

HORSE TALES

NEWS FROM

MAR ★ REIGNING GRACE YOUTH RANCH ★ 2015

Why do you come to Reigning Grace?



We're asking our volunteers "Why do you come to Reigning Grace Ranch?" Here are some of their responses:

I love taking care of the horses and knowing that something depends on me, that makes me happy - Amber, Jr. Volunteer

To take Stormin Norman on a walk around the ranch. How many people can say they put a halter on a cow & parade him around to strut his stuff?? - Mackenzie, Jr. Volunteer

Family. Love. Passion. - Heidi, Volunteer/Mentor

To enrich lives. - Kim, Volunteer/Mentor

I volunteer at RGR because I continue to see so many positive changes in the lives of the kids and the horses in the program. - Rod, Mentor



Where Redemption Runs Free

Horse of the Month -

Tiger Liy *by: Tiger Lily*

I literally came to Reigning Grace Ranch as an orphan foal. I was part of the wild horses that roamed the foothills of McDowell Mountain Range. Why I say literally is because I chose to leave the safety of my herd and put myself into an open pen on the Moore property and never left. One night around midnight, Amanda had a "feeling" that she needed to go outside and check on everyone. I have found that these "feelings" you humans have are almost always the higher power prompting you to move. As she peered over the fence, there I was - a little knock-kneed red horse with a white blaze on my face, big eyed, gangly, ribby, my long red coat matted and dull - peering back at her. I had been waiting for her to arrive. For a horse to leave her herd as a baby is a big deal. Foals don't just leave their dame. The herd either chose to remove me because I was a danger to the entire herd or I had no connection to the herd because I had no mother. The memories are faint today.

As an orphan foal, I was most likely born without antibodies to any germs or diseases because I did not receive the colostum from my mother's milk. Because of this, I started life without the proper nutrition and was at great risk for acquiring deadly infections. I was riddled with so many health issues and poked and prodded by the vets that worked for weeks trying to solve my mystery. The vet's conclusion was grim, lymphoma, a rare form of cancer in young horses that would eventually take my life. Treatment for this cancer was 100% unsuccessful and I would probably have at most a few months before the disease took my life. My life started out so badly, it just couldn't end this way. Life is not fair sometimes, but the Moores were not going to give up on me. Night after night for days, Christopher and Amanda would place their hands on my little body and pray for a miracle that I would be healed. Daily they prayed and day-by-day the light in my eyes grew stronger and stronger.

Today, 6 years later, I reside

at Reigning Grace Ranch next to my bosom buddies Rufio and Genesis. Because of my beginnings, much of my structure was stunted and I will never be strong in stature like I could have been. Although some may say I am not much to look at and will never be what most people in the horse world consider beautiful, in Reigning Grace's eyes, I have a halo. I am patient and kind with a powerful force within my spirit to rise above my troubles. I am a tremendous fighter with such a strong will to live. Ask anyone at RGR and they will tell you I have the biggest heart in a horse they have ever known. And I might add, I am extremely intelligent. If a little horse at death's door that has absolutely nothing going for her can have such a strong fight for life and rise past her disability and past, what could humans do if they had that kind of will and determination?

Some people have asked how I got my name. Two reasons.....because I was an orphan foal and because of my intuitive soul, I was named after the character Tiger Lily from Walt Disney's Peter Pan. Tiger Lily represented a character on the island of the orphan lost boys; and secondly, I have the coloring of the flower Tiger Lily.....strong minded with the heart of a Tiger and fragile and beautiful like a Lily.

