



## RYERSS Farm for Aged Equines

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### Ryerss Farm Places Foals in New Careers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coventryville, PA (July 22, 2004)—Once again Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines is readying for the arrival of a trailer full of youngsters for the farm's sixth annual North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC) Foal Adoption Program. The young horses come from North Dakota and past adoptees have found careers as companion animals, trail horses, and even competition mounts. The sky is the limit for these foals once they are adopted by their new owners.

Jean Lewis, of Pennsylvania, knows the adoption process well; she has taken home three foals from Ryerss already. Jean's "love affair" with Ryerss NAERIC foals started in 2002 when she read in the local paper about the foals making their way from North Dakota to the farm in rural Pottstown, PA. Jean had recently purchased a farm and her dreams of owning horses again just like she had when she was younger were about to be realized.

Jean first put in an application for a foal, describing her needs and what she planned to do with the foal once it had been adopted. Weeks later, her foal arrived, along with 49 others. She went to Ryerss to see which foal had been chosen for her to take

home and, to her delight, she saw Sebastian. Sebastian is a Percheron/Spotted Draft horse cross, which means he is big, beautiful, and black.

Not long after Jean brought Sebastian home, she noticed some unique behaviors. Sebastian followed her around the pasture and even learned to shake hooves like a dog shakes its paw. Shortly thereafter, Jean knew that she wanted more foals just like him and she knew just the place to go to.

Fast forward to the fall of 2003 and Jean found herself in the midst of the adoption process again. This time Ryerss had selected Slim for her. Slim was another Percheron/Spotted Draft cross, but Jean was not quite sure she wanted to be his new owner just yet. She looked around at some of the other foals that were still unspoken for and fell in love at first sight with Gunther, a Percheron/Quarter Horse cross that is more Quarter Horse than Percheron.

Gunther went back to Jean's farm to live with Sebastian as a pleasure horse and a companion. Jean though, began to feel guilty. Ryerss had selected Slim for her to take home and love and she soon realized that he deserved a chance too. So Jean headed back to Ryerss Farm two weeks later and brought Slim home to live with the others.

"If I had enough room I would go back and get more," said Jean. "I could have brought them all home."

Earnest Jackson of New Jersey knows just what Jean is talking about. He heard about the foal adoption program through word of mouth among friends. Earlier, Earnest had adopted a Standardbred from the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. He wanted to find a companion for his horse and thought adopting again would be the best route for

him to go. The internet proved useful, as Earnest researched Ryerss and downloaded an application for the 2003 foal adoption program and sent it in.

When Earnest got the call that the foals had arrived, he raced over to Ryerss to pick up his new foal. The lady waiting there for him was a Percheron/Paint cross named Shotguns Jubilee or Jewel.

“Jewel thinks that she’s a dog,” Jackson explained. “She follows me all over the yard like a puppy.”

Like Jean, Earnest would love to add some playmates for Jewel and his Standardbred but he just does not have enough room right now. Jewel’s growth spurts do not help the situation either. Earnest boasts that she is already 15 hands tall at one year of age and still has a lot of growing to do.

“She is a big girl,” Earnest joked.

Earnest would definitely recommend foal adoption to anyone and in fact already has. He likes the versatility of his new friend most of all. Earnest plans to do western pleasure with Jewel and train her to pull a buggy in a few years.

“She’ll make a good carriage horse,” he said.

Earnest believes that a horse is a stress reliever. He must be pretty stress free these days considering he says he “couldn’t be happier” with his decision to adopt a horse.

As Ryerss 2004 adoption approaches, Jean Lewis’s Sebastian is already two. Lewis has already saddled and ridden Sebastian and to her delight he is just as much a gentleman under tack as he is on the ground being fussed over and loved.

“I brag about my babies to everyone,” gushed Lewis. “I wouldn’t take a million dollars for them.”

The cost to take home a foal of your very own in 2004 is \$750 plus a \$10 application fee. The foals will be selected in August and are due to arrive at the Farm in September. It is best to apply early because those who do will have a chance to indicate their preferences about the type of foal in which they are most interested. Some foals may be available for adoption after they arrive at the farm.

If you are interested in learning more about adopting a foal from Ryerss Farm for the Aged Equines or need to download an application for the 2004 program, please visit [www.ryerss.com](http://www.ryerss.com). The farm can also be reached toll free by phone at 866-469-0507.

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\*Editors: Images to accompany this press release are available for download from [www.equineresources.com](http://www.equineresources.com) in the Equine Writers’ Resource section.