

NEWS

A LOT OF HELP FOR LITTLE WILLIE

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By Lindsay Hocker, Best Friends Network volunteer

Iowa-based Hooves & Paws Rescue comes to the aid of a special mini horse

When a police officer saw a miniature horse with twisted hooves walking down Highway 275 in Tabor, Iowa, the officer didn't know his story, but did know just who to call.

As soon as [Hooves & Paws Rescue, Inc.](#) was notified, they welcomed the neglected horse into the rescue. He has since been named Little Willie. Genea Stoops, president of Hooves & Paws Rescue, said he's now on the road to recovery.

"After all he has been through, he is doing a wonderful job warming up to us and allowing us to love him. He knows we love him and we are here to help him," she said. "He already allows us to give him kisses and will nuzzle up to us when new people come, because he is fearful of new people."



The process of getting his hooves trimmed into shape has begun, but Stoops said it will take at least a year for his hooves to be in acceptable condition. He will also need shots and his teeth floated. When he first came in, the veterinarian advised proceeding with care slowly, to avoid overwhelming him. At this time, he's not up for adoption, however, you can check out the other Hooves & Paws horses, dogs and even a few cats in need of new homes [here](#).

Little Willie appears to about 20 years old. "This size of horse can live into his 30s with the proper care. And that is what we are hoping will happen with our Willie," Stoops wrote in an e-mail.



The cost of his medical bills is unknown at this point. Every session with the farrier costs \$30-\$40. Hooves & Paws fenced in an area and built a lean-to for Willie so he could have his own space, which was an additional expense.

Stoops said people can help by donating money to pay for his medical expenses and basic needs. Donations can be made through PayPal by going to the rescue's website, www.hoovespaws.org.

Hooves & Paws Rescue is a no-kill shelter for horses and large breed dogs that is located in Glenwood, Iowa. It became a nonprofit in September 2006. Stoops said the inspiration for the rescue happened during a visit to Best Friends Animal Society.

The rescue specializes in handling abused and neglected animals. Stoops said Little Willie's former guardian surrendered him to Hooves & Paws and will face a charge of livestock neglect.

Photos courtesy of Genea Stoops

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