



A Tribute to Ila

The story about a horse with hope

On a cold blustery day in 2008, the Richland County Sheriff's Department received a call to investigate an emaciated horse. An experienced investigator arranged for a local equine rescue to bring a trailer and find a place for the horse to be rehabilitated. And so began the case of a delicate little Arabian mare, who would later be known as Ila.

When the Sheriff's Dept. and rescue arrived, there stood this small gray emaciated mare, helplessly watching as vultures fed on the body of her deceased foal. She was contained in a small dirt pen, with no hay, no food of any kind, and no escape from the horror before her. Her body was covered in open wounds and scars from the abuse she received. Her eyes were wild, and every muscle of her frail body tense and ready to defend herself from what she had been subjected to by humans. She had no reason to believe those who came to help her would be any different. The efforts to catch her were met with every defense she had, wildly kicking out to avoid all contact. After much effort, they were able to calm her and get a blanket on her emaciated body to protect her from the cold. They did their best to assure her that life as she had known it was over. She would never again be subjected to the unspeakable horrors she had lived through.

Although she had little reason to believe them, she reluctantly stepped onto the trailer, as if accepting her fate. Little did she know, her journey toward healing had begun. It wasn't long, however, before the home where she was being rehabilitated called the rescue and said that Ila was too dangerous to be handled. An experienced equine veterinarian went and picked Ila up and brought her to his farm. At the time, he was taking care of a large herd of Arabian horses for the Humane Society that had been seized from another case.



The Humane Society stepped up and accepted responsibility for Ila's care. Ila was moved with the rest of the group to a farm near Camden with beautiful lush pastures where she gained weight and flourished. From here, we worked very hard for several years to find only the best homes for as many of the horses as we could.

Because Ila and a number of others were deemed difficult to handle, the Humane Society decided to keep them as sanctuary horses. Ila learned to accept the company and gentle care of her caregivers.


Ila lived thirteen years in peace and harmony in the company of her friends because of the generosity of our supporters and donors. When she let us know it was time to leave this world due to cancer this past summer, she was humanely released to gain her wings.


We would like to thank all who donate to the Humane Society to make success stories for animals like Ila possible, and all those who assisted us in her care over the years.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS LIKE ILA



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