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Animal rescue receives land gift

Emily Kesten , Staff Writer

An animal-lover has donated five acres of land to Hooves and Paws Rescue Inc. in Glenwood, but she says, "I wish I could do more."

Susan (who asked the Nonpareil to only use her first name) read the story about Hooves and Paws rescuing three Percheron horses and felt her heart break.

"I'm too soft-hearted. I cried," she admitted. Immediately, she sought a way to help the rescue owners, Bill and Genea Stoops.

"I just admire their compassion and dedication," said Susan. "What they're doing is really neat and just incredible. They work full-time, and then put in the hours not only to rescue the horses but to rehabilitate them as well. I don't know where they get their energy - they're up at 3:30 every morning."



Submitted photo - Genea Stoops of Hooves & Paws Rescue Inc. in Glenwood, lavishes her rescued horses with affection every chance she gets. After a long winter, the rescue center has received a generous land donation for expansion.

Advertisement

An advertisement for Superior Auto World. It features a globe with a red banner across it that says "Pre-Owned". The text "superior" is at the top, "Auto World" is at the bottom, and "366-2800" is in the middle. Below the globe, it says "1011 34th Ave, Council Bluffs" and "NEVER PAY RETAIL AGAIN!!!".

Susan first contributed monthly donations to the horse and large-breed dog rescue, but she wanted to do more. Too softhearted to handle the rescue of starved, abused or neglected animals, Susan found another way to help.

"I knew from speaking with Genea that they needed to expand; but the area is really developing, so I didn't want to miss this opportunity," said Susan.

After Mills County zoning was cleared this week, Susan and the Stoopses are happy to get to work on the expansion. Hooves and Paws will permanently gain 1 1/2 acres, with another 3 1/2 acres to be used for the next three years. Susan hopes she will financially be able to donate those temporary acres then.

"My family and friends think I'm crazy," she laughed. "I don't live on a farm, so I can't foster any of the rescued horses. But it's only money. This is much more important."

Genea Stoops could not stop expressing her gratitude.

"Susan is just wonderful," said Stoops, "and we can do a lot with the 1 1/2 acres."

A barn to store hay is priority on the permanent land. At the moment, the Stoopses can only order 100 bales of hay every other week, because they lack a sheltered place to store it. She would prefer to buy 300 to 400 bales at a time.

"It's cheaper to buy it in bulk, but we can't. We also need small bales, because it's easier for us to carry and divide in separate feeding areas."

Stoops would also like to expand the quarantine area and move it further away from the healthier horses. A larger exercise area for the dogs and a gravel drive so trailers can reach the paddocks in wet weather are also high priority.

"I hope they can get the fencing and gravel," said Susan, who also gave the go-ahead to fence, seed and use the temporary acres. Material or monetary donations are always appreciated and needed, said Stoops.

The land is a balm for Stoops, who is facing the heartache of a no-hope rescue. Reba, a 25-year-old mare who came to the rescue this winter 400 pounds underweight, may have to be euthanized. The mare was improving, but an infection and possible cancer point to a sad ending. However, Fever, another severe case, is chowing right through his feed, and Stoops has high hopes for him.

Hooves and Paws rescues horses and large breed dogs, finds foster and adopted homes for rescues and provides forever homes for those who are considered special cases. The Stoopses also provide owner education, including a special horse care program for adults and children who want to understand both the caring and riding aspects of owning a horse. More information can be found at

www.hoovespaws.org, or by calling (712) 527-3721.

"They do fantastic work," said Susan. "I just don't understand how people can be cruel to animals or children."



The logo for COX Security Suite Identity Protection is contained within a blue-bordered box. On the left, there is a yellow rectangular button with a red padlock icon and the text "Identity Protection" in black. To the right of this button, the text "COX Security Suite" is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. Below "COX Security Suite", the text "Powered By McAfee™" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

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