



## Curly Horse Rescue, Inc.

A 501c (3) Vermont Corporation  
910 US Route 2 Marshfield, VT 05658  
www.curlyrescue.com

### Newsletter

Volume 3, Publication 1 January 2012

## *Annual Meeting*

The Annual Meeting is coming up again in March. It will take place at our member's yahoo group, chrescue@yahogroups.com and is open to all members. The date will be announced soon on the yahoo rescue group and facebook. The meeting can be extended by the Directors if needed to cover items on the agenda. Voting and appointments are made at this time, so don't miss it! If you would like to be considered for one of the positions or nominate someone, please let us know so we can add you to the list of nominees! Positions up for election are as follows:

### **Biennially Elected Positions: To serve 2012-2014**

Position 1: Currently held by Caren Schumann: 2010—2012

Position 2: Currently held by Annise Finch: 2010—2012

Position 3: Currently held by Lisa Whitten: 2010—2012

Members elected to each position will be required to serve a two-year term on the board. Once elected by the membership, your new Board of Directors for 2012 will appoint the following:

### **Annual Appointed Positions**

President: Appointed by the Board. Currently filled by Kay Queen.

Vice President: Appointed by the Board. Currently vacant.

Secretary: Appointed by the Board. Currently filled by Annise Finch

Treasurer: Appointed by the Board. Currently filled by Lisa Whitten.

### **Positions not up for election:**

Position 4: Laurie Lee, currently serving 2011—2013

Position 5: Michelle Ives, currently serving 2011—2013

Position 6: Marion Huurman -deRoos, currently serving 2011—2013

### **Committees (Volunteers needed)**

Fundraising

Public Relations

Adoption and Foster Liaison

Membership

### **Permanent Positions:**

Registered Agent: Adria Halstead—Johnson

### **Website Design**

Volunteer Position. Graciously filled by Michelle Ives

If you donated to Curly Horse Rescue in 2011, and wish to claim it on your taxes, please let us know so we can make sure you receive the proper forms from us.

**Curly Horse Rescue would like to thank everyone who supported us by giving donations and gifts, fostering a horse, adopting a horse, or helping with a rescue.**

# The “New Age Fad” in horsekeeping – the Slow Feeder

## Article submitted by Michelle Ives



Photo: [www.slowgrazer.com](http://www.slowgrazer.com)

Horses are grazers, on that we all agree. The Mustangs roam the plains on sparse, dry native grasses, taking a step, a small nibble, another step, another small nibble. They cover miles each day nibbling away at what most humans consider to be low-quality feed. Mustangs manage very well in this manner, which is why they are a successful feral animal in North America.

Mustangs are really no different from our domesticated horses. They are descended from the same horses that we are using in our favorite breeds

today. Sure, they may have more “hybrid vigor” than our pampered show ponies, but their anatomy and physiology is the same.

Put those horses into a relatively small property (most of us do not own an entire State for our horses to roam on), and feed them selectively bred high-sugar grass hay, and its no wonder we have horses who are insulin resistant, founder prone, white line disease, and other auto-immune diseases. They are eating FAR more sugars than their physiology was ever designed to handle.

We know that horses need to have forage in front of them all day and night. Most of us know that a horse without forage is more prone to ulcers, not to mention stereotypical behaviors like cribbing (which, incidentally, is a symptom of equine gastric ulcers), but also weaving, pawing, wood-chewing, and just causing general mayhem out of boredom or hunger. We also know that a horse with hay in front of them is a horse that is toasty warm in winter, but a horse that runs out of hay during the coldest weather, is a horse that will be found shivering in the morning.

So what do we do? Either risk fat horses with laminitis, or feed them less and our horses are in pain from gastric ulcers. It seems as if we have to choose the lesser of the evils. But some innovative horse owners have created some great Slow Feeding products, designed to slow down how fast horses consume their hay.



Photo: <http://thenaturalfeeder.com/>

Have you ever planned your entire day around having to deliver hay 5 times a day to your horses in cold weather, trudging outside in blizzard conditions or sub-zero temperatures at midnight to throw that last pile of hay before bed? Slow Hay Feeders have solved that problem. These products are designed to slow down how fast a horse consumes their hay. Rather than taking big mouthfuls of hay and devouring a 12 hour ration in a couple of hours, they can only nibble at a few strands at a time, mimicking how they would be picking at dry grasses on the prairie. Not only do they slow down the amount of time that it takes to consume a few flakes of hay, a side-effect of their use is to reduce waste considerably. The horses no longer use their pile of hay as a bed or bathroom, it doesn't get blown away in the wind, or trampled into the mud. Personally, I have also noticed my horses needing less dental work since using the hay feeders. The horses use their incisors to bite at the hay from the bag like they would grazing, rather than picking up big mouthfuls with their lips only if the hay is left on the ground.



## Types of Feeders

There are as many types of feeders as there are types of horseowners! I have seen some very innovative designs on the 'net. Many owners have created their own systems, using anything from wooden boxes of many different designs, to barrels cut in half, with mesh grids on top usually made of some kind of wire grid system that settles down on top of the hay as it is eaten. These are a great, inexpensive way to slow down your horses feeding. My concern would be the horses teeth wearing from the constant biting at the metal grate to get at the hay bits sticking out. Some of these, also, require the horse to put its entire head into a box or barrel as it gets low, which is a risk of respiratory problems, and others are designed with the grid on the side and the hay inserted at an angle so it slides forward as its eaten to the front of the box. The photos I have seen of horse seating this way, show the horses head and neck twisted at an unnatural angle to get at the hay.

<http://paddockparadise.wetpaint.com/page/Slow+Feeders>

I have seen people use the old-fashioned "cheapie" hay nets, sometimes doubling the nets to make the holes smaller. These nets usually don't last long, the horses often break and tear at the netting easily, and they also can be an entanglement hazard as the net drops down and becomes loose. Some other innovative folks have built big systems of soccer nets or badminton nets strung between trees and filled with hay.

The nets that I prefer are called Nibble Nets. They are made with a thick, vinyl backing used to make patio furniture, boat covers, hot air balloons, etc. The vinyl stays soft and supple even in sub-zero temperatures. The front of the bag is made of a heavy nylon strapping, sewn in a grid leaving square openings of 2", 1.5" or 1.25", depending on how nimble your horses lips are! The bags are not inexpensive, but I have had my bags in use for almost 4 years now, used 24/7/365, and only have they just started to have a small bit of stitching start to come out. These bags have been outside in over 100 degree temps down to -10F, in snow, rain, and ice, hurricanes, mud, many feet of snow, etc., and I have never had a problem with them, other than finding them under the snow! My Curlies have routinely picked them up, flipped them, dragged them and trampled them, and they are still going strong. These bags have paid for themselves many times over just in hay saved, not to mention my time.



<http://paddockparadise.wetpaint.com/page/Slow+Feeders>



Photo: Michelle Ives

I no longer have to feed my horses 5 times a day in the winter. I fill bags in the morning, and I fill bags in the evening, and my horses are always satisfied by the next feeding. It always bothered me to see my horses frantically digging for their next meal, milling about and chasing each other around for that first bite of hay. That no longer happens! Sometimes they don't even bother to head out to the fresh hay, because they just aren't hungry. And I'm feeding less hay than I was before using the nets. I built feeders out of sturdy pallets that I cut in half, screwed a piece of plywood to the top, and installed 4 eye bolts. I snap all 4 corners of the Nibble Net down onto the pallet, and I can easily move their feeding station around, inside in bad weather, outside in good weather. And they eat with their heads down, which is better for their teeth, necks, and respiratory system.

They do learn to pull hay out of the nets pretty fast. Some faster than others, and I always take time to teach them how to eat from the nets at first, leaving some hay out so they don't go hungry while they figure it out. But they have all figured it out with no problems. My cleanup is easier, the time I spend feeding them is minimized, and most importantly, their stresses around feeding no longer exist!

Here is a website with some great reviews and ideas on the different types of slow down feeders.

<http://paddockparadise.wetpaint.com/page/Slow+Feeders>



Photo: Michelle Ives



Photo: Michelle Ives



Head on over to our page at facebook and let us know how you feed your hay!

<http://www.facebook.com/CurlyRescue>

CHR Foster  
Horses Ready For  
Adoption!



**Red:**

Red was rescued by CHR from the broker lot on Memorial Day, 2011. He is about 4 years old, and is friendly and polite, however he would not be recommended for a beginner at this time.  
\$550.00

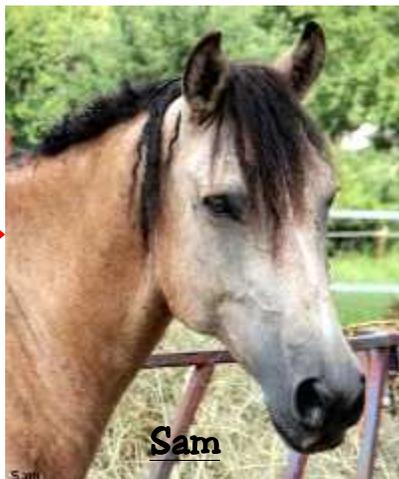


**Bella**

Bella is doing well in her foster home with Michelle. She is a very friendly mare that just loves attention! She is an older mare and will need a little extra TLC to keep her in good condition.  
Price still pending.

Don't forget! You can sponsor a Foster Horse. Head on over to our webpage at [www.curlyrescue.com](http://www.curlyrescue.com) Click on the "support" tab. Shop our etsy store, shop using I-give, or make a donation straight to us by either sending a check, or using the paypal service. You can mark it as a general donation, or mark it for a particular horse, or even specify whether it is for vaccinations, worming, coggins, vet care, feed, etc. Check with your state, donations may be tax deductible.

CHR Foster Horses  
Ready For Adoption!  
\$500.00 each



Sam



Two Two



Cinder Ella

For More information on these horses, please visit our website at:

[www.curlyrescue.com](http://www.curlyrescue.com)

Or contact us at :

[contact@curlyrescue.com](mailto:contact@curlyrescue.com)



T-Bar

## CHR Adopted Horses



CHR Woody

CHR would like to congratulate Caren Schumann on the adoption of Woody! Woody is heading to his interim home with Marion Huurman de-Roos and then on to Germany where he will live with Caren. We know that Woody will love his new home!

Heather Hillhouse sent in these photos of her and Argo, now named Mulligan Murphy.



Looks like Murphy is enjoying his new life with Heather and Todd!