

**NORTHERN
COLORADO
501(C)(3)
HORSE &
DONKEY
RESCUE**

FRIENDS OF LACKOTA ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Our Mission

To provide food, shelter, and appropriate medical care to equines, livestock, and other animals in need. We are a safe haven for animals to live their lives to the fullest in peace and harmony without fear or neglect.

The impact of their support cannot be overstated as it has bolstered our endeavors and reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to our cause. LUSH Cosmetic's resolute dedication to fostering positive change has empowered Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary to forge ahead with our renewed determination, striving to create a profound and lasting impact on the lives of animals.



We'd also like to thank the following organizations:

- *NoCo Style Magazine* (June 2024 article on FoLAS!)
- *American Association of Equine Practitioners* (AAEP)
- *William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation*

We're thrilled to announce our big move from the Rockies' foothills to our new Ranch! All our animals have settled in and are loving their spacious new home. Stay tuned on social media for updates!



thank you
LUSH



Volunteer Spotlight

Tom & Michelle Heath

"We moved to Fort Collins in 2017, having raised three pretty awesome children in Illinois. As empty nesters we moved to the state in which we wanted to retire because Colorado had hiking, fishing, and bicycling. Tom worked in IT for his entire career and Michelle was a special education teacher. Our daughter Hannah worked for Arula Consulting who sponsored Trout Tank, an event where nonprofit organizations pitched their missions to the community to promote their work and find potential volunteers. That is where we first met Thom and Sam Munholland and were introduced to Friends of Lackota Animals Sanctuary (FoLAS). It took a very short discussion to decide we wanted to volunteer for FoLAS.

On our first day at the sanctuary, Fluttershy walked right up and greeted Michelle allowing Michelle to pet her. Of course, it was love at first sight. Tom was a bit leery of these big animals, but has since become so much more comfortable working near them and giving them love and attention.



Above: Tom Heath grooming a very appreciative horse at the sanctuary



Above: Michelle Heath giving some much TLC to resident horse

We recently had our one year anniversary at FoLAS at the end of April this year. We love coming and seeing Thom and Sam each week as well as seeing all of the animals. We are also very lucky that Thom and Sam let us take on any task that is needed. We started out cleaning pens and filling water bins. We have been able to help feed as well. Some of the other jobs we have been able to help accomplish are building and repairing shelters and repairing the barns. We love being able to spend time with the animals whether just cleaning the pen and giving scratches and rubs or brushing them.

Overall, we are so grateful for finding FoLAS and for Thom and Sam teaching us both so much!" 

"They've gone far above and beyond everything that we've expected. They are kind and compassionate and wholehearted people, and we love them so much!"

-Thom Munholland



Lackota's Friends

Before & After

Some **Major** Updates Ahead! Major did fantastic during his surgery earlier this year and has acclimated well since. We learned he is a little over 17 hands tall and weighs (*only!*) 1,475 pounds. He is as sweet as can be to people but not so much to other equines, so he is currently learning to properly socialize with others. He is really happy at the new ranch as he has about 6x more space to run around than he did at our old place. Since coming to the new ranch and being able to stretch and run, he is feeling less symptoms of his neurological disorder which is called *scratches*. Once he is socializing well with other horses he may be an adoption candidate!



Above: Major (some may refer to as the Fabio of Horses due to his enormous size and luxurious locks!)



Above: Sweet but very naughty boy Charlie has captured our hearts!

Charlie

Meet our 12-year-old gelding, a mischievous boy who's full of personality but thriving in health! We welcomed him to FoLAS in March 2024, though we quickly learned he wasn't as trained as we had been told.

While he's cooperative with basic care like handling his feet, he'll need proper training before he's ready for adoption. He's also making strides in learning to get along with other horses, and with patience and guidance, we're confident he'll continue to progress beautifully.

Unexpected Reunion: Sydney

Sydney was relatively healthy when her prior owner surrendered her to us in 2021. She then became the very first horse we adopted to a family around the same time! This year, during the Alexander Mountain Fire emergency evacuations, we were unexpectedly reunited with her and her family to help relocate them to a safer place. We were so excited to see her again and are so happy that she's been doing great! 🐾



Above: Thom and Sydney reunited!

Racing Against the Flames:

A Community United
in Animal Rescue



Above: Alexander Mountain Fire photo taken from Marianna Butte Golf Course, S. McClain

The Alexander Mountain Fire in Colorado led to widespread evacuations, affecting both people, domestic livestock and pets. Evacuation centers for animals were quickly established at Island Grove, The Ranch Events Complex, and NoCo Humane Society. As the situation came under control, many displaced animals were returned to The Ranch in Loveland, and some pets were reunited with their owners. However, the re-entry of livestock into certain areas was delayed due to safety risks.

The wildfire, first reported through a 9-1-1 call at 10:38 a.m. on July 29, 2024, spread rapidly, growing from 247 to 950 acres by day's end. It posed a significant threat to surrounding communities, including Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch. Thick plumes of smoke were visible

from Fort Collins and Loveland, underscoring the fire's reach. Aerial support worked tirelessly, using water and fire retardants, but the rapid spread continued to endanger both humans and animals.

The Red Cross also provided shelter for displaced residents and animals. Their coordinated efforts ensured both people and pets had safe places to stay while fire crews battled the blaze. Despite the destruction—over 9,000 acres burned and numerous structures destroyed—evacuation restrictions were gradually lifted, allowing residents and their beloved animals to return home.

During these critical hours, Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary (FoLAS) worked to aid in the rescue and evacuation of animals

trapped in the fire's path as well. With our dedicated team, we were able to offer transportation assistance, equipped with a 4-horse gooseneck trailer and 3-horse/stock combo gooseneck trailers, capable of transporting horses, cows, sheep, and more. Among the rescues we ended up having a surprise reunion with a very special horse! Sydney, a black-and-white mare, was one of the first rescues helped during the evacuation, and was actually one of our very first-ever adoptions!

FoLAS remained vigilant throughout the fire evacuations and after as we made sure to also offer housing for rescued animals until they could safely return to their owners. "We are so lucky to help others in need," Thom, co-founder of Friends of Lackota, shared. We also housed 6 sheep, providing feed and care for these adorable, little evacuees. We also helped round up and transport about 100 chickens, ducks, and guineas. As the situation improved, we transported animals, including Sydney, back to their homes once evacuation orders were lifted. Notably, we sheltered the sheep for around two and a half weeks until it was safe for them to return to their pastures.

Despite our best intentions and efforts, FoLAS also faced challenges. Fuel and feed costs quickly added up, and we were working around the clock while juggling our full-time jobs and daily sanctuary duties. "It was challenging, but not impossible," Thom reflected.

In times of crisis, communities rely on those willing to take action, and FoLAS will be there to help as one of those pillars of support. Our dedication to rescuing and caring for all animals that are under strenuous conditions is our mission and we'll always offer help during crises such as fires and other emergencies! 🐾

"In times of crisis, communities rely on those willing to take action"



Above: Two sheep took refuge at FoLAS



Above: Sydney (far right) and family being relocated during fire



Faith, the first baby born at the sanctuary this year, arrived on March 20th. A Thoroughbred, she was born two months after we rescued her mother, **Emmie**, from a kill lot. At six months, Faith stands about 13 hands tall and is as sweet as can be. We expect her to grow to nearly 17 hands when fully mature!



Peaches, born at FoLAS on April 3rd, was discovered during the morning feeding after having arrived overnight. Her mother, **Ellie**, a retired racehorse rescued from the slaughter pipeline, had joined us two months earlier. Now, both are thriving and enjoying life with their foster family in Livermore.

Remy, our unexpected third baby, was born on August 24th, just a week before our move to the new ranch. His mother, **Annie**, was rescued from a kill lot on February 28th and likely grew up with Ellie and Emmie. Remy is petite, gentle, and possibly the cutest baby we've ever had!



Jubilee, about 5-6 months old, wasn't born here but was rescued with her mother, **Rogue**, from an auction and arrived on August 15th. Though initially unhandled and scared, Jubilee quickly warmed up and now loves being petted and played with! 

Ways To Make a Difference

ONLINE DONATION

We've a variety of ways you can donate online!

Apps:

Zelle: friendsofslackota@gmail.com

Venmo: @friendsofslackota

RoundUp App (roundupapp.com)



Donate, This Way or That!

Look Us Up to Donate via Websites:

Donate on our website with this QR code!

Colorado Gives 365
(coloradogives.org)

IN-KIND DONATION

We also accept in-kind donations! These are given freely with the reassurance of helping rescued animals with their second chance at life! If you're interested in giving this way, please reach out to us via email! Did you know these are tax-deductible!?

ADVOCATE FOR US

- Social Media: Follow us on your favorite platform or Like and Share our posts!
- Word of Mouth: Talk to others about what we do! This can be such a powerful way to spread awareness and support a cause you really care about!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

- Are You Our Next Board Member? We're looking for individuals that are passionate about helping animals to join our board in making a difference in our community! Experience with nonprofits, fundraising, and/ or bookkeeping a plus! Inquire by email to see if this would be a great fit for you!
- Horse Trainer: We're looking for more trainers that have experience with horses to help gentle and train our equine friends to give them their second chance! 🐴

Community Engagements



Keep an eye on our social media for even more goodies & details!



Elk Fest 2024

Celebrate Estes Park's resident elk at Estes Park Elk Fest®, a family-friendly festival in Bond Park on September 28th & 29th! Enjoy vendors, live music, food trucks, bugling contests, performances and more! We'll be there both days with a few surprises, information on our animals, and much more!



3rd Annual Silent Auction

Keep an eye on our social media for the rest of the year to learn more about all the amazing items we're putting up for bid in our 3rd Annual Silent Christmas Auction! Running from November 28th - December 8th, all proceeds go to the care of the animals we've rescued throughout our communities! Give a little while giving a lot more!

By the Numbers



The hay that we purchase for the animals weigh approximately 50 to 60lbs and is the very best quality.



We buy this for our senior animals that have dentition issues and difficulty getting all their nutrition from hay alone.



These are important to get for the animals that deal with their pain, either from old age or the abuse they come from.



This gives each horse the love and attention they need in addition to making them more attractive to potential loving homes.

EVERY DOLLAR MATTERS since 100% of funds raised goes straight to the animals!

Friends of Lackota Animal Sanctuary

Nunn, Colorado | Tax ID: 86-1490591

Connect with Us!

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