



"Beans"

Nackson
©2013

More Beans Please

Find out on the back how you can have your very own Beans sketch like this one.

Summer 2014

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Dr. Paula's Message

Hello Pony Friends,

Welcome to our summer 2014 issue of Pony Tales. I am so proud of all that the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation has become. We are the little rescue that could! On site we care for between 8 and 12 ponies at any given time with a steady and dedicated team of volunteers. We have established ourselves in our local community as a positive place where good things happen.

Our volunteers develop new friendships as they work with the ponies to earn their trust and respect, and to learn basic handling skills. We help high school students complete required community service hours. On a provincial level, we have become known by other organizations simply as "Wind Dancer". It feels good to be so easily recognized when we attend events sponsored by the Ontario Equestrian Federation and other, larger long-established organizations. Dancer's pink and blue dots and our cheerful volunteers in their pink and blue T-shirts bring instant smiles of recognition to the faces of all in the equestrian community. This is the face of Wind Dancer: people helping ponies every day—and it's such a good thing.

Events are a Wind Dancer specialty—we love them. They help raise funds and awareness, and allow us to be an active partner in our communities, locally and in the wider world. Since our last newsletter we have had a record attendance at the third annual Easter Egg Hunt, recognized our volunteers in a fun family night out at Pony Palooza, worked our pony charm on visitors at Toronto Horse Day, and marched in the Lynden Canada Day parade. Our events committee is strong and I thank each one of them, as well as all of the volunteers who have made each of these happenings a great success. Look inside for the dates of our upcoming events which offer our supporters more fun ways to help the ponies; such as, Isabel's Ride and Peller for Ponies.

Behind this cheery disposition, we continue to work through the many challenges that face a charitable organization, particularly a young one like ours. We have a vision: "To be the global resource for pony welfare and education". As we work towards this we continue to develop a fund-raising and communications strategy. In this, we have been assisted by public relations students at Mohawk College's McKeil School of Business. See more about their work inside.

Included in our planning is a new website that we hope to have up and running this fall, and we are grateful for the expertise donated by Direct Access Digital. Meanwhile, our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/winddancerponies) has been very active, not only to keep you up with our day-to-day challenges, but as a way to raise funds for special projects, like a fly sheet for Ruben or medical tests for Bomber. We are so thankful to our followers for your quick responses to our appeals. We have begun posting videos as well—some as education and some as pure entertainment. They can be found on our facebook page, or on YouTube (enter "**wind dancer ponies**" at YouTube.com).

Of course, by definition, a charity's survival depends on donations. And growing our donor base to a level that will allow us care for our ponies and to work towards our vision is proving the greatest challenge of all. Our recently-approved budget for year 2014-2015 calls for an increase in donations from \$16,400 received in the previous



Photo courtesy of Flamborough Review

year to \$20,500. Through our events, social media and this newsletter we must keep the Wind Dancer name first and foremost in the minds of our supporters and we ask all of you to please help us spread the word!

In this issue a board member and pony volunteer, Andrea Malick, has put together an informative article on laminitis. This is a poorly understood and crippling condition that more than half of the Wind Dancer ponies have suffered from at some point in their lives. In the past year, we have euthanized two ponies—most recently our dear and aged Twinkle—due to our inability to reverse the painful course of the disease. As an equine veterinarian I find it very frustrating that I cannot do more to help these ponies.

Laminitis is a slippery slope – a cascade of events both genetic and environmental that lead to irreversible pain and suffering. Because the pathophysiology, or science, of this disease has not been fully elucidated, it follows that we are neither able to completely prevent it or to successfully treat it. Once a pony has laminitis, the most we can do is manage the condition, and sometimes even this isn't successful. As part of our vision to be a resource in pony education, we are working to spread the word on this devastating condition. Andrea's article is a good start.

One of the nicest things that I have seen at Wind Dancer this spring is Moms and Dads hanging out in the parking lot by the woods, reading, resting and enjoying the peaceful surroundings of our rescue. One day I came across a Mom sitting by the water trough on a day that her family was not scheduled. Her children were with another family member that day and she had come to Wind Dancer, simply for some peace of mind.

Our volunteers escape busy lives here, and it is in this gentle and quiet surrounding that positive relationships develop for both ponies and people. For the teens and young adults it is place to be free of academic and performance pressures, bullying and all of the other challenges this world throws at them. A nervous pony like Babe will allow volunteers to approach, hold, and brush her only when they have found that peaceful state of mind. Wind Dancer Pony Rescue is truly a very special place and I know that my gratitude speaks for all of us involved with this organization, especially the ponies!

You can now come and visit the ponies at one of our monthly Open Houses. On the first Saturday morning of each month, our ponies and volunteers welcome visitors to the rescue.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of *Pony Tales*, and that I can count on your ongoing support as we continue to help the ponies and to keep Wind Dancer Pony Rescue alive.

Enjoy this lovely summer,

Paula

Here Twinkle has her front feet wrapped in thick cotton wadding held in place with duct tape while she awaits a pair of specially-ordered boots to make her more comfortable.



VIP's on the Move

Wind Dancer's VIPs (Very Important Ponies) are always on the move. Since our last issue of Pony Tales, Wind Dancer has been charmed by a magical little Elf and our dynamo Beans has been recruited to the Wild West.

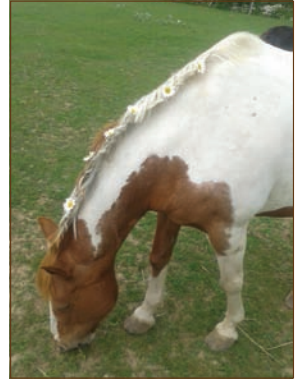
Elf Takes Wind Dancer in Stride

13 year old Mare - Paint

One look at this sweet little pony as she half-jogs half-limps to keep up with her herd, and you understand why we brought her home from the Ontario Livestock Exchange, where she was about to be sold for slaughter. "A sore knee is no reason not to live," says Dr. Paula Dupuy. "Look at how bright her eyes are, how much heart is there."

Already a favourite among the volunteers, Elf is fine when she's walking. It's when she tries to jog that you see the pain from an arthritic knee, perhaps from an old injury. But that doesn't stop her from trying.

She's had her check-ups and vaccinations, and— although she can no longer work — will make a charming companion for a very lucky foster family.



Bomber – A Strong Silent Type

22 year old Light Bay Gelding

Bomber was one of the first ponies to arrive at Wind Dancer, having spent several years in a riding school. Quiet and inclined to explore the far corners of the paddock on his own, he's content with a little hay and a little company as he follows the volunteers about their errands.

Steady in nature and sturdy in health, Bomber is a perfect to bring home to your family. Since ponies often live into their 30's, Bomber has many more years of love to give.

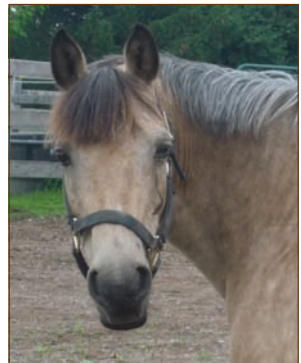
*Toronto Horse Day- Bomber with
Jade Silveira, Clarissa Chaisson and Iris Giffen*

Fairree – A Natural Performer

25 year old Buckskin Mare

One of the early 'graduates' of the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue, Fairree was special companion to a young rider in a foster family for two years before coming back to the rescue. Wind Dancer always welcomes back their graduates – sometimes the foster family has to move or circumstances change.

Fairree is feisty, pretty and fun, and knows her way around the pony club games and show ring. At the peak of health, she's ready to be a blue ribbon addition to
4 your family.



Cheroot – Just a Big Romantic

17 year old Appaloosa Gelding

Cheroot is a big sweetheart—easy-going, affectionate and intelligent. He forms a little crush on every new pony to arrive in his paddock. This guy is actually a small horse, standing at just a bit above the maximum pony height of 14.2 hands. Despite being almost completely blind (from uveitis) and recurring sore feet from chronic laminitis, Cheroot can always mosey in a direct line to volunteers for a hello and hug.

His new family will need to give attention to his eye condition, provide a diet without sugars (that means no grass), and make sure he has regular farrier care.



Cheroot & Meredith Mand



Beans Finds His Groove In a Western Arena

9 year old Grey Shetland Gelding

Mr. Personality himself, having dragged many volunteers around the paddocks and practice courses at Wind Dancer for two years, Beans is now putting his energy to good use as a lead line barrel pony with his new foster family in Burford. In lead line events, the pony and little rider are led by an adult through a course of barrels.

Beans transitioned well into his new home and is now friends with the family's pot-bellied pig.

A “terror” when he first arrived at Wind Dancer, with a lot of patience and love, Beans became a popular ambassador for the Rescue at public events with his impossibly cute face and star quality. The Wind Dancer caregivers and volunteers always knew there was a champion in the little dude, but we miss him, too.

Cassie – Miss Congeniality

8 year old Liver Chestnut Mare

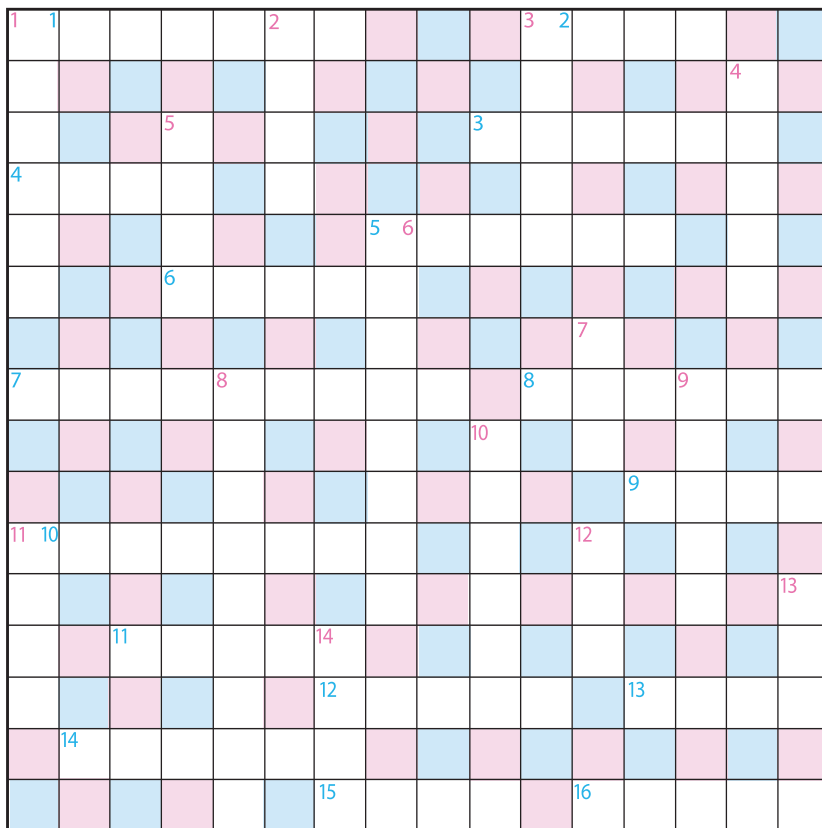
Cassie came to Wind Dancer in September 2013 with another rescue pony, Ginger, who has since been fostered (see story in this issue). Usually one of the eager faces waiting right at the gate for the volunteers, Cassie likes to be at the centre of the action. Bright, confident and healthy, she just needs her new foster family to watch for any tendency to laminitis and give her a break from grazing on grass until the condition passes.

Self-assured and sociable, she will find her place quickly in a new family.



Cassie waiting for her family

How's Your Pony Knowledge? Answers on page 11



Across (blue numbers)

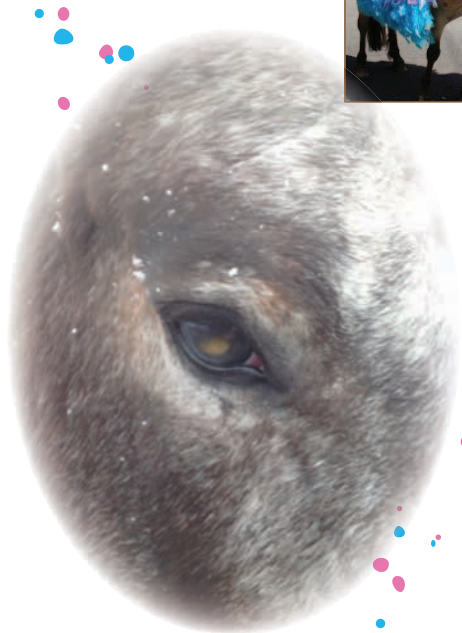
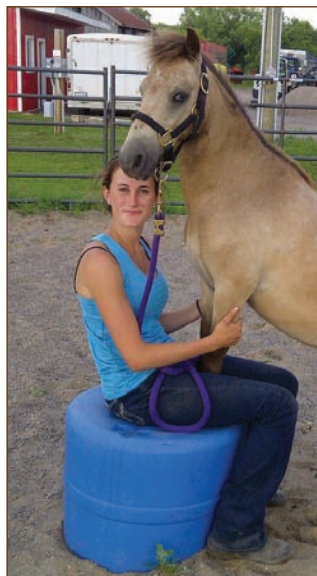
1. He is almost blind but has lots to give
2. Wind Dancer _____ Rescue Foundation
3. Food or Pony, has some zing and goes with Honey
4. It can be a critter with four legs, or a sensitive part of the hoof, rhymes with dog
5. With a child or a pony, it means "care for fondly"
6. Place for your pony in the barn
7. Cheroot is a 17 year old _____
8. Might be a war plane, or just a Pony looking for a home
9. Change 1 letter in "warn" and you'll consider laminitis when you feel it in a hoof
10. Cinderella had one, and a Pony could pull it
11. Walk, trot, canter: Ponies can do any of these _____ when passing through open gates
12. Can sweeten your toast or carry a child
13. No _____, no Pony!
14. Ponies and Horses are of this species
15. After lots of visitors on Saturday, Ponies,

might be in a _____

16. A special meal or special comb for a pony

Down (pink numbers)

1. Health of this hoof bone is of "grave" importance
2. Ponies don't usually need to eat these
3. What colour type is Elf, the Pony?
4. A Pony's not a car, but you can _____ one as well as ride one
5. Ponies don't eat 'em or lay 'em, but a hunt for 'em still helps!
6. Keeps the bugs off Ruben (2 words)
7. Which Pony had wings in Lynden?
8. It hurts a LOT but can be prevented
9. First WD Pony to "stand" for a portrait
10. Everyone loves a _____ —especially on Canada Day
11. Makes a harvest; makes a pony go
12. Bomber's colour is _____
13. Small person brings luck; Small equine brings love
14. A Pony verb in spring (hair);
A Pony noun in winter (shelter)



How Would You Like Your *Pony Tales*?

We love bringing you *Pony Tales*! Even 16 pages doesn't seem enough for all our news. However, with increasing postal rates, printing and mailing it is becoming more expensive. So, we'd like to try a couple of things: 1. Making *Pony Tales* available on our new website when it comes on-line in the fall; and, 2. Offering email or hard copy subscriptions. We haven't worked out all the details yet, but we'd like you to start thinking about how you want to receive *Pony Tales* in the future. Watch for more about this in the next issue.

There Are No Wheelchairs For Ponies

Preventing and Curing the Pain of Laminitis

By Andrea Malick

No doubt you've heard the expression, "No hoof, no horse." Well, the same goes for ponies.

As prey creatures always ready to run from predators, and as constant grazers, ponies need strong feet to survive. Even in the barnyard, laminitis—the painful, often crippling and sometimes fatal hoof disease—is one of the most serious threats to domestic ponies.

The caregivers at the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation know this from sad experience. Last year two very dear residents, Two-Bit and Twinkle, were euthanized because their laminitis was irreversible and far too painful.

As Wind Dancer's founder, Dr. Paula Dupuy points out, "Unfortunately, there are no wheelchairs for ponies."

In honour of Twinkle and Two-Bit (and of the more than 2,000 Ontario horses and ponies suffering right now from laminitis) we want to explain this disease, its warning signs and treatments. Perhaps this can help other ponies—even yours—lead longer, happier lives.

You are what you eat (and so are your hooves)

Any horse, pony or donkey can develop laminitis (also called founder). In most cases, it is linked to eating too much of the sugar contained in lush grass or starchy grains. (Starch is a complex sugar and is broken down to sugar in the intestinal tract.)

While the mechanisms are still not fully understood, scientists believe the overload of sugars in the digestive tract triggers metabolic changes that alter the blood flow to the laminae of the foot. Laminae are the tissues that keep the hoof in its proper position and allow the hoof to support the body.

"Ponies are especially vulnerable to laminitis, because their systems have developed over time to work best in less grassy environments," says Dr. Paula, an equine and companion animal veterinarian.

"Like walking on a torn fingernail"

The signs of laminitis range from mild to severe. Seeing these signs early and acting quickly will help prevent further damage and suffering.

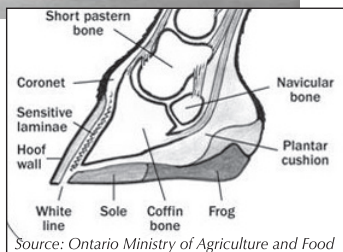
Signs of early, or acute, laminitis may include feet that feel hot to the touch, a change in gait, or the classic "sawhorse" stance, where the pony rocks the weight off its sore feet.

In advanced, or chronic, laminitis, you might see growth rings on the surface of the hoof caused by earlier episodes. The hoof may take the shape of a dish or 'Aladdin's slipper'. The pony may be in so much pain he or she spends most of the time lying down.

In the most severe cases, the laminae tissues detach, and the coffin bone (the bottom-most bone of the leg which sits inside the hoof and provides stability) comes



A radiograph of Two-Bit's hoof shows how the coffin bone separated from the hoof wall. Compare this with the diagram of a healthy hoof (right).



Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

A diagram of a healthy hoof illustrates the way in which the coffin bone should be positioned.



White groove near the tip of Lucy's hoof is evidence of her brush with laminitis.



The condition of Two-Bit's hooves when she arrived at Wind Dancer.

loose from its natural position. Two-Bit's coffin bones had rotated away from the hoof walls and moved downward. Despite her care givers' best efforts, there was no way to restore her quality of life.

"This condition is excruciatingly painful," says Dr. Paula. "Imagine if you had to support all of your weight on the tips of your fingers (the coffin bones), while your nails (the hoof walls) were being torn away from your fingers."

"Most ponies can recover from laminitis – if treated in time"

Once laminitis has started, it should be treated as an emergency, says Dr. Paula. This is the best way to prevent the cascade of events that can lead to permanent and severe damage.

As soon as she saw Rescue pony Cassie starting to walk on her heels (a sign that she was trying to shift her weight to avoid pain) Dr. Paula took her off the grass paddock, placed her inside one with bare ground and checked her for other contributing factors. Since there is nothing else that might predispose Cassie to laminitis, she should recover fully, although her new foster family will need to be vigilant to ensure her symptoms do not return.

Lucy's brush with Potomac Horse Fever required more aggressive action to keep her laminitic feet from deteriorating further. This included wrapping her inflamed hooves in ice packs. She made a full recovery, but there is a white ring on each of her hooves to show where laminitis made its dangerous call.

Most ponies can recover from laminitis depending on how far it has progressed and

how quickly treatment starts. Severe cases of laminitis require a lot of time, energy and money. Twinkle's diagnosis, treatment and ongoing monitoring added up to almost \$2,000.

"Acting quickly and practicing good veterinary, farrier and nutritional care are the best ways to manage ponies at risk and to ensure safe recovery," says Dr. Paula.

Sources: Dr. Paula Dupuy; *Adams' Lameness in Horses, Fifth Edition*, (2002) Ted S. Stashak, ed.; Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; The Laminitis Trust; U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information; Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph.


Other Factors Predispose Ponies to Laminitis

Often more than one thing triggers the onset of laminitis. These can include:

- Obesity and over-eating, especially sugary grasses:
This is the number one cause of laminitis.
- Concussion or stress:
This is also called "road founder" and can be caused by over-working on hard surfaces.
- High insulin levels:
Wind Dancer rescue pony Twinkle had Equine Metabolic Syndrome, an endocrine disease which develops over years of consuming too much starch and sugars and predisposed her to high insulin levels. This made her more prone to the increasingly painful laminitis that eventually led to a decision to euthanize her.
- Gastrointestinal diseases:
Lucy, who had a close call last summer with Potomac Horse Fever (PHF), was at high risk of developing laminitis following the disruption in her intestine that comes with PHF. (One-quarter to one-half of all ponies and horses with PHF develop laminitis.)

Help Your Pony and Ours Too!

HELP MORE HORSES!



40% of every subscription purchased will be donated to our cause!

EquineWellnessMagazine.com/subscribe
Don't forget to use our promo code **EWA070**

Six times a year, *Equine Wellness Magazine* is 64 pages packed with information you can use to make your horse or pony's life safer, healthier and happier. The July, 2014, issue (Volume 9, Issue 3) has a feature on the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue on page 54. You can sign up for a \$12 digital subscription at **www.equinewellnessmagazine.com**

When you do, 40% of your payment (\$4.80) will be sent to the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation. Just quote this code when you enter your subscription details: **EWA070**.

Pony Love



What if every pony could have a relationship like this?

Ponies, like children, thrive in a loving environment where they know they are valued for who they are.

But, sometimes, ponies are misunderstood; or, they are forgotten when children outgrow them. Sometimes they are mistreated out of ignorance; and, sometimes their owners know they are being unkind but they do it anyway.

At Wind Dancer, we make a promise to every one of our ponies: That they will never be without a good and loving home. We need your help to make this promise work. Every time one of our ponies goes to a foster home, a space opens up in our paddocks for another pony in need.

If you have the facilities and the know-how to take in a Wind Dancer pony and give it the kind of love and care these two are sharing, please contact winddancerfostering@gmail.com

See more about Wind Dancer ponies Honey and Ginger (pictured) and their foster family in this issue.

**Wind Dancer
Pony Rescue
Open House
Today
9am - 1pm**



Come Out To Pony Daze!

If you'd like to meet—and even touch—some of Wind Dancer's ponies, come to the Rescue in Sheffield on the first Saturday of every month between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The whole family will enjoy meeting the ponies and seeing Wind Dancer herself, who lends her name to the Rescue. Pony volunteers and staff will be on hand to introduce you to our most gentle and friendly residents, to talk about the many ways we help ponies, and to show novices how to brush and pet their new friends. When you're done, enjoy some light refreshment.

“Pony Knowledge” Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across (blue numbers)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Cheroot | 9. Warm |
| 2. Pony | 10. Carriage |
| 3. Ginger | 11. Gaits |
| 4. Frog | 12. Honey |
| 5. Foster | 13. Hoof |
| 6. Stall | 14. Equine |
| 7. Appaloosa | 15. Daze |
| 8. Bomber | 16. Curry |

Down (pink numbers)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Coffin | 8. Laminitis |
| 2. Oats | 9. Beans |
| 3. Paint | 10. Parade |
| 4. Drive | 11. Crop |
| 5. Eggs | 12. Bay |
| 6. Fly Sheet | 13. Elf |
| 7. Doc | 14. Shed |

Gentle Teachers, Kind Companions, Happy Ponies Honey and Ginger Find a Loving Foster Home

"It makes us feel good to be able to give animals better homes than they had before," says Amy of her family's decision to foster two Wind Dancer ponies at their farm in Puslinch.

When she and husband Neal bought their property, it came with a tidy three-stall barn along with paddock and pasture space. The property was ideal for Amy's senior horse, Casey, and their older

rescue dog, Copper. Amy's dream was to share her love of horses with her husband and young children. So, with Casey needing a companion—and her inexperienced husband and children needing a safe way to learn about loving and caring for horses and ponies—the family kept their eyes open for the right opportunity.

By chance one day, Amy picked up a copy of *Pony Tales* at the Greenhawk Equestrian Supplies store in Cambridge. Soon afterwards, the family was visiting the Wind Dancer Rescue in Sheffield to see the ponies waiting to be fostered. Tiny palomino-coloured Honey won their hearts right away.

The sweet-tempered gelding, rescued in his teen years from a closed-down petting zoo, would be a companion for Casey and a perfect introduction to ponies and riding for her children, Sam, then six, and Addison, two. Honey would be on trial to begin with, but it was not long after he arrived that they decided, "he's not going back," says Amy.

When Casey passed away last fall, it was Honey who needed a companion. So Amy made another visit to Wind Dancer and spotted Ginger, a chestnut mare who had only recently arrived.

"She found me, actually," she says. Initially very timid and reluctant to socialize with the Wind Dancer volunteers, Ginger approached her almost right away and Amy—who has been working with horses for almost 30 years and giving horse and pony riding lessons—recognized her gentle nature.

"Ponies have been good for the whole family," says Amy.

Neal grew up in a small town and had no experience with livestock. "It's taught Neal a lot about horse and pony behavior, handling them, how to properly take care of them, feeding them and brushing them," she says. The experience gained on smaller



Sam and Addison love their foster ponies. With the help of Mom, Amy, Ponies Honey (left) and Ginger (right) are teaching the children to ride.

creatures will be important when Amy brings home her young horse, Twix.

On a recent Pony Tales visit, Addison was wearing her pink princess “riding habit”, complete with child-sized boots and helmet, demonstrating her skill on Honey with her mother at the lead. Addison, now three-and-a-half, already knows how to mount and dismount by herself, and is learning how to properly hold the reins (see videos at [facebook.com/winddancerponies](https://www.facebook.com/winddancerponies)). Sam, now seven, is also learning to ride in a saddle or bare back, and the ponies are patient teachers. If the schooling goes well, Addison may enter a lead-line class at the Rockton Fair next year, says Amy.

“I think Wind Dancer is a great rescue,” she says. “It does wonderful things for the community as well as for the ponies.”

Amy says her enthusiasm for her “awesome experience” working with the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue has spread to at least one friend, who is also considering fostering a Wind Dancer pony.

Calendar of Events

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday
August 16



Vector Charity
Horse Show
and Dinner

View an exciting jumper horse show and enjoy a dinner-dance at the same time. Cocktails at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., dessert, silent auction and competition awards at 8 p.m. Dinner tickets \$100. To order, see www.vectorequestrian.com or contact leslie.guerreiro@gmail.com

Saturday
September 13

Dundas Valley
Equestrian
Ride



Gather some friends, bring your ponies and horses and come to the Dundas Valley Trail Centre entrance off Governor's Road in Dundas to help raise money for maintenance of the valley trails. Enjoy a day riding in the valley and stop by the Wind Dancer booth to find out how you can help the ponies. 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday
September 27

Isabel's Ride



One of the year's best chances to enjoy fun day out with your pony or horse and support the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation at the same time. This ride in memory of Isabel Dupuy will begin at 10 a.m. from 2429 Second Concession in Lynden, just west of Lynden Road. Your \$40 entry fee includes the opportunity to collect pledges from your non-equestrian friends and qualify for a “Highest Total Pledges” prize. Lunch and Wind Dancer apparel will be for sale.

Saturday
November 15

Peller for
Ponies



Enjoy a luxurious evening of food, wine and friendship. First, you will board a charter coach at a central location (TBD); then, you will be transported to beautiful Peller Estates in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where you will be served a multi-course gourmet dinner paired with fine Peller wines and narrated by Peller Estates own food and wine experts. Relax and enjoy the coach ride back to your pick-up point. Tickets, \$180 per person. Contact winddancerevents@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Where would the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation be without people like you continuing, day in and day out, to give your gifts of time and donations? Since the last newsletter in February, our ponies have still more to be thankful for. In total, you—adults, youths and children alike—have given a grand total of \$8,300 in support of your short and sprightly friends. Here is a summary of what Wind Dancer and her two- and four-legged cohorts have been up to.

April 10: A group of Public Relations students at the McKeil School of Business at Mohawk College adopted the Wind Dancer Foundation as a PR project and credit toward graduation. They organized Pony Up! at Southcote 53 Tap and Grill in Ancaster. This was the first engagement of the season for Wind Dancer, our Pony Mascot, and she resumed her role with grace and style. Thank you to the students for organizing and promoting the event. We wish you all the best in your new careers.

April 19: The Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of Lee Academy in Lynden broke last year's visitor record with 155 children searching for eggs and joining in the Easter fun. Wind Dancer, dressed in her signature pink and blue dots, was once again her charming self. In all, this special event raised \$1,200 for Dancer's friends at the Rescue in Sheffield. See you for the next hunt on Saturday, April 4, 2015!

*Brooklyn and Mackenzie
with the Easter Bunny*



May 3: The third annual Pony Palooza in Rockton was an opportunity to show appreciation for our volunteers who turn out tirelessly to feed, clean up after, groom and gentle our ponies. This year's event featured lots of children's activities, Wind



Virginia and Dave taking tickets



*These boots went to a lucky
silent auction bidder at Pony Palooza*

Dancer herself outside as a greeter, a silent auction, a full buffet dinner, a cash bar, and lots of socializing in a genuinely family-friendly event. When the final tally was taken, the Rescue added another \$4,300 to its pony-helping funds.

June 1: Every spring youthful friends of Wind Dancer raise money in a Mud Run. This year it was at Claireville Conservation Area in Brampton. Runners are told not to compete in anything they expect to wear again. This year's struggle through the goo was especially sweet for a number of Lee Academy graduates, who wore their school uniforms—



Lee Academy students braving the mud for Wind Dancer

since they will no longer be needing them. Congratulations to the graduates, and to all the Wind Dancer runners, who raised \$750 in total.

March 8: Last spring, long-time Wind Dancer resident Bomber developed an embarrassing bowel complaint that required diagnostic testing and a lengthy course of medication. We took to Facebook seeking to fund “O-Bomber-Care” and raised \$240 toward his expenses. Today, Bomber’s problem is long gone, and he is waiting patiently at the Rescue for his new foster family.

May 22: When our Facebook followers learned of Pony Ruben’s nasty, annoying allergies to biting insects they hopped on board the “Operation Buzz-Off” appeal to raise \$175 for a fancy new zebra-striped fly sheet. The theory behind the pattern is that the black and white stripes keep bugs from landing. Wellington’s Tack in Waterdown generously discounted the price, and the appeal actually drew in \$860. Rest assured the remainder will go toward much-needed pony care and equipment—including a second fly sheet for Ruben, since he’s already destroyed the first one.

May 26: When veterinarian Blaine Kennedy and his family moved house, they held a yard sale and raised \$50 for Wind Dancer and her friends. Dr. Kennedy is the newest member of the practice at Troy Veterinary Service, which is led by Dr. Paula Dupuy.

June 7: Bomber had his day in the spotlight when he joined Dancer at the Ontario Equestrian Federation’s Ontario Horse Day at the CNE grounds in Toronto. The two starred in demonstrations led by talented volunteers and enjoyed being petted by child admirers, who also asked lots of questions. Families visited the Wind Dancer booth to learn more about the Foundation and ponies like Bomber, who need loving foster homes.

June 21: The 6th Annual Chili Cook-Off in Rockton drew more than 100 people, with all proceeds going to the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue. Prizes were given for the Best Chili (winner, Todd Reinhart of Milton) and Best Dessert (Winner, Nina Hobin of St. Catharines). Each year Cook-Off organizer Terri Mand designates a worthy charity to receive the event’s proceeds. Terri’s daughter Meredith, a Rescue volunteer, asked that the Wind Dancer Foundation be this year’s beneficiary. In all, the assembled chili enthusiasts contributed \$900.

July 12-13: Wind Dancer and Cassie travelled to the Iron Horse Equestrian Complex in Burlington, Ontario on July 12th and 13th for the Ontario Carriage Driving Association’s (OCDA) event. Along with a group of trusted and friendly volunteers, the ponies performed in the ring as part of the Breeds and Rescues demonstration. Sunday started off as a rainy morning, but a little rain couldn’t dampen the spirits of the cheery volunteers. They took the opportunity to rewrite the lyrics to a well-known song, and thus Perils of Ponies was born! You can watch the video on Facebook, and stay tuned for some new ones in the near future. The event was also a great opportunity to visit with other horse breeds. The volunteers also saw many cute carriage driving ponies. Who knows? Maybe a Wind Dancer pony is destined to be a carriage driving star!



THANK YOU!

More Beans, Please!

Next to Wind Dancer herself, he's likely the most celebrated of the Wind Dancer Rescue ponies—and now you can have a little bit of Beans to call your own. Innisfail, AB, artist, Nancy Jackson (www.jacksonfineart.ca) has captured Beans' lively spirit in a beautiful white-on-black sketch and donated it to the Wind Dancer Foundation. We have a limited quantity of signed and numbered prints available for \$30 each. All proceeds will go toward care and feeding of Wind Dancer Rescue Ponies. To order your print, please contact winddancerinfo@gmail.com



Our Next Fundraising Challenge

Any charity's greatest challenge is raising enough money to meet the needs of those it serves. If Wind Dancer is to continue at its current capacity; if we are to continue rescuing ponies and ensuring them good homes—and if we are to work toward our vision as a global educational resource—we will need to increase our budget. To that end, the Board has agreed that, in addition to increasing other sources of revenue, we will have to increase donations by at least \$4,100 in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Wind Dancer has been so blessed in its short three-year life by your contributions of money, time and moral support. This is what has made our Little Rescue That Could into such a magical place. As we look to the future, we will also be looking for ways to expand our base of support. We know we can count on you to spread the word.

How You Can Help

Make a tax deductible donation online at www.winddancerponies.org by clicking on "Donate" at the top right of the page. (Your tax receipt will be emailed to you.)

Mail a cheque payable to "Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation" to P.O. Box 61, Sheffield, Ontario L0R 1Z0. *(Be sure to include your name and mailing address for a tax receipt.)*

Email winddancerponies@gmail.com and arrange to drop off items for the ponies.

Thank You! It is donors like you who make it possible for Wind Dancer to continue helping ponies who need love and care and good, lifelong homes.



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Pony Tales is a publication of the Wind Dancer Pony Rescue Foundation -
P.O. Box 61, Sheffield, ON L0R 1Z0

Charity BN# 801879917RR001

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