



Recovering from painful pasts

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By Lindsay Hocker, Best Friends Network volunteer
Two horses healing in foster care after abandonment in trailer following accident

Abandoned at the scene of an accident, the two horses were shaking and scared. One had cuts from smashing into the window of the horse trailer.

Rescuer Genea Stoops, president of [Hooves & Paws Rescue](#), crawled through a broken window to halter the horses, and discovered they were tied tightly to the side of the trailer.

"I could not believe that they had not broke their necks or legs," Stoops said.

That was July 31, on I-29 off of the Bellevue, NE exit. Stoops and her husband were called to the scene by highway patrol because their Glenwood, Iowa, rescue is a no-kill shelter for horses as well as large breed dogs. According to the highway patrol, the horses had been trapped in the trailer for at least three hours.

The two have been living in foster care, recovering from the accident and from painful pasts. Stoops knew immediately the wreck wasn't the only trauma the pair, who have been named Harry and Sally, have experienced.

"Both horses had whip marks on their bodies. They were also very fearful of people and head shy," she said in an e-mail about the horses.

Now, she said they're doing much better mentally, and allowing people to touch them without showing the same level of fear they did when they first came into Hooves & Paws' care.

Stoops said the horses' people have said they want the horses back, but the rescue is able to keep them at the foster home. Eventually, she hopes they can be adopted into a new home, where they will be loved and be able to continue healing.

But, if that's not possible, the horses will have a home at the rescue.

"If for any reason they can't get past the abuse and neglect they have suffered they will remain with us for the rest of their lives," she said.

- Hooves & Paws Rescue is currently in need of donations to pay for vet bills and winter hay. Donations can be made through PayPal by going to the rescue's website, www.hoovespaws.org.