



Welcome to the March 2010 issue of the [Horsefeathers Therapeutic Riding Center, NFP](#) newsletter! Our hope is to pass on vital information about our program and have a little fun. We promise to put the important stuff at the top and end with some fun.

We are a 501 (c) 3 charity, which means that 50% of our operating budget must come from donations. With that in mind we are holding a [raffle](#) for a 52 inch LCD television. We would greatly appreciate your support and encouragement in our fundraising endeavor. With any luck we will raise enough money for this to be our only major fundraiser of the year. Please see our website for more information.

Cheering, clapping and treats needed...

Our first horse show of the season is this Friday, March 26th starting at 6:00 pm. Please drop by and cheer on our riders, grab or bring a snack and have some fun. No charge, unless you count carrots (see Calvin)

We would like to share our mutual journey, so drop us an e-mail if you have [something to share](#). For example there is an exhibit in New York City with an online component called [A Song for the Horse Nation](#). It is about horses in the Native American cultures. Check it out.

Important dates to remember...

- One Dime at a Time at [Whole Foods Market Deerfield](#), January, 2010 thru March, 2010
- [Boy Scout Crew & Troop 333](#), 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
- Raffle Drawing, April 17th, 2010
- [Horse Show](#) Schedule:
 - Friday, March 26th, 2010
 - Friday, May 28th, 2010
 - Friday, June 11th, 2010
 - Friday, July 9th, 2010
- [Special Olympics](#), September 11th - September 12th, 2010



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- CEL (Center for Enriched Living)
 - Fridays, April 9th, 2010 thru May 21st, 2010, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. We expect 6-10 riders, so we will need 15-20 volunteers)
 - Sundays, April 11th, 2010 thru May 16th, 2010 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. We expect 15 riders, so we will need 15-20 volunteers)
- Summer Camps, sponsored by other organizations, weekday mornings and afternoons
 - CEL Adventure Camp (10 riders) Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm from June 15th, 2010 to July 29th, 2010.
 - YMCA Camp (10 riders) Thursdays, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm from June 17th, 2010 to August 12th, 2010.
 - Keshet Camp (15 riders) Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm from June 22nd, 2010 to August 3rd, 2010.
 - Keshet (25 riders)
 - Friday, July 16th, 2010, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 - Wednesday, August 11th, 2020, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

If you would like to more information about any of these events, drop us an e-mail to info@horsefeatherscenter.org or call us at 847-234-2411.

That sharing feeling...

We are a 501 (c) 3 charity. If you would like to make a donation, send a check to

[Horsefeathers Therapeutic Riding Center, NFP](#)
1181 Riverwoods Rd

Boy Scout Crew & Troop 333

In 2009, Horsefeathers formed [Boy Scout Troop 333](#). Boy Scout Crew 333 is a registered Search and Rescue unit and has been serving in the Lake Forest community since 2001. Horsefeathers is proud to sponsor both. Meetings are held on the first and third Sundays of each month from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Scouting enables boys from 11 to 17 years of age to work towards the highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. Many fine men went to college due to scholarships available to Eagle Scouts. For more information, see Nick Coyne.

One Dime at a Time Whole Foods Market Deerfield

Horsefeathers will be a recipient of [Whole Foods Market](#) in Deerfield's One Dime at a Time program. They offer all customers 10 cents for every bag they reuse. You can choose to donate your bag refund to Horsefeathers from January 2010 thru March 2010.

A BIG THANKS!!! to Whole Foods, Deerfield for donating the beverages for our Barn Dance!!!

Join our newsletter

Typing e-mails does not seem to be our strongest asset. If you did not receive this e-mail directly, please pardon the omission as it was definitely not on purpose. The rumors that Calvin ate them are just not true. To join click [here](#).

And now installment 5 of our inside look at our horses (and ponies)...

As the Barn Turns... a continuing equine serial by Lynda Vital & friends

Well, you'll be happy to know that the horses DID get more sugar-cubes, quite a few more, in fact. A fine fellow from California, who had visited them for the winter holidays, sent them a whole box!

"We sure were lucky to get all those treats from our friend, Alex," said Poco to Rover.

Rover agreed wholeheartedly, but he had his mind on something else.

"Speaking of luck," he said, "I hear the barn is having a big raffle to raise money. The prize is a great big TV set. I wonder who the lucky one will be that wins that!"

Scatman said, "I'd like to win that TV, and I could watch all my favorite old shows again. I used to watch Mr. Ed every Friday night when it was on."

All the horses agreed, and they all started naming their favorite shows....

"The Lone Ranger," "Hopalong Cassidy," "Roy Rogers & Trigger," and of course all the old westerns that were just filled with wonderful horses.

That night, Red Rover was so excited about the TV, it was hard to get to sleep, but when he finally did, he dreamed about Gumby & Pokey. Pokey was much admired by all horses, as he was orange and got to change shapes.

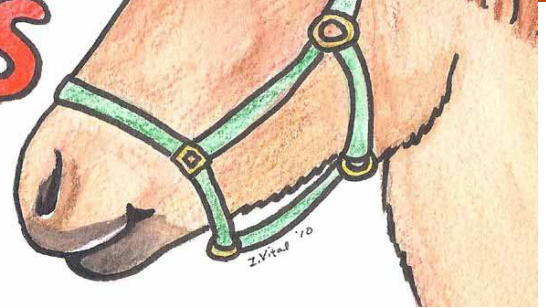
Rover had another dream, too - he dreamed that he was watching the Kentucky Derby on the big TV. He saw all the people cheering, all the ladies in their big, fancy hats, and they were cheering for him! He was leading the derby...the first pony in history to enter. Just as the race was about to end, one of the roosters from the other end of the barn decided to start crowing, and he woke up abruptly.

"Oh, no," he exclaimed. "Now I'll never know if I won or not!"



All day he thought about the dream, and suddenly an idea came into his little pony brain. He decided there was no good reason why he couldn't make his dream come true. He decided he WOULD become the first pony not only to enter, but to WIN the Kentucky Derby. And he knew just the horse that could help him - Elsie, the mare, a former race-horse herself, and a descendant of the famous Man O' War, the #1 racehorse of all time!

ROVER'S DREAM



He went to Elsie that very day, and asked her if she would help him train.

Although she was appalled at the very idea of a small, fuzzy, round, pony even thinking he could be a race-horse, her heart went out to him and she agreed to be his coach.

“You might have to trim down a bit, Rover. Race-horses are sleek animals, as you can see looking at me. You might have to cut down on those sugar-cubes you like so much.”

While he wasn't crazy about that idea, Rover agreed that he would start watching his calories. He said he would stick to carrots and apples.

Elsie also had Ice spell out the plan to Kristi with the alphabet cards. They would need the humans' help if this scheme was to be successful. It took Ice quite a long time to explain the situation, pulling down all those cards and laying them out on the arena floor to do it, but Kristi got it and Nick agreed that a Kentucky Derby winner would be good publicity for the program.

So every day, Elsie and Rover spent time on the training program - doing exercises, running sprints, jumping and trotting and all kinds of things. Tia thought her best friend was very nice to spend so much time with a little pony with a big dream. Poco, whose stall was next to Rover's, talked to him every night at bed-time and told him what a good job he was doing. Calvin was inspired by Rover's improvement, and he told himself that he would work harder in his own training sessions. Big Red was amused at the whole thing, hoping his tiny look-alike might fulfill his dream.

Tigger sat on his perch in the bleachers and wondered why a pony would be so silly as to even think that anyone would allow him to enter the Kentucky Derby, much less beat the fastest race-horses in the country. But then he remembered the horse party and the Conga Line, and he realized that anything is possible in the mind of a determined dreamer.

Stay tuned for next month's installment. We will update you Rover's progress and also let you know the lucky winner of the TV. It's not too late to buy raffle tickets! Gumby & Pokey would look pretty good on that big screen!

As always, thanks so much for your support!

Nick & Kristi

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