



HORSE WARRIORS™

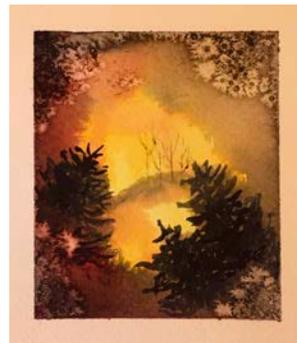
GOING WITH THE FLOW



Judy Gonet-Jones



Thanks to a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council we were able to host an **inspirational watercolor workshop** in October with master watercolorist, **Judy Gonet-Jones**. It was more fun than words can say - just look at the explosions of color and creativity!! Our students were thrilled!



Check us out on Instagram! Meet our horses and see daily program updates!

Women & Horses

We had **3 fun-filled days** of horse hugging, confidence building, camaraderie, adventure, art and delicious food at our September W&H clinic! Riders of all levels of experience came from Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona to share lots of new ideas, weather changes (!!!), friendship and awareness. It was a great gathering and we are looking forward to more time together. Fall trail riding is the **BEST!**



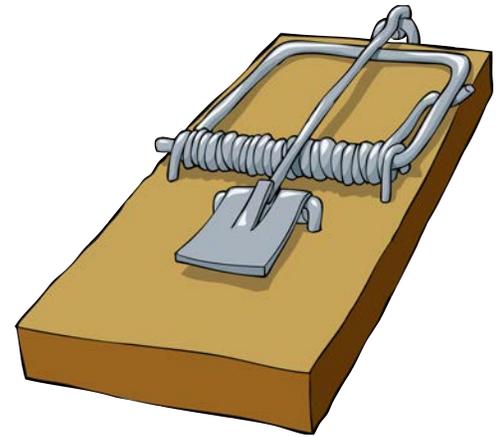
- Starting Bareback in the Arena
- Swapping Horses to see the Difference
- Herd Walks and Free-Grooming
- Playing Games to Develop Confidence
- Riding Independently on the Trail
- Liberty Connections in the Round Pen
- Flexing With the Weather!!



FIX IT! - Don't Fight It!

It's an Ongoing Problem... MICE!!!!

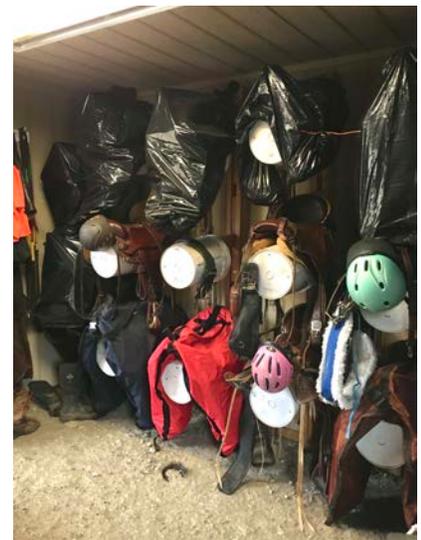
For years we have been at **Barnyard War** with the mice in our barn and tack room. The problem is that they are **very destructive**. They chew the leather on the saddles, and in some cases eat off the strings that tie the saddlebags on for our all-day rides. They chew up and make nests in our good winter horse blankets. They pee and poop all over everything. They make nests out of the wool saddle pads. They chew holes in the grain bags. They dig tunnels in the stalls. The Pack Rat is the worst because he steals items from the tack room counter and takes them up to the loft. His biggest prize (we cannot imagine where he found this): A child's sandal!!



Over **100** mice have transitioned here...and still there are still so many more!!!



Winter turnout blankets all have to be bagged and hung from the rafters. (No, they are not Alien Pods)



These are **NOT** pictures of **GARBAGE!!** These are our saddles, bagged up for the winter to keep the mice from eating them. This is kind of a **lousy solution** because they are so slippery in the bags that they fall off of the saddle racks - ugh. **We really need a lot more of the zippered saddle covers** like the red and navy ones on the bottom row of saddles in the right hand photo. Those are much better at protecting the saddles and keeping them on the racks.

WE NEED HELP!!!

RODENT PATROL to the RESCUE!

(We thought of calling this **"The Arrival of the Assassins,"** but maybe that's a little harsh...)



Meet **MOUSIE** and **RICKY**, a fine pair of hunter/gatherers who came from Lucky's Place after being fostered by Kyra Waldron, one of our students. They were beautifully socialized and not afraid of dogs. They actually do an excellent job of bossing the dogs around, to the utter shock (read: **Horror**) of Wrigley and Tailor. Although they eat in the barn and patrol during the day, they have quickly figured out the dog doors and have claimed the house as theirs during their "off hours" (which are 22-23/day).



How They Spend Their Spare Time



Ricky is trying out for Search and Rescue

Mousie is taking Driver's Ed with Priscilla so he can help drag the sand in the arena (Giant Cat Box); favorite pastime: napping with Tailor

And, of course, they are learning to RIDE!



And HUNT...

ANGELS, a.k.a. VOLUNTEERS

Horse Care is a huge part of Horse Warriors™ and it is daunting for just one person. Out of our **herd of 23**, there are **14** who are in the category of **"Special Needs."**

It's not just merely throwing hay out a couple of times a day. Instead it's a Sorting Game each morning: The **"Fat Ponies"** are put in the main corral and fed a meager hay ration for breakfast. The **"Skinnies"** (horses who are **all 28 and older**) go in the back pen by the stream. They get senior feed, weight gain supplements and vitamins, beet pulp and oodles of hay. The **"Normal"** horses get fed in the middle pasture, and their morning hay is usually about 1.5 flakes/horse of rich grass/alfalfa.

Around noon, the **"Fat Ponies"** and the **"Normals"** have their gates opened and they mingle and vacuum up any green stains of alfalfa left on the ground. At about 3:00, the **"Skinnies"** have gotten tired of chewing, so they come out with the rest of the herd.

Some of the **"Fatties"** and the **"Normals"** also get daily herbs for being prone to Laminitis (Freya, Nubbin, Topaz, Spirit). Leia gets Meloxicam to help prevent the spread of her melanomas. Buzz and Grainne get daily doses of Pergolide to manage their Cushing's. Marley gets a Previcox pill, and anyone on other meds gets those administered. Throw in the occasional conjunctivitis (UGH) and having to put eye medicine in each day till it's gone, and you have a long day of care until evening. At night, fortunately, they all eat hay together out in the big front pasture!



VOLUNTEERS help make this go **MUCH** faster! We love the care and kindness they bring to the herd. Every one of them is a valued member of the HW family! Thank you, **ANGELS!!**



FALL RIDING

WHILE THE WEATHER HOLDS

Fall is one of the nicest times to ride here in Wyoming. Our teens ride in the afternoons on their art retreat days, and volunteers and staff take the horses out on the trail as many times as possible when weather is good, as a way to help them relax from all the summer work.

It's not easy being a therapy horse. Having many different riders, different energy fields, different issues people bring to their sessions, produces stress in the horses just like it does with people who have to make adjustment after adjustment. By the end of the summer the horses are ready for good riders and some quiet time in the mountains.

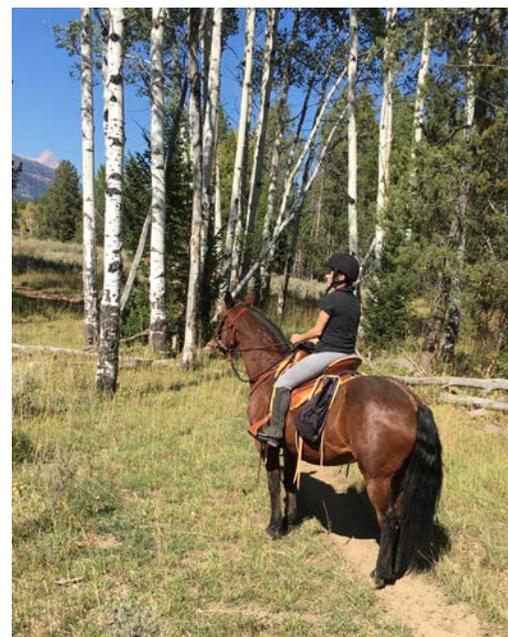
We had some lovely rides at Willow Creek, Lost Creek, and up in the Park this past month, and the upper level riders practiced "Being the Calm" with their horses in the arena. **This is the time when the pressure is off, when the heart connections are more important than performance**, and everyone can share a good, long exhale before winter.



ABOVE: Looking back at the Tetons from Annie's Ridge at Willow Creek - touching the clouds, literally!

*RIGHT: Yes, we saw **3 bears** on this Poker Flats ride, a bugling elk and his harem, and the horses were **VERY** brave!*

BELOW: In safety Hunter Orange we rode up the Lost Creek Trail - lots of deer hunters out now!



[CLICK TO PLAY VIDEO](#)

FAREWELLS

**SAYING GOODBYE IS WAY, WAY TOO HARD**

We bid a very sad farewell to **Elly Kowalczyk** at the end of her internship in September. Elly was our third summer intern from SUNY Cobleskill, a great place for the study of Therapeutic Horsemanship. They've all been super!

Elly was loved by everyone, especially **Biscuit!** She had a powerful and positive impact on the program this year, especially having to fill in so much when Priscilla had all those broken ribs.

We know she will succeed in everything as she moves forward. She became a great teacher here, while she deepened her horsemanship skills and became a fine ambassador for Horse Warriors™. We loved her cheerful attitude, great sense of humor, cat wrangling capabilities and enthusiasm for whatever came her way. She's back in NY now and we hope she gets sick of it really fast and decides to come back to Wyoming!

We wish you all the best, Elly!!

ON A SADDER NOTE...Farewell to DAISY

Our beloved Greeter, little Princess Daisy, crossed the Rainbow Bridge in September. **She was 14** and had a wonderful life here at Horse Warriors™. In her younger years she was a regular on trail rides, keeping up with the horses even on her short, Corgi legs, and as a senior she enjoyed porch time with all the students. She's romping with Ebbet now on the other side, and she has a grave out by the tipi with the other Fur Spirits. **We miss you and love you, Daisy!**



IMMENSE THANKS!!!

OLD BILL'S FUN FUN 2021 - What a wonderful Year!! - 70% MATCH!!

Huge, heartfelt thanks to **ALL** of our **GENEROUS** donors this year! Your support means **everything** to our riders, staff and the horses (who really do the bulk of the teaching). You are all gifts to us and we are **forever grateful!**



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