

In the News: Horse Network

Nine Horses? It's All in the Family for DEFHR Adopter Sigrid Haines



Sigrid Haines (pictured with Zaylee and Gypsy) is long-time board member of Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR) who picked up the horse bug later in life. In this Horse Network article, she shares her story of adopting nine DEFHR horses despite having no experience — and the rewarding, enriching experiences her journey has presented.

“It’s something meaningful I can do to improve a few lives.” — Sigrid Haines on adopting nine horses through Days End Farm Horse Rescue

I was like every horse-loving little girl. I had lots of plastic ponies and was constantly begging for a horse. I took lessons, but when my instructor said it was time to get my own horse, my parents balked at the financial and time commitment and steered me toward other hobbies.

Now, I’m making up for lost time. I have adopted nine horses from DEFHR in Woodbine, MD, and I have been a member of the board of directors on and off since its inception in 1989. Yes, there are some serious questions about my sanity. But some people have kids while others have expensive taste in clothing... I just like horses.

It all started when I was in my mid-50s. I was already interested in horses and I was volunteering — local jump-judging, stuff like that — when I saw Harpo in a newsletter featuring horses looking for homes called “The Horse”, which DEFHR had signed me up to receive. He was a black pony with white spots who was retired from a therapeutic riding club near my home in Maryland. I thought, “How much trouble can a pony really be?”

I went to see him and fell head over heels. I agreed to adopt him, even though I didn’t have anywhere to keep him or the first clue about how to properly care for him. I sat in the riding center’s parking lot Googling boarding facilities.

While a lot of places had higher aspirations, with FEI dressage trainers and the like, I just wanted a nice life for a retired pony. I found a barn 20 minutes from my house clearly aimed at people like me and naively thought my dreams were coming true.

Two weeks later, Harpo arrived, and he hated me, he hated the barn — he hated everything! It was a shock to the system. I finally had the horse I’d always wanted, and it wasn’t anything like I imagined!

[Read The Full Story on Horse Network](#)

Tremendous Transformation

Eema’s Escape Before and After



This special mare was found abandoned at a state park and is currently in DEFHR’s rehabilitation program. Eema’s Escape is about 30 years old, and her feeding schedule consists of small meals throughout the day. She enjoys both her turnout time and stall time. As she continues to gain weight, Eema’s strength is also returning. There is a new light in her eye, and she nickers to her caretakers each morning. Everyone at DEFHR is delighted by her progress on her journey to recovery.

[Support More Horses Like Eema](#)

Attend Spring Break Camp

DEFHR is now taking bookings for our Legacy Camp Breakout: A Spring Break Adventure. Open to children seven to 17 years old, the one-day spring break camp will take place on Friday, April 18, 2025. Participants will have a fun-filled day on the farm from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

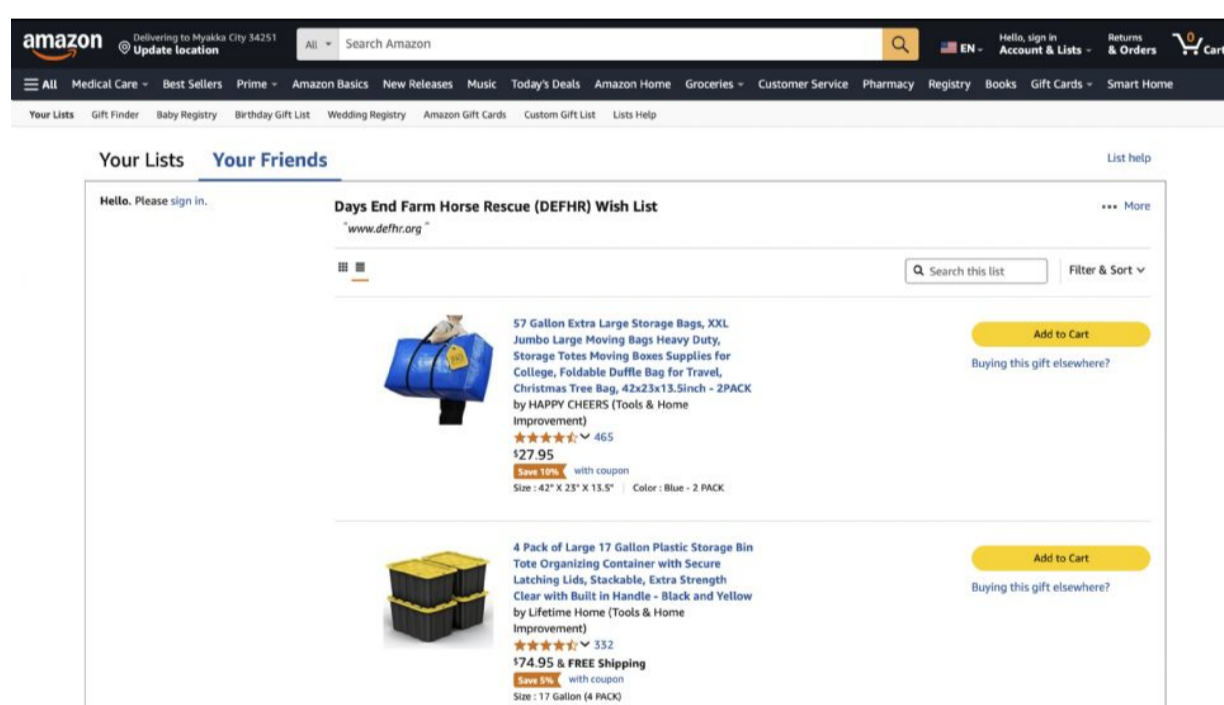


Perfect for hands-on horse lovers, this exciting event offers participants the opportunity to interact with rescue horses, learn about their care, and enjoy games and activities with them. Registration closes on Tuesday, April 11. Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today.

We are also accepting bookings for our summer camps in June, July, and August. For further information, visit: <https://defhr.org/education-programs/youth-legacy/>

[Sign Up For Legacy Camp Breakout Now](#)

Updated Amazon Wishlist



DEFHR’s rescue horses depend on generous support to help provide the daily essentials they require. From hay bags to grooming supplies, every item on the DEFHR Amazon Wishlist helps give these deserving equines the best care possible.

Want to make a difference? Shop the DEFHR Amazon Wishlist and your purchases will be shipped directly to the farm. Alternatively, you can drop off supplies in person. We always welcome visitors, and it’s the perfect opportunity to see first-hand how your donation helps our horses in need.

[Browse The Wishlist](#)

Featured Horse of the Month: Quizzical Quartz



15.2hh Thoroughbred mare

Quizzical Quartz is a 20-year-old off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB). She arrived at DEFHR in 2019 as an emaciated neglect case and went through DEFHR’s rehabilitation and training programs. She was adopted by a college student, evented through beginner novice successfully, and was dearly loved. Unfortunately, life changes required her return to DEFHR, and now Quartz is looking to make another family happy.

She has three comfortable gaits and is a nice, forward ride. Quartz is looking for a pleasure home where she can enjoy flat work and the occasional small fence. If you are a Thoroughbred lover, Quartz would love to meet you.

If you believe yours might be the right home for her, please email adopt@DEFHR.org or click the button.

[Visit Quizzical Quartz’s Page](#)

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Share DEFHR’s story! For media inquiries, editorial content, or interviews, please contact alice@jumpmediallc.com.

Photos courtesy of DEFHR and Shawn McMillen Photography.