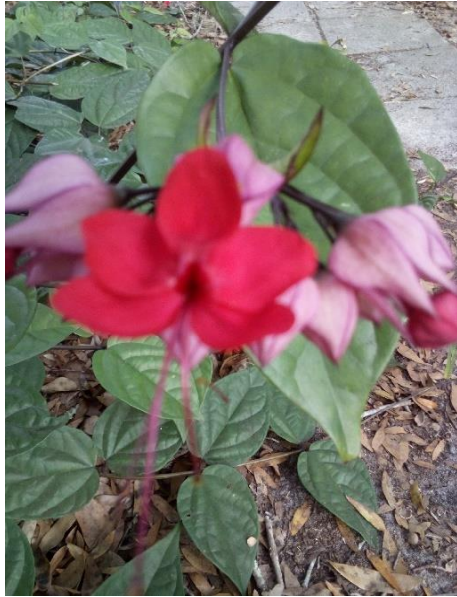


HAPPY NEW YEAR to ALL!!

Welcome back to our regulars & welcome in newcomers!! *HAPPY NEW YEAR & SMILES TO Y'ALL!*

Closing out a year & ringing in a new is supposed to mean change. My hope for 2025 is to learn how to include 'links' in our newsletter & to finally add more to our beautiful website! I am ready to begin web additions, but learning more IT 'stuff' is a much larger challenge to me, than to most. LOL



1



2



3

Entering our 2 coldest months brings nature in her amazing grace. **#1** I waited over a month for this to bloom, taking daily pictures for my own fun. Then, on the coldest day we had in December, this lovely, tiny, flower saw fit to raise her head. Still in bloom, the blossoms take turns opening on each of our chilliest days. **#3** is a plant my camera could not give justice to. As we fed early on a recent morning, the rising sun glimmered upon a shining bright red plant. By evening it was subdued. By the following day it looked like any winter growth. I am forever grateful our eyes were gifted with the brief moment of joy for this winter bloom. **#2** is our heart of hearts... When individuals from various situations of neglect or abuse come together to share their lives & stories, is what our sanctuary is all about; & what my own heart is all about. These 3 horses are part of a herd of 12. There are 16 buckets filled with feed for every meal, yet the peace & comfort they find in sharing has overtaken their fears of starvation... What a fulfilling sight.

Along with the comfort of kinship also comes responsibility. When a life is given nutrition, safe medications as needed, & an abundance of emotional support, many good things can happen. One of which is our longstanding history of animals making it to their elder years even when some stepped into our lives on the brink of disaster.

Dida is but one of those who defied aging. In 2022, a farrier friend offered some hoof trims. Rightly impressed with her age & condition, I asked him to take a closer look. He had trimmed this mare in 2003 as well! The light of remembrance came to his eyes, astounded at how much she looked the same, 20 years later.



2003



2015

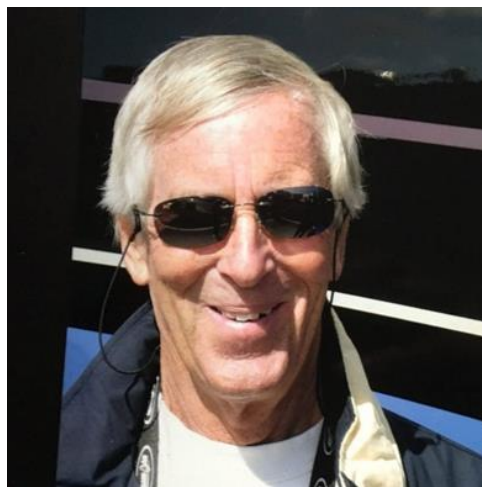


2023 age 38

In 2017 a long-standing, dear friend was stricken with the sudden passage of her beloved, soulmate husband. Carl Jensen – a winning driver & official for Road America Racing, was also everything to his wife, Ellie. Horse lover & race car enthusiast merged their lives with each other, then... with ours. In Carl's honor, Ellie helped Equestrian Spirits form the Carl Jensen Memorial Farm Fund.



Meet Carl on his 'Mad Bike' & namesake, CarlBob.



Ellie in the camper she donated to us in 2016, Smiley Carl & Ellie in Germany with Reiner Klimke

The Carl Jensen Memorial Farm Fund (CJMFF) places all donations towards various Sanctuary welfare projects, feeds & medical supplies. Since our Board of Director is all volunteer, every penny of support goes directly to the animals & their well-being. Founded in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) Forever Home, your donations are tax deductible.

As we enter into a new year, hopes of rebuilding our medical inventory & possibly resuming our educational programs will all benefit from CJMFF. There is so much more to share!



Ahlix 2006 at home at our farm recovering at UF Hospital fully recovered 2014

In 2003 I was blessed to have a wonderful rescue companion join my life. As a Kangal Dog, his gentle, mellow attitude about everything was a calming effect for me & an attitude that also helped to save his life. 2 failed adoptions when I met him as one of a handful of dogs harbored by a cat rescue, our meeting was nearly accidental. Ahlix lay on the cool pet store floor, sound asleep. My heart skipped a beat & I knew he would come home with me. Because of his double failed adoptions, he was donated to me & our time together began. At 1 year of age, he was already neutered & healthy after being salvaged with his rescued litter. Then in 2012 Ahlix was involved in an unusual auto accident. Rushed to emergency in Ocala, Florida, his prognosis was poor. With a 4-way displaced pelvic fracture & a punctured bladder on a 10-year-old 60-pound dog, I was advised to stop the nearly hopeless situation from escalating.

Animal lovers everywhere can be faced with that same decision. Many wonder, even years later, if we made the right choice. In this case, Ahlix wanted to live. The attending surgeon was not overly comfortable with my choice but she did note an eager attitude she saw in Ahlix's eyes. He spent the night at the ER receiving the very best care they could provide & in the morning, not only had he not 'crashed', but was more alert & responsive. The surgeon herself transported him to the main hospital at the University of Florida. Long story short, Ahlix underwent reparative surgery & went home to live out several more years in comfort, still within my arms. Some decisions evade us. In this instance, Ahlix was protected by outstanding veterinary care & his own quiet demeanor to carry him through.



last month I asked why we chose Pepsi. Only one responder but the answer was correct! This is a closeup of a star belonging to a rather kookie pinto sport horse called, you guessed it, *Pepsi*! A great trail horse, companion to colts & stallions, the love of her life for our working student, Athena,

now part of ES co-founder Polly's life, this noble steed spent his show years almost exclusively in a bitless bridle, enjoyed silly costume classes & proved his athleticism by racing (& winning) on a regular basis, with his best friend... a son of world class racing parents.



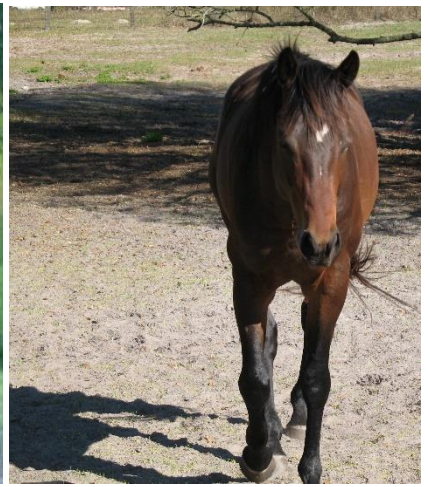
Now meet Ziggi & Zhighi! A handsome, kind, Fjord horse & an opossum, taming himself to enter our house at will, eat (& make a mess of) our cat foods! Gotta love 'em both!



Fjords are small draft horses from Norway. One of the oldest breeds in the world, known for strength & excellent temperament as a working farm horse as well as riding & driving for pleasure or competition.



Opossums eat ticks, don't get Lymes disease & hardly ever get rabies. They are fastidious & eat just about everything! Incited by fear, they 'play dead', which is an automatic response not an 'act'. They cannot control when they 'play possum' or for how long, sometimes even hours. They also eat snakes & with the exception of a Coral snake, they are immune to venom. As a much more friendly, social animal than many think, we welcome them to our farm. Zhighi knows his name & comes nightly to feed. If our door is open, he comes in, climbs onto a platform where we feed cats, who often sit nearby, patiently awaiting their turn. Zhighi himself is neat but has a habit of making crumbs which we clean up & offer the birds. The center picture is not of his hiss (which he no longer does around us) but it is a yawn. Shortly after, he waddled off to take a nap, often returning several times throughout the night...



Families who can remain together are a gift not offered often enough.



When we say we speak with fowl language... we mean it! Our roosters & hens great us daily, sharing their songs & eggs, reveling in their seeds & salads, snacking on bugs (yeah!) & keeping watch on us all. For years we have been naming our birds after people who cross our path, who have really cool names. One of my plans for our website expansion is to increase our poultry section, featuring our nifty feathered family & the names they have chosen predominantly from strangers on the other end of a phone question. From our power company to Chewy or Insurance Company reps, critters get to enjoy a connection to moments of kindness & information how they got their names. Then cackle, or crow on!





next challenge...what is happening here & what is it about doves?

I must once again offer deep gratitude to another special friend who brought us this far. Animalloverjan may now be in the spirit world, but her role in the lives of many of our residents, will never be forgotten.



Co-owner of Sanctuary horses, Spiritt & Fhanzhi, as well as a medical supporter for Tomi, Shamm, Ahlix & others in their times of need, Jan's heart flowed into all she loved. Running a private cat rescue while living with a pet (rescued) chicken, she held out her hand to anyone she could reach.



Please consider donating to **Carl Jensen Memorial Farm Fund** or **Save the Animals** by visiting our website: www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG All proceeds go only to the animals, as our board is unpaid. Donations cover food, medicines, items like blankets, bandages & other health care needs.



May the spirits who guard us, be pleased with our intent... & let each heart, travel free

Newsletter for Equestrian Spirits, Inc. 501(c)(3) EIN: 35-2384797 (863) 368-0775

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Very sincerely, and in the spirit of all who have gone on before me... many thanks for your interest - Laurie L. Wolf
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