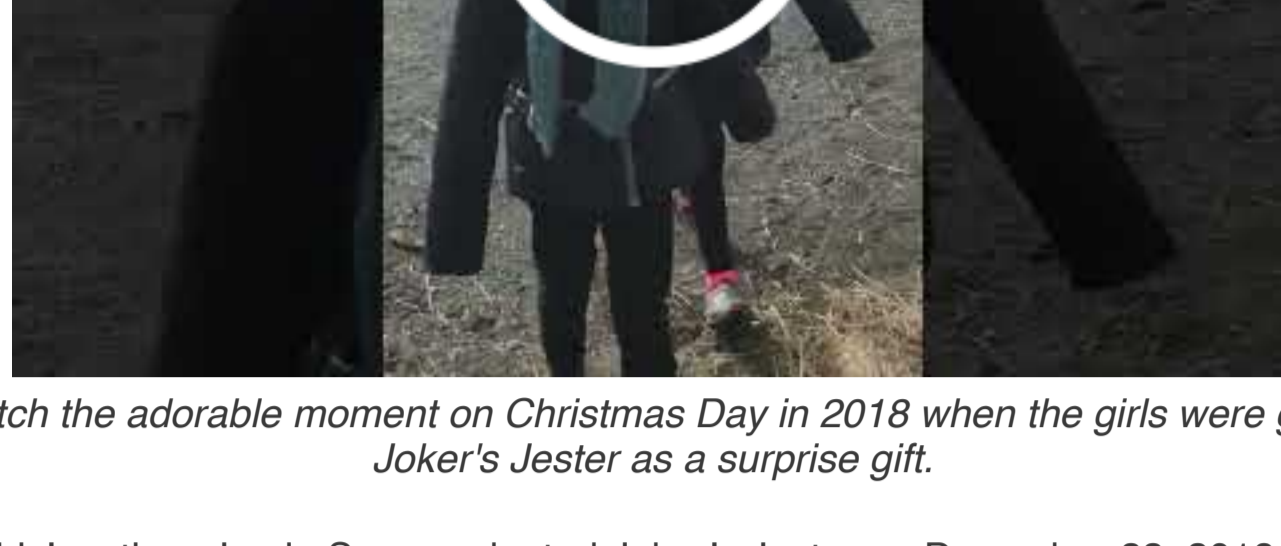


A Christmas Surprise Pony From DEFHR Becomes a Champion and a Friend to Three Young Girls



For Christmas in 2018, three young girls were gifted a small chestnut pony wrapped in a bow. Joker's Jester was a surprise present for Peyton, Jordyn, and Presley Sears. Although he was smaller than what their mother, Jamie Sears, was ideally looking for, one touching moment sealed the deal for the family. In the intervening years, the little pony with the big heart has been a constant companion for the girls, taking them on trail rides, to competitions, and on countless adventures.

Joker's Jester arrived at Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR) in Woodbine, MD, in August 2018. He was a transfer from the SPCA of Texas, which had just started an open admission program and was overwhelmed with horses, so DEFHR was happy to collaborate with the peer organization and take the little gelding in. He was in a healthy condition, and although he was unbacked, his fantastic temperament and easy-going personality made getting him started a breeze.



Watch the adorable moment on Christmas Day in 2018 when the girls were given Joker's Jester as a surprise gift.

The girls' mother, Jamie Sears, adopted Joker's Jester on December 22, 2018, but she and her husband kept it a secret from their daughters. On Christmas morning, the girls arrived at the barn to see a cute little chestnut pony waiting for them in the aisle. They all hugged Jester while the good-natured gelding stood calmly.

"The time, effort, and the experiences the team gives their horses at Days End Farm is amazing," she explained. "Leigha took him foxhunting, cross-country, and to a parade — most horses don't do that in their lifetime, let alone at a rescue. They expose their horses to a lot during their process, and that's why Jester is game for everything."

[Read the Full Article on Horse Network](#)

Your Donation Changes Lives

GIVE THE GIFT OF A BRIGHT
FUTURE AND HAVE THE
happiest of holidays



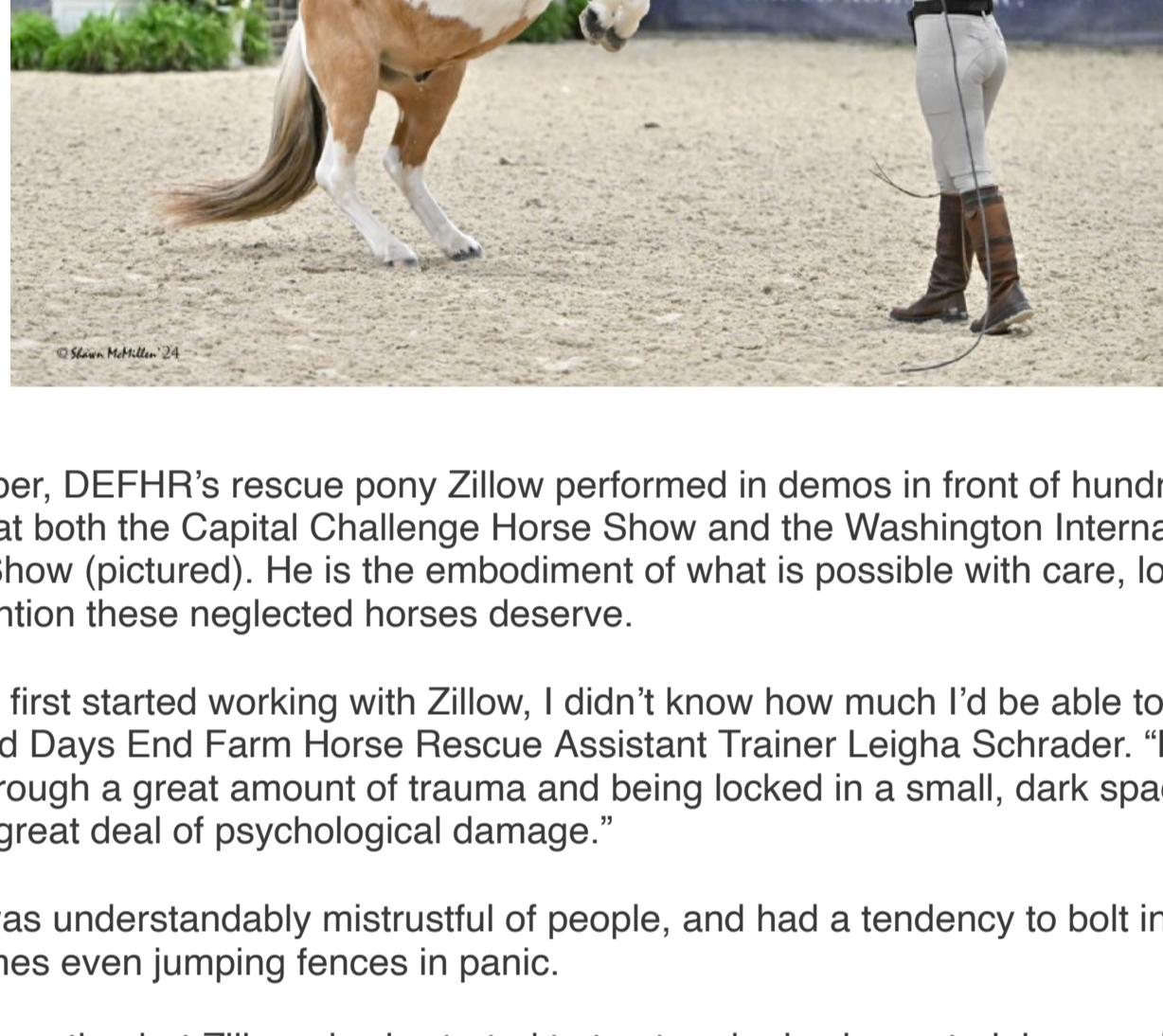
HELP ENSURE 2025 IS BRIGHT
FOR THE HORSES

VISIT DEFHR.ORG TO MAKE YOUR
YEAR-END TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

Please consider Days End Farm Horse Rescue for your year-end, tax-deductible giving. Your donations help transform the lives of equines in need. Thank you!

[Show Your Support](#)

Zillow Shows What's Possible



In October, DEFHR's rescue pony Zillow performed in demos in front of hundreds of people at both the Capital Challenge Horse Show and the Washington International Horse Show (pictured). He is the embodiment of what is possible with care, love and the attention these neglected horses deserve.

"When I first started working with Zillow, I didn't know how much I'd be able to help him, said Days End Farm Horse Rescue Assistant Trainer Leigha Schrader. "He'd been through a great amount of trauma and being locked in a small, dark space it had done a great deal of psychological damage."

Zillow was understandably mistrustful of people, and had a tendency to bolt in-hand, sometimes even jumping fences in panic.

"It took months, but Zillow slowly started to trust and relax in our training sessions. He learned to trust me to keep him safe. With time he was eager to be with me more and he wanted to please me. Before I knew it, he was my new liberty partner. He was picking up something new each week," continued Schrader. "He's an amazing example of what can be accomplished with patience and good care. It's not every day that you meet a horse like Zillow."

[Read the Full Post About Zillow](#)

In the News



Corn Chip remains in DEFHR's rehabilitation program, but his willingness to learn means the team hopes he will soon be ready for adoption.

Horse Network

"Corn Chip the Obese Donkey: From Obese and Unhanded to Trim and Friendly"

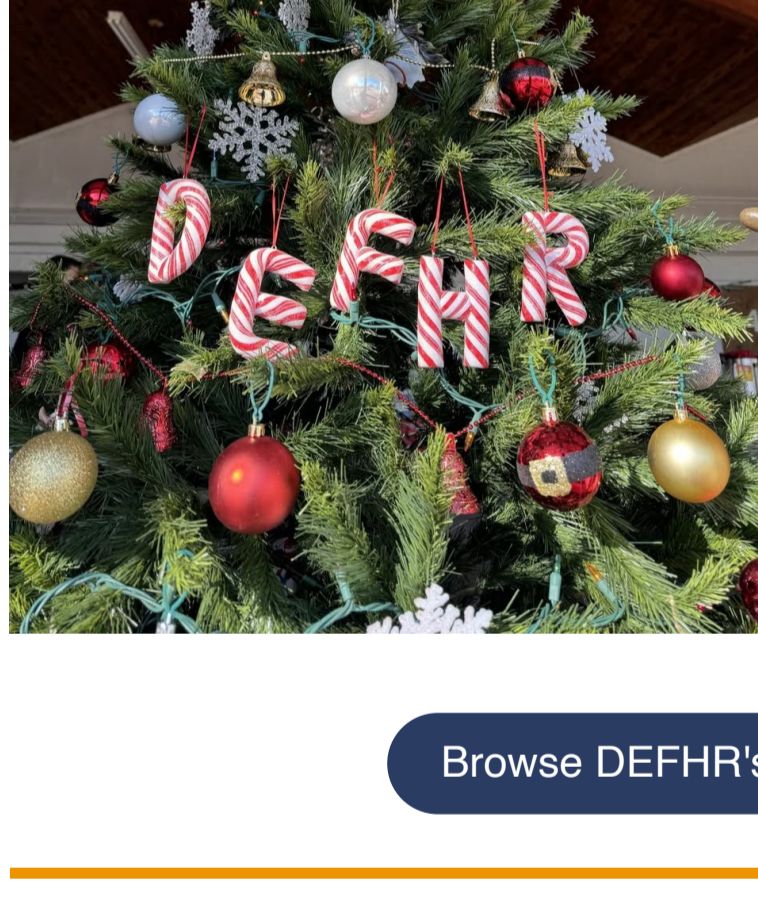
When a minimally handled obese donkey with severely overgrown feet came to DEFHR in July 2024, his complex case required careful management. Corn Chip had been living on a large estate in Western Maryland sharing hundreds of acres with another donkey and a herd of cattle.

When he arrived at DEFHR, he was estimated to be around 16 years old and was fearful of people.

"Every rehab journey is unique, shaped by the circumstances and personalities of each equine. Corn Chip, having lived a life free of human interaction and handling, arrived shy and fearful of humans," said DeEtte Hillman, DEFHR Equine Programs Director. "While Corn Chip has made significant progress, he is still classified as being in rehabilitation due to the ongoing, meticulous hoof care he requires."

[Read the Full Article on Horse Network](#)

Send DEFHR a Christmas Gift



With Christmas fast approaching, the DEFHR staff are often asked what to buy for the horses, so DEFHR has compiled an Amazon Wishlist to make the answer simple. From a \$4 bottle of witch hazel solution to a \$200 wheelbarrow, each and every gift on the list has been hand-selected by the team who care for our rescue horses. It is frequently updated, providing a valuable resource to check which items are currently most in need at the farms.

Donations made from this wish list are tax deductible. Please include your name and address to receive a donation receipt. Donations can be shipped directly to Days End Farm Horse Rescue, 1372 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797, or you are welcome to deliver donations in person and enjoy a tour of the farm any day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

[Browse DEFHR's Amazon Wishlist](#)

Featured Horse of the Month: Offelia



16hh 13-year-old Thoroughbred mare

Offelia is a 13-year-old 16hh off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB) mare with so much to give. Under her registered name, Fairbanks Kiss, she raced 53 times and then became a broodmare. She had no prior retraining before being taken in by DEFHR, but is currently walking and trotting quietly under saddle in the arena and going out for short hacks alone. She is suitable for light arena work and trail riding.

Offelia is a sweet mare, is not spooky, and is light in the mouth. An adopter with previous experience with OTTBs and a slow approach to training would be the best fit for this lovely mare. She is located at the Equine Welfare Society in Keswick, VA. Visit her web page <https://defhr.org/horses/offelia/> to see a video of Offelia working under saddle.

If you think yours may be the right home for Offelia, please email adopt@DEFHR.org or use the links below.

[Learn More About Offelia](#)

[View DEFHR's Adoptable Horses](#)

Giving Gratitude

Days End Farm Horse Rescue would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed to the Giving Tuesday campaign. We surpassed our goal, with more than 350 donors doubling their impact alongside [Tito's Handmade Vodka](#), which graciously matched \$40,000 to double the total to more than \$80,000.

Thank you for making this possible. Your donation directly contributes to essential care for horses in need, including food, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and educating others about equine neglect and abuse. Thanks to your generosity, horses under DEFHR's care now have hope, safety, and the chance to heal.

Your support has shown us just how powerful our DEFHR community is, and we're more inspired than ever to make the biggest impact yet for equine welfare.

SPONSOR A HORSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
and receive a personal letter and photo straight from your horse!

If you missed out on Giving Tuesday, for just \$100, you can help support a rescue horse in need this holiday season through our sponsorship program. As a thank you, sponsors receive a personal letter and photo straight from their sponsored horse. There are currently more than 70 horses in DEFHR's care that are seeking holiday sponsors, including Windsor, Hickory, and Genie. It's perfect for holiday gift-giving!

[Sponsor a Horse](#)

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