after performing for years at the Arabian Nights in Orlando. One of his nightly feats was to jump through a flaming hoop. Not surprisingly, this activity put a lot of stress on his front legs. After all, he weighed close to 2,000 pounds. This handsome horse was beloved by all those who came in contact with him. He enjoyed almost five years of retirement, but on the morning of October 11, 2007, we found him dead in his pasture. He had apparently died during the night of a massive heart attack.

.....AND FLIGHTS OF ANGELS SING THEE TO THY REST.

