

Your Town

Weather | traffic | transit

search GO

FRAMINGHAM

Text size - +

Rescued from slaughter, ponies need home

Posted December 16, 2009 12:57 PM

E-mail | Link|Comments ()



(Courtesy: Hannah Weaver)

Two young ponies, Valentine (left) and Diamond, were rescued last week from a New Jersey kill pen and need a permanent home.

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Two young ponies saved from a New Jersey kill pen last week are enjoying their temporary home in Framingham while their rescuer searches for a permanent caretaker.

Hannah Weaver, a 22-year-old Somerville resident and Framingham middle school teacher, saved the two black ponies from slaughter for \$150 each after learning of their potential fate and seeing pictures of them on an [online horse dressage discussion board](#).

"I was just horrified," said Weaver in a phone interview today from Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School, where she teaches French. "These two just really caught me, and caught my emotions and my heart."

But because it costs more than \$500 per month to board the horses at Hanson's Farm in Framingham and because she has her own horse, Ada, to pay and care for, Weaver is now looking to find the pair of ponies a new home.

"I would love to keep them, but it's just not financially viable for me right now," she said. "I just want to find them a good home."

Weaver went to rescue the two ponies on Dec. 6 with a woman she had met through the online dressage community, Kris Conquest of New Hampshire, who had a horse trailer to transport Valentine and Diamond back to Massachusetts.

Around 60 horses were auctioned off that day at the Camelot Auction House in New Jersey and 28 of them were headed to an out-of-country meat market. However, all 28 were rescued by various people, including Weaver's boyfriend, Jarrett Lerner, 22, who paid \$200 to save a male horse named Live In Hope which was immediately given a permanent home by a Maryland woman.

The owner and operator of the Camelot Auction House, Frank Carper, said the number of people selling horses at auctions has increased due to the recession and the high cost of owning and caring for horses. So efforts to rescue horses

THINGS TO DO IN FRAMINGHAM »

UPCOMING EVENTS

BROWSE

- Arts & Crafts
- Community
- Food & Dining
- Performing Arts
- Shopping
- Sports & Outdoors

ADVERTISEMENT

BOSTON.COM TWITTER ACCOUNTS »



Waiting for twitter.com to feed in the latest...

Follow other Boston.com Tweets | What is Twitter?

that are sold to meat markets have risen as well.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) took in around 21 horses in 2007 and 39 last year; that total has nearly doubled so far this year as 68 have been given a home at Nevins Farm in Methuen, said MSPCA spokeswoman Heather Robertson.

"Anyone in the equine world can tell you there are a lot of horses out there in need this year," she said. "We take in every animal under any circumstance."

The nonprofit relies on donations to care for the animals they take in and then try to find people to adopt the animals.

With the help of her students, Weaver named the two female ponies Valentine and Diamond because of white markings on their foreheads that are heart- and diamond-shaped.

Both ponies, which are around 6 years old, are 14 hands and one inch, or 57 inches, tall. The cutoff between a pony and a horse is 14 hands and 3 inches. Valentine and Diamond do not have much training; but they are healthy, Weaver said. They show signs that they may have been abused in the past, such as being initially shy around humans.

However, "they're both friendly and curious. So they're warming up to having people around," said Weaver, who visits them most days to groom and train them. "I really think they're going to be great for someone."

Ideally, she would want Valentine and Diamond to remain together and go to someone who already owns or is experienced with horses.

Weaver, who graduated from Boston University earlier this year, grew up in Springfield, Ill., and rode horses as a young girl until, at age 13, she fell off while riding. She suffered a concussion and her parents would not allow her to continue.

But her love for horses never subsided. Around two years ago she began riding again and bought her own horse in June 2009.

Weaver said she hopes to continue saving as many horses from slaughter as she can, and "I hope one day I'll be able to keep the horses I save forever."

Those interested in giving Valentine and Diamond a permanent home can contact Weaver at weaverhm@gmail.com.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached mrocheleau@globe.com.



(Courtesy: Hannah Weaver)

Framingham middle school teacher Hannah Weaver, 22, of Somerville, on her 5-year-old horse Ada.

 [Comment](#)

 [Permalink](#)

 [E-mail](#)

[◀ Previous entry](#)

[Next entry ▶](#)