

## In the News

### Horse Network

#### “Charlie: The Complex Horse Who Inspired a Retiree Back Into the Saddle — and Prevented Brain Rot”



When Pennsylvania retiree Joni Miller first met rescue horse Charlie during her time volunteering at Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR) in Woodbine, Maryland, it was not love at first sight — Miller couldn't even catch the wily nine-year-old Thoroughbred in the field. Yet, what started as an elusive, complex relationship became a life-enriching experience for Miller, a secure future for Charlie, and even spawned a fundraising book.

Charlie arrived at DEFHR in early 2016 as a neglect case with a body condition score of two out of nine on the Henneke Horse Body Condition Scoring System, meaning he was emaciated. In addition to his critically low body condition, he was suffering from several health issues, including sharp dental hooks and points that needed immediate attention to improve his ability to chew and digest food properly. He also had dermatitis, which caused skin irritation, and thrush, a painful condition affecting his hooves.

After several months of care both in DEFHR's rehabilitation and training programs, Charlie was ready for his mental rehab and entered DEFHR's Equidopt program, where he was matched up with Miller in September 2016. Participants in the Equidopt grooming sponsorship program play a major role in their assigned horse's life through weekly grooming sessions, enabling a special bond.

“I thought he was beautiful and elegant, but in the beginning he wasn't wild about people, and he wasn't really interested in me,” recalled Miller.

But then something game-changing happened. Miller had foot surgery and couldn't visit Charlie for a few weeks. In fact, due to the gelding's aloof demeanor, she planned to ask for another horse to look after.

[Read This Heartwarming Story in Full on Horse Network](#)



[More About DEFHR's Equidopt Program](#)

## Tremendous Transformations

### Dapper Dylan Before and After



Dapper Dylan arrived at DEFHR in August 2024 as a neglect case who had been seized by animal control. He was assessed as having a body condition score of two out of nine on the Henneke Body Condition Scale, meaning he was severely underweight.

Dylan is an older Paso Fino gelding who has quickly won the hearts of many volunteers and staff. His progress in just five months has been tremendous. Dylan will soon be evaluated in the DEFHR training program, so be on the lookout for updates on this handsome gentleman.

[Help Us Fund More Transformations](#)

### Noel Navidad Before and After



When Noel Navidad, known as Navi in the barn, arrived at DEFHR in December 2021, she was a severe neglect case with a body condition score of one, reflecting her emaciated state. Navi has since made a full recovery and is now available for adoption to a companion home through DEFHR's guardian program.

This gentle older Quarter Horse mare is full of kindness and charm. While Navi isn't rideable due to a small, inoperable bone chip in her neck, she's happy and comfortable living in the herd with daily Equiox. She loves spending her days out in the pasture as a cherished companion.

[More Information About Noel Navidad](#)

## International Students: Make a Global Difference



Believing that making a lasting change for horses begins with education, DEFHR offers a wide array of educational opportunities and programs designed to make a global difference for horses in need. We are currently welcoming applications from international students in our Equine Care & Rehabilitation internship program.

Interns in this program gain significant equine husbandry experience, learn how to recognize equine cruelty and neglect, and receive training in basic rehabilitation and horse psychology. We love to see the positive impacts that our international interns make when they return to their communities around the world to share what they have learned. The deadline for summer 2025 applications is February 9.

[More Details on Internship Opportunities](#)

## Featured Horse of the Month: Hobbit



### Three-year-old Thoroughbred gelding

Hobbit is a rising three-year-old gelding with unlimited potential available for adoption. Hobbit has received a basic groundwork foundation and will be ready to start under saddle this year. He is a lovely young horse with the best personality.

He is quiet and easy-going and has been handled daily since arriving at DEFHR as a yearling. He has learned skills including groundwork, leaping, backing, trotting in hand, and tackling obstacles. He has worn tack, been sat on by a light rider, and is ready to take his career in any direction his adopter wants to go!

If you think yours may be the right home for Hobbit, email [adopt@DEFHR.org](mailto:adopt@DEFHR.org) or click below.

[Visit Hobbit's Page](#)

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