



# PONY UP EXPRESS

An update from the Circle P Sanctuary

Nov 2015

## Happy Holidays at the P!

We have been a little spoiled with the weather this fall but winter is certainly around the corner. We would like to thank everyone who came out and helped get the barn ready for the dwindling temperatures by putting away our summer water buckets and fans and bringing out the heated buckets and organizing our hay bags! We really appreciate everyone's hard work!

### Tips for working in cold weather

- Wear lots of layers! You can always take clothing off if you are hot but can't add clothing if you don't have it with you!
- Protect your extremities! In cold weather your body will conserve its body heat to your core to keep vital organs warm while reducing the amount of heat sent to your fingers and toes. Warm, dry socks and gloves are needed!
- Take frequent short breaks in a dry place out of the cold wind.
- Use the buddy system! If you have to work outside alone make sure someone else knows where you are and approximately how long you should be out there.

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*"The Circle P is an AMAZING place! What they do and how they do it IS truly amazing! They do everything with a smile and a helpful hand..."*

*- Mark Clark, Supporter*

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Miss Scarlett catching snowflakes last winter!

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## Exercising in the Winter

Don't let the colder weather keep you from exercising your horse! Often times horses are confined in the winter and may have a more limited turn out schedule and they will need the exercise to keep their minds and bodies in good shape!

Use caution when riding outdoors; keep out of deep snow which can lead to tendon injuries and stay clear of icy areas.

The biggest challenge is cooling down your horse afterwards. It can be very dangerous to a horse to be placed in a cold stall after becoming sweaty during winter exercise without a cooler on to wick away the moisture to speed drying time and prevent a chill during the cool down. You may consider doing a Trace clip (see picture) to keep the hair coat trimmed which will also reduce cool down time. Keep in mind that horses that are clipped will require more feed to accommodate increasing energy to keep warm and blankets and shelter will be needed until the spring warm up. Also by blanketing you are disrupting the growth of the hair coat and it may take years, if ever, to recover back to its natural thickness.



Trace clipping pattern. Photo courtesy Dr.Carey Williams, Rutgers University

## Winter care for your Horse

Horses have vastly different feed and shelter requirements in the winter than they do in the summer. In an article put out by the University of Minnesota by Macia Hathaway, PhD and Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota states that the energy needs for a horse at maintenance is 1% higher for each degree under 18F assuming they have a normal winter coat. For example, if the temperature is 0°F, a 1,000 pound idle, adult horse would need an approximately 2 additional pounds of forage daily. Regular body condition scoring is a must during the winter months as a heavy hair coat can actually hide weight loss. Here at the Circle P our staff uses a weight tape monthly in the winter to monitor weight loss (or gain) through numbers, as well as the way the horse looks and feels to the touch with the body condition scoring method. Water intake requirements also increase as hay and pelleted feed have much less moisture content than plush grass will. Snow and ice are also not adequate sources of water for consumption. Colic can be a reality for those horses who are not able to drink enough water and fecal impaction can occur over several days. Fresh, clean water should be offered at all times as well as salt blocks or even loose salt to encourage drinking. Shelter is also needed in the winter. Horses can tolerate temperatures as low as 0 F. Most horses will use a shelter in breezy conditions or when there is the presence of snow or rain. According to the same article mentioned above A general rule of thumb for run-in or open-front shed size is 240 square feet for 2 horses (i.e. 12 x 20 feet) and 60 square feet (i.e. an additional 10 x 6 feet) for each additional horse. These recommendations assume horses housed together get along well.



Gale after putting on approximately 200 lbs. in 3 months with us!

## Season of Giving

We had great success with our online fundraising through Booster with our Hoodie sales. We are currently also selling photo calendars online featuring Photography by [Melissa Ramsey](#) of our sanctuary animals. All proceeds from these and other fundraisers go directly to the care of our sanctuary animals. And remember, any contributions given directly to us via our website or mail can receive a tax deductible receipt! Visit us at [www.circlepsanctuary.org](http://www.circlepsanctuary.org) and click the donations link to give today!

## Welcome Gale

Gale came to the sanctuary as a humane case in August 2015 weighing only 595# with a body condition scoring of 1 (9 being the highest and 4.5 being the ideal). After recovering with us for 3 months the humane society transferred her to our program with the hopes that she would continue to recover and one day be adopted through our sanctuary adoption process.

### Gale today

Today Gale is at a healthy weight and a good body condition score and has gained a lot of confidence. She enjoys running around the pasture fields with the other horses and is a beautiful mover! Gale still has a ways to go before she is completely recovered but she is getting stronger every day.

### Gale tomorrow

As Gale continues to recover and starts to regulate herself with forage this winter our plan is to have her healthy and ready to start working with her at the equine center in the spring. She will have an assessment to see if she has had any previous training both on groundwork and in the saddle and our trainers will come up with a plan for training her. Once we see how much she knows and can handle we will get a better idea of what she will be capable of in the future.



Circle P Sanctuary 2016



Gale at intake on 8/12/15



# Great Big thank you to our supporters!

We couldn't do it without the support of our wonderful volunteers. This year so far we have had over 800 hours of volunteer time! That is truly amazing. We also have a few business that help support us and we would like to support them as well! Please click on our business sponsors below to be redirected to their site!



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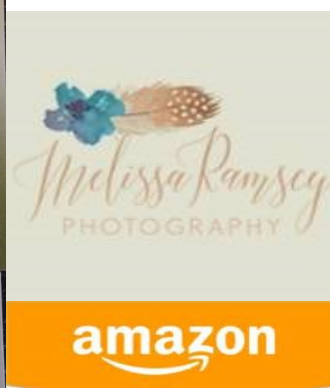
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Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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and YouTube!

Looking for a place to take lessons, enjoy a trail ride or lease a horse? Check out The Circle P Ranch! The Circle P Ranch is the LLC that is home to the Circle P Sanctuary. Lesson and horse training packages are available as well as daily riding of our horses and we welcome the public to haul in their own horses to use our facilities for a small rental fee. Check out our website at

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

## Upcoming Events:

- Volunteer Orientation:  
December 13th 1-3pm
- Open Barn:  
December 20th 1-4pm