



Instructor Justine Berman and Daisy (aka Kate) prepare for a training session at Equest.



NAME: Daisy (aka Kate)

CASE HISTORY: Rescued with 100+ other horses from a Fulton County, Arkansas, property

It was one of the HSUS Animal Rescue Team's largest horse seizures: 116 neglected animals—and three found dead—in the overcrowded paddocks of a horse trader. When rescuers arrived in December 2010, several of the survivors were emaciated, their feet and teeth in terrible condition. Some had eye infections and old fractures. Others had strangles, a contagious respiratory illness that can be fatal. Two had to be euthanized.

After setting up a temporary shelter in the city of Mountain Home, The HSUS and ASPCA spent the next three months rehabilitating the horses. "The weather was terrible," says HSUS field rescue responder Tara Loller. "We built moats around the building to make sure it didn't flood, and we had a blizzard." With veterinary care and TLC, the survivors began to heal. "They were not socialized, and it was really starting them over to have trust in people," Loller says. Over time, she could even lie beside a few of the horses while they rested in their stalls.

Then-volunteer Ben Callison remembers one thin and very weak mare named Kate, whose eyes revealed her spirit to live. "You could tell she wanted to recover and to trust humans," says Callison, now director of The Fund for Animals Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas, operated in partnership with The HSUS. As Kate grew stronger, so did her faith in people. She was eventually placed at the ranch's Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center.

Intelligent, athletic, and eager to please, 3-year-old Kate became a staff favorite. Trainer Aubrey Gaines says it's unusual for a young horse to be so sociable without the lure of a treat. "She was just happy being around people," Gaines says.

When staff from Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship met with center employees to talk about forming a partnership, they too couldn't resist Kate's charm. Her small stature, gentle gait, intelligence, and calm and friendly nature made her a likely candidate for Equest's horse therapy program for people with disabilities. "[She's] like an old soul in a young horse's body," says CEO Patrick Bricker.

Kate (now named Daisy) ultimately was chosen for the program—something of a feat since only 1 in 15 candidates prove suitable. Though she loves the pasture and spending time with other horses, it's all about people for Daisy, who is now helping clients learn to ride, walk, and even talk.



LOCATION: New Mexico

ANIMALS SAVED: 300+ Gunnison's prairie dogs

By the time a whistleblower alerted The HSUS's Lindsey Sterling Krank that hundreds of prairie dogs were being held in captivity, the situation had been going on for years.

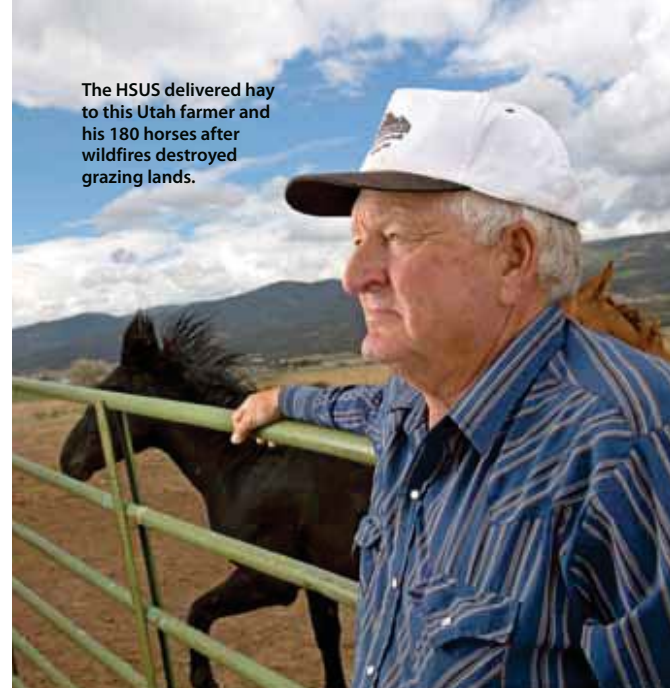
Concerned citizens had captured the animals from locations throughout New Mexico to save them from being poisoned or rendered homeless by urban development. But instead of being relocated to protected land, about half ended up in a suburban home, and the others were kept in a warehouse.

When The HSUS and other conservation groups arrived at the home in March, some prairie dogs ran free inside, but most lived in cages. And while some appeared healthy, many were sick and thin. "Once I saw the animals, I said, 'I'm not letting this go until they are released back into the wild,'" says Sterling Krank, director of the Prairie Dog Coalition.

For months, while rescuers from Prairie Dog Pals rehabilitated the animals, volunteers prepared release sites in Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge and at a private ranch in Galisteo. They dug out the beginnings of burrow systems and constructed aboveground nest caps to protect the animals during acclimation.

By late June, the prairie dogs were in their new homes, stocked with fresh veggies and hay. The handful of animals born in captivity (to previously wild parents) were strategically placed in the middle of the colonies so their more savvy brethren could protect and teach them. The prairie dogs who'd run free inside the home became the new colonies' anchors. "They were up from their burrows talking to everybody, chirping, eating hay, eating their carrots, and saying, 'Where are you? I'm over here!'" says Sterling Krank.

In Sevilleta, the new residents became part of a project to restore the Gunnison's prairie dog to its historic range. Sterling Krank remembers getting goose bumps when the animals performed their first act of freedom: digging. "That was one of the best things ever to see."



The HSUS delivered hay to this Utah farmer and his 180 horses after wildfires destroyed grazing lands.

Animal Rescue Updates

In the summer of wildfires, HSUS responders were on constant alert. In Montana and Utah, they rushed thousands of pounds of hay to horse owners whose grazing lands had been scorched. In Montana, they were allowed beyond roadblocks to deliver food and water to stranded pets. And in Idaho, they helped set up an emergency shelter and search for loose and injured animals. In areas where only charred landscape remains, The HSUS will continue to deliver supplemental food for farm animals.

If it wasn't for an HSUS staffer discovering a U.S. address on an advertisement for animal fighting supplies in a Mexican cockfighting magazine, the raid in Goshen, Calif., might never have taken place. In June, The HSUS helped authorities rescue 388 birds and seize 1,100+ cockfighting knives found on the property, effectively taking out a major supplier of these razor-sharp weapons. It was the fifth time in three years that HSUS investigators used information they gleaned from cockfighting magazines to trigger a raid.

Responding to a call from a Washington, D.C., homeowner, The HSUS's Humane Wildlife Services team discovered five baby squirrels nestled in an attic. After closing the mother squirrel's entry point, they gently placed the babies in a cozy reunion box nearby. Within 15 minutes, mom moved them, one by one, to another nest she'd prepared in a nearby tree cavity.

SEE THE LATEST animal rescue videos at humanesociety.org/videos.



With help from The HSUS's Dave Pauli and others, a Gunnison's prairie dog is en route to a new home.