

# NONPAREIL *online*

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## Rescue needs donations

Emily Kesten , Staff Writer



Submitted photo/Genea Stoops - Walter (middle), pictured with his sire and dam, was rescued from neglect and starvation by Hooves and Paws Rescue Inc. A \$1,800 to \$2,500 surgery on his knee will save him from permanent lameness and early euthanization, but rescuers Bill and Genea Stoops of Glenwood need donations.

GLENWOOD - Hooves and Paws Rescue Inc. wishes it didn't have to pick its battles. Lucky for Walter, a Percheron yearling, he is first on the list.

"Luck," however, is a new concept to Walter and the other rescued animals at the horse and large dog rescue center owned by Genea and Bill Stoops of Glenwood. The Percheron colt, with his sire and dam, were rescued in April from a Council Bluffs owner. Under the Stoops' care, all three draft horses are thriving, but Walter is still in danger. According to the veterinarian, if the yearling's knee is not operated on by the end of October, he will be permanently lame and need to be euthanized.

"It's going to cost between \$1,800 and \$2,500," Genea Stoops said. "We're trying to raise donations."

This is just one of four major medical procedures, totaling \$9,000, on the Stoopses' urgent list. Regardless of donations, Stoops is determined Walter will have his operation.

"If we can't raise the funds, we'll have to take out a loan," she said.

Walter is at the top of a long, expensive list. Hooves and Paws receives 30 to 40 phone calls a week regarding placement of horses and large breed dogs. Stoops would love to take in every one, "Were a rescue, not a shelter," "We're maxed out. But we'll work with the owners to find foster placement." Last August, the Stoopses, with the help of more than 50 people, found homes for 11 Pocahontas County horses. Currently 10 horses, five dogs and five cats reside at the Glenwood center, with 14 horses in nearby foster care. There's a waiting list of 27 animals.

Expanding the center is a priority after Walter's knee. The Stoopses hope to buy seven more acres.

"We need two, at the very least," said Genea.

Seven acres will provide more quarantine space and security for the horses and an all-season arena for the free riding lessons provided for high-risk and special needs families.

The "everyday" list is no less expensive. The horses and dogs that come to Hooves and Paws need quality feed and care. Weekly feed bills run \$700 to \$900, the farrier comes every 4-6 weeks for \$400, dog heartworming costs \$120 per month, and last month's vet bill came to \$1,200.

"We get no special discounts," Stoops said. The three Percheron horses cost two horses each in keep. If a horse stock can be purchased or built, the farrier will lower their bill. The list and more details can be found at [www.hoovespaws.org](http://www.hoovespaws.org).

The financial burden is daunting, but Stoops is not complaining.

"We made a promise and took the responsibility when we started this," she said. "It's not a hobby or whim. We ate macaroni and cheese for a week, but the horses were fed - that's what mattered."

Genea and Bill, who work full-time, are seeking corporate sponsor, as well as private donations.

"People say 'oh, I heard about you' and say they want to help; but then they forget about us," Stoops said.

Monthly, dedicated donations are needed. Feed and concrete donations are also appreciated.

"Someone once donated a trailer full of hay," she said.

Hope may be on the horizon. On Oct. 20, Copper Creek Horse Ranch in Pacific Junction, Neb., will host the Missouri River Barrel Bash and Fun Day Show in benefit of Hooves and Paws. Those interested may contact Valeria at (402) 541-9548. Photo galleries and information on Hooves and Paws, including how to donate, can be found at [www.hoovespaws.org](http://www.hoovespaws.org) or by calling Bill and Genea Stoops at (712) 527-3721. Visitors can meet Walter and his family when the Glenwood center opens at noon on Sundays.



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