

THE TAOS NEWS

ANIMALES

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# A little spring cleaning provides good gardening fertilizer

By Ruth Bourgeois

We are welcoming spring-time at Equine Spirit Sanctuary with some special events as we begin preparing for our summer programs. Join us on Saturday (April 15) starting at 10 a.m. for our annual spring cleaning. We will also be disposing of the winter manure pile. The sanctuary now has a wonderful new tractor for loading this nicely aged garden fertilizer onto trailers or trucks.

On Friday (April 21), come visit us at Cid's Food Market, 623 Paseo del Pueblo Norte. Weather permitting, ESS therapy donkeys Bindy and Marley will be there to meet and greet visitors while volunteers talk about our upcoming events and programs.

On Saturday (April 22), the sanctuary is participating in the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals Help A Horse Day with an open barn/open house. The public is invited to meet all of our equines and find out all the many ways to help horses. There will be a nice assortment of horse supplies with everything from Western and English saddles to blankets and brushes at our used tack and equipment sale. Interested in learning more about horses? There will be free informational handouts available on everything horse related – feeding, health, hoof care, shelter and basic requirements for horses and much more.

Anyone who has ever wanted to own a horse or simply wants to spend some time with a horse should not miss this event. Equine Spirit Sanctuary offers many opportunities for any level of horse experience and any interest in horses. Since its inception in 2005, ESS has taken in more than 65 equines.



Courtesy photo

**Bindy and Marley, therapy donkeys, with Equine Spirit Sanctuary Director Ruth Bourgeois.**

From horse rescue and rehabilitation, ESS also offers programs for people, including therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapy.

ESS is hosting two barefoot hoof-trimming clinics this year. The first will be April 27, with

farrier Ida Hammer. This hands-on clinic is limited to eight participants and there are just a few openings left. Contact Ruth at ESS if you are interested in this. Then on April 28, Hammer will present a four-hour educational clinic designed to help horse

owners or other professionals to understand the horse's hoof. Topics covered include: understanding the natural hoof and natural locomotion and their effects on your horse; how a healthier hoof can change your horse's performance; why having a natural hoof is more than just pulling the shoes; instruction on using hoof boots and the variety available; subtle changes you can make so you can continue to ride your horse immediately after the removal of horseshoes; conditions such as navicular, founder, white line disease and club foot. The cost of this clinic is \$50 with half of the proceeds going to benefit ESS. There is not a limit on participants for this clinic. To register for the "Exploring the Equine Hoof" clinic, visit [mackinawdells2.com/registration.html](http://mackinawdells2.com/registration.html). For more info about Hammer's clinics, see [mackinawdells2.com/exploring-the-equine-hoof.html](http://mackinawdells2.com/exploring-the-equine-hoof.html).

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The second hoof-trimming clinic will be a two-day clinic focused on hoof rehabilitation with Pete Ramey October 21 and 22. For more information, go to [hoofrehab.com/PeteRameyWorkshops.htm](http://hoofrehab.com/PeteRameyWorkshops.htm). These two clinics offer an excellent opportunity for horse owners to learn the skills necessary to trim their own horses' hooves and in-depth instruction for anyone who may be interested in becoming a barefoot hoof trimmer.

*Equine Spirit Sanctuary open days for visitors and volunteers are Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Bourgeois at Equine Spirit Sanctuary (575) 758-1212 or go to [equinespiritsanctuary.org](http://equinespiritsanctuary.org) or [facebook.com/equinespiritsanctuary](http://facebook.com/equinespiritsanctuary).*