



## The Story of Stella

People's life circumstances change. They do. And there are times, when unforeseen changes occur, the animals may get caught in the middle. Stella was one of those animals.

Her family was faced with some difficult circumstances. As their situation deteriorated, so did Stella's care. Her weight dropped dramatically. Farrier and other routine services stopped. She had a serious, painful medical issue that went untreated.

The family eventually recognized that for the well-being of their horses, they needed to be rehomed. They placed ads and notices offering them for free. Stella's stablemates were quickly scooped up and happily on their way to new lives. Leaving Stella alone. With no good options in sight.

Who would want her? She was thin and scraggly, Not rideable according to the minimally experienced family. Needed a whole lot of TLC. And, surgery. Expensive surgery. To address the medical issue that would continue to worsen if not quickly treated. Rehoming efforts went nowhere.

Becky's Gift started receiving alerts from concerned members of the horse community. Stella was in trouble and needed help. The family planned to "euthanize" her as soon as her hay was gone. There were indications that "euthanasia" would not be humanely performed by a vet, but by a gun and an owner who had never shot a horse. Her time was running out.

Messages to the family encouraging them to contact Becky's Gift went unanswered. Without their consent, there was little we could do. Except "unofficially" spread the word. Which we did.

Stella's miracle occurred a short time later. A local horsewoman saw our post about her plight. Something clicked; she knew she could not just walk away from this sad, young horse.

She met with her vet re: the urgent medical issues. Not surprisingly, the estimate for bringing this mare back to health wasn't cheap. Surgery, dental, farrier, poor body condition. With a young family to feed, along with her own horses- in the middle of winter- the prospective adopter knew she would be taking on an enormous unexpected expense. Everyone else had walked away from Stella at this point in the process. Everyone but this young woman.

Scraping together as much funding as possible, she still found herself coming up short. And Stella's time was rapidly running out. Enter Becky's Gift.

The adopter was determined to give this young mare a chance. "Could Becky's Gift help"? Yes, absolutely. Stella had been through a lot and deserved nothing less.

Clock ticking, with Stella's hay almost gone and an end to her life rapidly approaching, the adopter headed out, trailer in tow on a cold winter night. Stella was coming home.

Stella quickly settled in to her new farm, but has a long road ahead of her. With the assistance of Becky's Gift, and most importantly, a committed new owner with a huge heart, she now has a chance.



A friend of mine recently said, "Rescue animals never hold a grudge or cling to the past. Every new day is the best day, a day to be celebrated. With appreciation for the opportunity of that day." Stella, you now have an opportunity not only for a new day, but for a new life. Godspeed.