



# In Our Own Words

## *My Horse and I*

*A horse is like a journal  
 You can express your feelings without a doubt  
 When I'm down or blue  
 I always have someone to turn to.  
 A horse, you can call your best friend  
 A best friend to the end  
 You can tell your horse a secret  
 Without it being told.  
 A horse is like a poem you can read.  
 She is not like a human being.  
 She was made for me  
 Like me  
 She is strong and brave  
 Loves to play,  
 Runs like the wind  
 Swish to the beat of my favorite song  
 "Shorty like Mines."  
 Like peanut butter and jelly  
 We belong together.*

*By Beverly Tate*

*Joell Dunlap, Executive Director*

This summer issue of our Newsletter is devoted to giving voice to our students, our volunteers and our supporters. I've asked you to send in your thoughts and stories and what you sent in has touched my heart deeply. All of the poems and stories and photos in this issue are your own.

Summer is always my favorite time of year at Square Pegs with the long lazy days and our cool coastal weather. The horses have their shiny summer coats that the students and the volunteers have been polishing. We are exploring the redwood groves as never before on horseback and I couldn't be happier.

My New Years goals were to stop and enjoy what we have built at Square Pegs and let the team of students, volunteers, staff and directors share in the magic that we have created. These are bearing true fruit as Genna, Sigourney and Greg help teach

summer programs and train new volunteers, and as our dedicated team organizes the Summer BBQ and makes plans for future events.

Program volunteers and office volunteers are taking on responsibility around the ranch, while the programs continue to develop and expand. Through all of this, we are all growing in our understanding of EveryONE Fits.

*I am free and I am wild.  
 I cannot be tamed.  
 I gallop around all day and all night.  
 My heart is free to run wherever it wants.  
 From sunrise to sunset.  
 My heart rejoices to know that I can run so wild and free*

*by Floyd Holmes*



*Humbly, Joell*



# Summer BBQ!

DON'T MISS THE BIG EVENT!

The first ever SQUARE PEG SUMMER BBQ is Saturday, August 25th, 2007, 12 noon to 5:00 pm.

Help Square Pegs expand its program by coming out to the Square Peg Ranch and joining in on the beautiful and unique experience our Foundation has to offer. Our family BBQ, with eclectic live music, a silent auction, and lots of good food, will bring you into our world so that we can show you how we strive to turn "I wish" into "I can". There will be activities for all ages, such as foot polo, face painting, and a good old game of "petanque" (French Bocce ball).

You will meet the dedicated volunteers and aspiring students and learn how they contribute to this wonderful program. Spend some time with our magnificent and truly unique horses and hear their stories from the children who know them best.

This is a not-to-be-missed event, whether you are a long time supporter or a newcomer to the Square Peg Foundation! Please be a part of this amazing program's

*My most favorite thing to do in the whole world is go horse back riding on Saturday with Joell..*

*I love to ride my horse Sugar. When I look in her eyes I see love and pachment. I love grooming her brown and white fur. I love her white eye lashys I go there every Saturday But I wish I could go there every day. She is a cute she is my princess.*

*My best friend is Casey who is very kind and loving. When we go riding we talk about her friends and school.*

*I hope Joell and Casey never move away I love them a lot.*

*Rebecca Ball*



growth! Tickets will go on sale through our website on August 1st.

Contact [Leah Basset](mailto:leah_cyrus@sbcglobal.net) (leah\_cyrus@sbcglobal.net) or [Natalia Feliz](mailto:foohymonkey@hotmail.com) (foohymonkey@hotmail.com) for more information.

## *Through the Eyes of a Believer*

*Many see what they believe to be the truth*

*Is it the truth?*

*Seeing the world set out full of disappointment and failure*

*A blinded truth*

*I was once blind*

*But was given a gift*

*To see through the eyes of a horse*

*The pain of the past and uncertainty*

*A strength grows over all that is dark*

*Able to comprehend a person and see only what should be seen*

*Courageous and triumphant over the world's complications*

*Believing I can do anything*

*Now that I've seen through the eyes of a believer*

*My life saving gift from a little grey horse.*

*by Natalia Feliz*





# Meet Sequoia!

*Dead Horse Walking (make that trotting)*  
by Jen Leeds

Sequoia happily trotted behind me, then sweetly nuzzled both me and his other rescue Mom as we stood chatting and leaning against the arena rail. That's our new boy – "Squish" as he's known around the barn - putting a lot of smiles on people's faces and bringing a few closer together in this successful rescue attempt.

Operation Save Squish started at the end of May with a call from my niece who rides on the Stanford Equestrian Team. Did I know of anyone who could take this really sweet horse - who could no longer be ridden because he trips for no diagnosable reason and was scheduled to be 'put down' the first week in June?

I sent out a few dozen emails and of course, one of the first responders was our very own Joell. Joell & I share a passion for loving, protecting and caring for animals. All animals – regardless of their "use!" So we joined forces and began Team Squish to bring Squish home to Square Peg Foundation where we will have him

fully evaluated and then determine where he'll most happily live out the rest of his (hopefully long) life.

Squish, aka Sequoia and officially registered as First Rate, is a 14-year old, 16.1hh New Zealand Thoroughbred. Brought over from "Down Under" approximately eight years ago, he was a very successful show horse until he crashed into a jump 18 months ago.

We've verified with SPF's wonderful vet, Ashton Cloninger that our sweet boy is in no pain. While he'll have a

few more evaluations, acupuncture, & equine massage; mostly ahead for our boy is tons of TLC, lots of carrots & apples, rolling and playing in the arena and lots of walks with me (and his new canine sister – my pup Cody Coyote).

Ahead for his humans - more moments like the highlight of June: Joell and I standing by the arena rail, holding hands and watching Squish gallop around the ring. So beautiful, so happy and so alive!

It is beyond our comprehension that this big hearted, affectionate, sweet horse was scheduled to be 'put down' the first week of June. He was literally scheduled. To know that and to see him a week later so full of life is such a gift and brings tears to my eyes. (continued)

## A HORSE'S FRIEND

A horse's friendship is like a dream

Brushing his hair

Feeling comfortable

Next to me

Riding on it's back

Is like floating in the sky

Why do horses have to die?

Will they go to heaven

Just like us?



## Horse

The way the heart is wrapped in blankets and the world fell; Eden's long gone the remnant a weedy lawn at our ankles, a gown we've removed in tatters, a dream we decide

until a horse appears—

not far away in a field

not faded or rusted or ancient. This horse was coddled in stalls, kept from the eyes of mortals hidden really like a God, something they say can't exist—

glitter and prance, muscled with silk legs in waves, winged hooves, exalted bones, prairie lightning eyes, and they call that a star or a blaze.

Oh, reach in your pocket for sugar an apple, a handful of oats,. Open your palm and all that you've held, the way you've asked for forgiveness turns out redemption is this: an animal neck that arches untamed breath on your wrist.



Lisa Ortiz, April 2007



I may have 'rescued' Squish, but he and Square Peg have brought me back to the horse world, to remembering what it's like to bond with one of these magnificent creatures and to share my passion for horses, nature, caring, connecting, animals in general with other wonderful like-minded people. Square Peg really seems to bring life to all creatures (both four- and two-legged) who venture out to the Half Moon Bay Ranch.

Does life get any more rewarding than seeing a creature destined to die living life to the fullest? Once again Square Peg has helped give new life to a being that wasn't fitting in someplace else. Yup, Squish is yet another square peg. And Squish is a gift.



# Square Peg Summer BBQ

## Coming your way Saturday Aug 25!

What: Square Peg Summer BBQ World Class Music, Great food and fun & More!

Where: Square Peg Ranch, 2399 Purisima Creek Road, Half Moon Bay, CA

When: Saturday, August 25 from noon to 5:00 pm

Watch your email for the official invite or check our website at [www.everyonefits.org](http://www.everyonefits.org) for ticket info and more information about the event.

Bring a friend!

### The Squish Challenge!

In honor of Sequoia's rescue, the Giant Steps Foundation, has made us a very generous offer:

They have put out a \$10,000 matching grant. This match will apply to all new donors, and to all existing donors who give MORE than they gave in the past. So this is it...your chance to double your money and double your support for Square Peg Foundation!!

Please help us here. Spread the word to your friends and family - tell them that every dollar they give will be doubled. If you gave us \$200 last year, think about giving \$300 this year - the \$100 increase will be doubled.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Square Pegs to expand our square (circle) of supporters, and to continue to increase the services we are able to offer. This match is good until September 15, 2007 So don't miss the chance to DOUBLE your donation!

## Fundraising News

Square Pegs is deeply grateful to our sponsors, donors and supporters. This last year has taught us so much about the generosity of individuals, small business and family foundations. We simply could not do what we do without you.

Once again, Thoroughbred Charities has awarded us a generous cash grant that helps us purchase feed and veterinary care for our beautiful charges. (continued)

**"BE WHO YOU ARE AND SAY WHAT YOU FEEL BECAUSE THOSE WHO MIND DON'T MATTER AND THOSE WHO MATTER DON'T MIND."**

Dr. Seuss

*I am free and I am wild.  
I am a beast  
I have broken my chains  
I stomp on the ground  
Hear me call through  
I'm brave like a lion  
Wise as a king*



## Fundraising News (continued)

Our current lease is due September 1, 2007. This is officially "cash crunch" time as we hope to again pre-pay our lease for a substantial discount. A cash donation from you at this time goes a long way in helping Square Pegs continue to operate. For more information:

<http://www.everyonefits.org/donate/>

If I Were  
by Abbey Vixie

If I were a gentle snow  
I would fall softly upon the world.  
I would fly in the air on a cold day.  
I would bring joy to all and when I  
Stop I would leave the world in a  
Soft blanket of white snow.

Animals Truly are Special Beings

*by Amy Bell*

If a child is depressed because of a bad day, the animals will nuzzle with the child continuously until the child is happy again.

If a person gets injured, the animals do anything in their power to heal them.

If someone sheds a tear, the animals will comfort them.

If someone needs a helping hand, the animals will be there.

If someone feels restricted and isolated, an animal will encourage them.

So why are there still people that are cruel to these special beings? They have done nothing to us, so we shouldn't do anything to them.

For people who love animals please give your time to visit your local SPCA or another local shelter, where the animals are the top priority.

Or visit the web site @



<http://www.sPCA.com>



# Wish List

THE SQUARE PEG SUMMER BBQ IS COMING UP AUGUST 25! WE NEED ITEMS FOR RAFFLES AND SILENT AUCTIONS. PLEASE CONTACT LEAH BASSETT OR LEAH FELIZ IF YOU HAVE ITEMS, SERVICES, ETC. TO DONATE!

You will be glad to know that we have had some exciting donations since the last newsletter. Most notably we were donated a Ford F250 XLT 4wd truck from the Ortiz family of Santa Cruz as well as a lovely extra tall two horse trailer from the Haberlin family of Redwood City! We have also received tack, blankets and even a round pen from the local horse community. For this and so much more we thank you so very much!

## OUR WISH LIST INCLUDES:

- tack
- tack trunks
- Nalgene water bottles
- equine wall charts
- bathroom supplies cleaning supplies
- environmentally friendly laundry products
- art supplies
- horse books and videos
- BBQ
- computers (Mac OS)
- horse clippers
- solar powered outdoor lights
- paving tiles for the barn aisle
- planter boxes and flowers
- patio furniture
- adjustable fit helmets
- shovels, pitchforks and wheelbarrows
- jumps
- polo equipment
- AUCTION DONATIONS for our August 25 Event!

Please contact Leah Basset or Leah Feliz if you have items, services etc.

Leah Bassett <[leah\\_cyrus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leah_cyrus@sbcglobal.net)>

Leah Feliz <[leah.feliz@gmail.com](mailto:leah.feliz@gmail.com)>

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE YOU THINK MAY BE USEFUL!

A special Thank You to our Sponsors and Partners.

*Square Peg Foundation is truly grateful to these and other special sponsors and partners.*



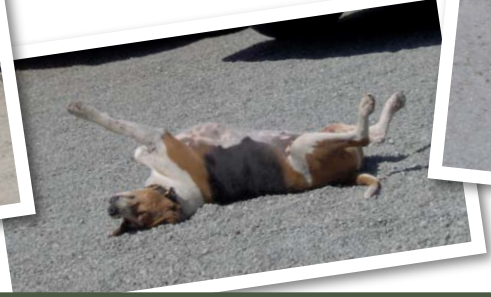
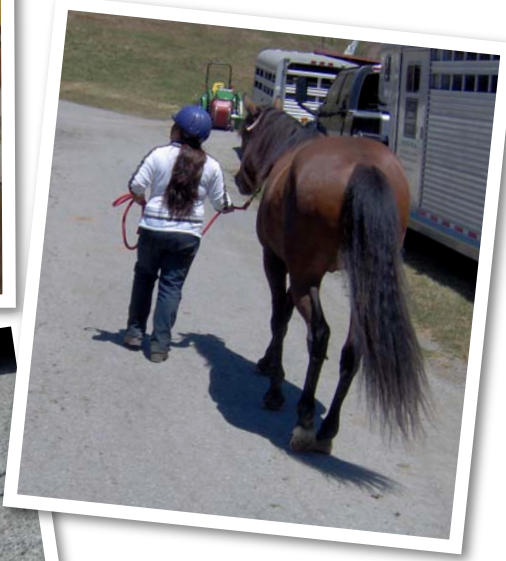
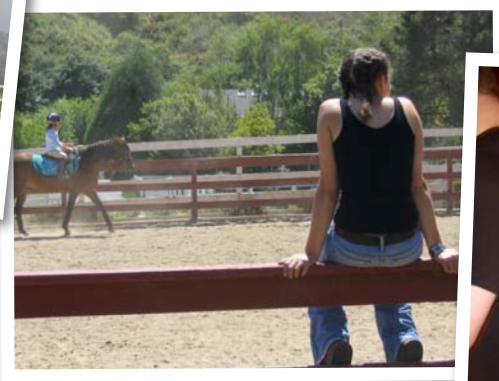
THOROUGHBRED CHARITIES OF AMERICA

- OUR VET: DR. ASHTON CLONINGER, DVM
- Our Equine Dentist: Ben Koertje MCEqD
- Our FANTASTIC Neighbors!
- Our Amazing Volunteers!
- San Mateo County WorkAbility Program
- Dr. Nancy Elliot
- [Jackie Becker, of International Pony Rubs](#)





**Square Peg Bulletin Board:  
Sharing Photos and Quotes. Enjoy**





## Calendar

*July 16 to 20* 2pm to 5:30pm Beginner Camp

*July 24 to 26* JACK BROOK HORSE CAMP

*July 30 to August 3* NO LESSONS

*August 6 to August 10* 10am to 1pm Beginner/Intermediate

*August 6 to August 10* afternoon POLO Camp

*August 13 to August 17* 9:30am to 1pm Beginner/Intermediate

*August 13 to August 17* afternoon Beginner/Intermediate

*August 20 to August 24* afternoon Beginner/ Intermediate

August 25 SUMMER BBQ!

*August 27 to September 7* NO LESSONS - We will be closed to give our horses some well deserved rest.

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