The Story of Hope: Part I

We tend to think that our horses are so special, so incredibly wonderful that nothing bad could ever happen to them. They should never need our help or protection since no one could possibly mistreat them. The story below is unique but unfortunately becoming all too common in today’s difficult economy.

She was abandoned, tied too close to a railroad track, her legs were swollen because her feet had not been trimmed in so long, she was starving, her teeth had a severe under bite and had been neglected, she was only between 3 and 4 years old -- and oh yes -- she had been gored by a bull and had healed without any veterinary attention which might be the reason she has stringhalt in both of her back legs, but the jury is still out on that part of her story.

A concerned person called the SEAACA animal shelter, which provides animal control (dogs and cats mostly) to 15 Southern California cities, this summer to report an abandoned horse. The folks at SEAACA found Hope and transported her to a boarding stable since she would not exactly fit into even the largest on-site dog facilities.

Our story now jumps to the Houston Texas area where Foundation member Sue Waycuilis lives. Sue’s husband’s cousin, Lauren Jackson, was visiting Sue’s Texas ranch from her home in California. During a trail ride Sue explained that she was riding a Spanish Horse that was rescued by The Foundation. Lauren explained that she was a volunteer at the SEAACA animal control where they had been receiving some abandoned horses from time to time. When Lauren returned to California she discovered SEAACA had taken in a horse they thought had Spanish bloodlines.

She had no microchip, she was not a purebred but she obviously has Spanish bloodlines. After a few more phone calls the little mare was sent to a Foundation foster home.

“You should probably think of putting her down. It might be the kindest thing for her”, the veterinarian said when he first saw her sad condition. But it was decided to give her some time to see how she would improve. Over the next few days Hope was given her name because when people would come to see they would and exclaim: “I hope she doesn’t fall down!” or “I sure hope she makes it”. Hope was the thread that connected the mare to everyone and it soon became her name.
After what life had dealt Hope to this point, everyone was surprised at her attitude towards her caretakers. She craved attention and totally trusted the people around her. She wanted to improve and showed her willingness to fight for her life by her actions. She would nicker softly when anyone walked by.

Ever the gentle soul, she would nuzzle their hands when visitors stopped by and cuddled every chance she could. She won everyone over with her dark, soft eyes that seemed to say, “look at me, I am really beautiful”. Her expressive eyes, her exceptional gentleness, and pathetic condition attracted attention in the form of pity, which she drank up like a needed elixir. *To be continued*........................

The Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse has always put the best interests of the horse first and our rescue or placement program has always been an important part of our mission. To help Hope and horses like her, Please help us help deserving horses like Hope. [Donate today](https://www.foundationforthespanishhorse.org/donate).