



Les gives a wave from his new home.

A NEW LIFE FOR LOVABLE LES

LES THE GOOSE has proved himself a survivor. He's shown a remarkable memory. But his most impressive trait might be his ability to forgive.

"For what he's been through it seems odd that he's so friendly toward people," says Brian Schaffer, who along with his wife, Karen, adopted Les from the South Florida Wildlife Center. "He and his mate are the friendliest geese I've ever seen."

More than a year ago, Les was one of two geese found shot with arrows in a Florida canal. A compassionate woman discovered the severely injured pair and called for help. His companion died from the injuries, but Les was rushed to the center, where veterinarians operated to repair a fractured wing and other damage.

For two months, Les recuperated in the center's hospital before moving to an outdoor habitat. Because Les is a domestic goose—a nonnative



Les

species in Florida—staff could not release him into the wild. He needed someone to adopt him.

The Schafers visited the center intending to add another swan to the two swans, four ducks and two geese already living on their Florida property, which includes a quarter-acre fenced pond. But after hearing his story and meeting the charismatic goose, they adopted Les instead.

Initially, Les seemed happy in his new home, enjoying the company of the other waterfowl. But he wasn't too sure about Brian. That is, until the woman who had rescued him stopped by.

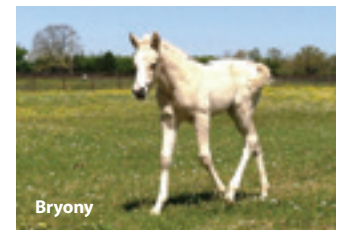
"It was amazing—he recognized her," says Brian. "He came all the way from across the pond to see her. ... After that, we all hit it off." It seemed Les had decided that if his hero thought the Schafers were OK, they were OK in his book, too.

A WILDFLOWER BLOOMS

If not for a rescue in late February, a young filly named Bryony might very well be spending her fragile first days in a far different place.

Her mother, Amber, was one of 180-plus animals The HSUS helped rescue from a squalid Arkansas puppy mill that sold horses, exotic birds and other animals in addition to dogs.

Days after Amber and 10 other horses arrived at the Doris Day Equine Center—housed on the grounds of the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch—she delighted her new caregivers by giving birth to a feisty and adorable filly.



Bryony

Named after a white wildflower that grows in Europe, Bryony is blossoming under the care of Amber and center staff. "She is still staying very close to her mom," says trainer Aubrey Gaines. However, "hints of her personality are starting to come out. Bryony is very curious and occasionally strays from mom to check us out."

Soon, Bryony will become more independent and start venturing farther away from Amber, possibly to romp with a playmate. But for now, Gaines says, "there is simply a lot of sleeping, eating, following mom—and getting her bearings in her new world."

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*Operated by HSUS affiliate The Fund for Animals

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