



A place of *healing*



Mark Vlen/Democrat-Herald

Cindy Kingsberry checks on Shelby and her 3-month-old colt AJ. At top, horses find shade from the hot sun on the ranch. For more photos of the ranch, see A2.

Nonprofit rehabilitates abused, abandoned horses

BY CATHY INGALLS

ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

LEBANON — Cindy Kingsberry of Lebanon grew up around horse people and never saw them abuse or neglect their animals.

As she got older, she was disheartened to see that other horse owners weren't as kind.

"I felt bad for those horses so I decided to help," said Kingsberry, who with the assistance of volunteers operates Linn County Animal Rescue, a nonprofit, independent organization formed in 2008 to rehabilitate for adoption neglected, abused and abandoned horses.

Those that are too old or aren't suitable for new homes are cared for until they die.

"It's so worth it to see them come in here skinny and sad and leave happy and at a good weight," she said.

Kingsberry doesn't want to say where LCAR

is located because sometimes people whose horses have been confiscated show up at her property gate angry, but so far the anger hasn't escalated.

LCAR always needs funds to operate but now Kingsberry and the group's spokeswoman, Tiffany Welch of Corvallis, are put-

ting out a special plea for money to purchase materials to build a \$5,000 addition to the stalls, where horses aged 15 and older are kept.

Volunteers will build the barn plus a training arena and they hope to get the work done before the cold and rain arrive.

Donations also are needed to buy grain and hay — the horses eat about a ton of hay a day — and to cover the costs associated with visits from volunteer farriers and veterinarians.

Currently, 60 horses are on the 53-acre property along with two donkeys. Many of the animals were confiscated by sheriffs in

Linn, Lincoln and Washington counties. All are in different stages of recovery.

On a recent day, six volunteers were feeding the horses, mucking out stalls and getting the horses that can walk easily out to pasture. There are always stalls to clean because horses generate

plenty of manure. Gardeners and farmers who want the free manure just have to make arrangements to pick it up.

Kingsberry says she and the volunteers rarely get a break but no one seems to mind because they are so dedicated to helping the horses.

The oldest horses at LCAR are 35, and the youngest is AJ, a 3-month old paint colt. He'll be ready for adoption when he is weaned in three months from his 21-year-old mother, Shelby.

To help the older horses get their exercise, LCAR operates a program where "city kids" ride the senior animals and at the same time learn how to care for a horse.

Twenty-five of the horses are ready to go to new homes. Before anyone can adopt, however, they must pass a background check to ensure that they have no animal abuse convictions and their property will be checked out to determine if the accommodations would suit a horse.

LCAR is waiving adoption fees through the end of October in an effort to make room for other horses. Normally, the cost ranges from \$100 to \$500. The fee is based on how much training and medical help a horse needs.

Besides working at the shelter, other volunteer opportunities include making presentations, participating in community events, helping raise money and serving on the board of directors.

To make a tax-deductible donation by credit card, go to the group's website, www.lcarhorse.org. Donations also can be sent to LCAR, P.O. Box 2669, Lebanon, OR 97355.

For more information about the rescue operation, call 541-258-3422.

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CINDY KINGSBERRY
LINN COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE

Horsing around



Sharon Carter of Waterloo feeds a horse a carrot while tending stalls at the Linn County Animal Rescue ranch. At left, Cindy Kingsberry escorts a horse out to pasture. The organization is hoping to build on the Linn County site to help house the 60 horses in rehabilitation.

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PHOTOS BY
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