

CRDA Provides Opportunities for Rescue Horses

By Suzanne Leblanc, Carole Rapoport and Amy Rossiter

CRDA hosted special guests at two recent clinics: two lovely horses who were rescued from slaughter. Tom Noone donated lesson time to Noir, and Sue Jaccoma donated her time to Thallene Mist, a.k.a. Misty. The horses were brought in through New England Equine Rescues (NEER). NEER is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that networks people throughout New England to rescue horses from neglect, abuse, and slaughter.

At the Tom Noone clinic in October, Liz Russell rode Noir. Noir was discovered in a kill pen and rescued by NEER from certain death. Tom Noone donated his time to provide guidance with Noir's training and an assessment of his abilities. Barbara Gokey, owner of Tower Hill Farm, donated a day stall, and Phil Silva, of Ten Broeck Farm, donated shipping services to and from the clinic.

Noir is an adorable black gelding standing just under 15 hands. At some point he was trained western and taught tricks such as bowing and rearing. He seemed completely unruffled during his visit to Tower Hill, even when the audience erupted in applause at the end of his lesson. NEER plans to keep Noir as an ambassador for other rescue horses because of his talent and temperament, but also because of his continuing treatment for sarcoids.



At left, Liz Russell riding Noir.

At right, Phil Silva of Ten Broeck Farm seated on the left, and Tom Noone, seated on the right.

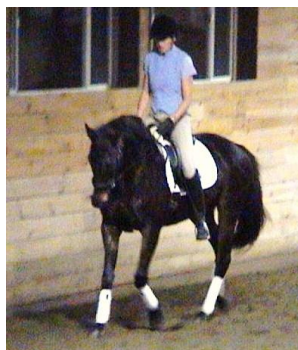


Noir photo by Beth Hill Ross, and Phil and Tom photo by Bill Gokey.

Lisa Millett, a local professional, gamely volunteered to school Misty under Sue Jaccoma's watchful eye. Misty is a dark bay, 18 y.o., 16.3 H Thoroughbred mare who foaled many winning babies after her racing career ended only to end up in a kill pen. Misty showed her good nature as she maintained her composure under her first dressage saddle! She appeared to be very brave and willing to trust her rider. Both Lisa and Misty's foster mom Mary were very proud of her and hope someone will want to give her a permanent home.

Lisa Millet riding Thallene Mist, a.k.a. Misty.

Photo courtesy of Mary Barrett.



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Judith Noone has presented another opportunity for CRDA members to support equine rescue efforts. Judith has been offering unmounted clinics throughout the region using a video and lecture format to help riders find, select, and edit music for their freestyles. Judith requests a nominal fee from participants and she donates 100% of the proceeds to various equine rescue organizations. CRDA will be hosting one of these clinics on Saturday, December 14, in Cutler Farm's heated observation room. Judith selected NEER as the beneficiary of this event. Members and non-members are invited to attend for the cost of the \$15 donation.

As people struggle to make ends meet in these tough economic times, we'll see these struggles take an increasing toll on animals – both large and small. If you are in a position to make charitable donations during this holiday season, or maybe after the new year starts, please think about contributing money, time, or supplies to your local shelter or rescue organizations to help our animal friends. And don't forget that CRDA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization, so you may wish to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to CRDA as well. Any contributions would further our educational mission and purpose and would be greatly appreciated.

Beth Hill Ross, founder of NEER, shared a story about Misty's trip to the Sue Jaccoma clinic. A friend of Lisa Millet's heard Misty's story and then shared it with her elderly mother. Lisa arrived with a \$10 check in hand from the friend's elderly mother who wanted to contribute to the rescue efforts. The moral to the story? Every little bit helps animals in need! ❖