

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2022

Media Contact:
Janet Herzberg
352-949-5053
HWH.adm.assist@gmail.com



Eva Farrell and Tilly navigating the teeter totter



Camber Heinle and ET crossing the bridge



NEWS RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS AND HORSES COMPETE IN HWH RESCUE MAKEOVER CHALLENGE

BELL, FL

Horses Without Humans Rescue (HWH) will sponsor its first annual Volunteer Rescue Makeover Challenge at its facility at 6191 N. US Hwy. 129 in Bell, Florida on Saturday, April 30, 2022, beginning at 10:00 am. Eighteen competitors and rescue horses are entered in the free event, which is open to the public. Free parking, barn tours, food and beverages will be available. Come with your family and join in the fun!

The Makeover will identify the horse/handler team that accumulates the highest score in each class. Judging focuses on the competitor and the effectiveness of their horsemanship methodology to communicate, educate, and build a partnership with their horse based on trust.

Every participant in the horse-handling competition will be required to maneuver a course with obstacles of varying difficulty and designated points. Both beginner and advanced classes will be held during the day, and the handler/horse team with the most points in their class will win a prize. Some competitors will walk their horse over the course and others will ride.

Competitors were chosen from people who have volunteered 40 or more hours at Horses Without Humans. The participants have been training their assigned horses since March 13, doing basic groundwork and introducing the obstacles, to see how much progress they can make.



NEWS RELEASE

While some volunteers have extensive horse experience, others are beginners, and they range in age from children to senior citizens. Likewise, the eighteen participating horses have various degrees of experience; some are saddle broke and some are not. They range in age from four years old to over twenty, are from 14.3 to 16 hands tall, and are many different colors and breeds, including Paso Fino, Saddlebred, Fox Trotter, Thoroughbred and grade. Most of the horses will be available for adoption following the end of the competition. A brief description of each horse will be available in the program.

“Many of the rescue horses we receive have not been handled and are not well trained. The goal of the Makeover is to train the rescue horses, so they are prepared to go into any discipline,” said Yvonne Barteau, founder of Horses Without Humans. “It’s all about educating people and developing relationships...building partnerships. Horses cannot become what we want by remaining what they are. Many of these horses need to learn to trust and work with people, and to learn basic skills. Competitors began by doing basic groundwork and then started to work on the obstacles.”

Competitors will be judged on several categories: catching and haltering; groundwork; general interaction; timing of aids; forward motion; willingness to guide/steer; horse’s yields to pressure; handler and horse’s conduct, demeanor, and confidence; competitor’s ability to build a solid foundation; and performance on the obstacle course.

There are twenty-two obstacles of varying difficulty on the course, including everyday items like a low bridge, water obstacle, mailbox, wind chimes, a jump, and a gate. More challenging obstacles include a teeter-totter, a high bridge, a ball that horses push down a chute with their chests, backing through poles, climbing up and over a set of 3 tires,



NEWS RELEASE

doing turns on the hindquarters and forequarters, a slalom around cones, and a figure eight around barrels, entering and backing out of a horse trailer, and side-passing over poles. Bonus points will be awarded for lunging the horse at a walk, trot and canter.

“The purpose is not just to win the Makeover,” stated Barteau. “It’s about creating a solid foundation. We want to see what each horse is capable of and train them for the long haul, including grooming, bathing, and handling their feet, and for things riders encounter frequently. The obstacle course helps teach a horse that they don’t always need to look to their handler for help when they get bothered; it helps the horses gain confidence, be comfortable with unexpected things, and be safer for their riders. It’s not so much ‘Did you get over the bridge at the Makeover?’ Rather, it’s ‘Did you build the horse’s confidence enough to get that done?’ The focus is on the journey rather than the destination. We want to build well rounded horses here.”

For more information about Horses Without Humans, please go online to www.horseswithouthumansrescue.org and join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2369378866455981>.

For additional information, to volunteer with Horses Without Humans, or to request a speaker, contact Janet Herzberg, Volunteer Coordinator at 386-935-3902, e-mail HWH.adm.assist@gmail.com.

If you or someone you know is considering buying a horse, please consider adopting, sponsoring, or fostering a horse in need. If you have questions regarding any of our adoptable horses, please fill out and submit the adoption application at <https://horseswithouthumansrescue.org/applications/adoption-application/> or contact Suzy, our adoption coordinator at hwhadoptions@gmail.com.



NEWS RELEASE

###

About Horses Without Humans

Horses Without Humans (HWH) was founded in 2017 by renowned dressage trainer Yvonne Barteau, a lifelong horsewoman and one of this nation's most celebrated riders. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit equine adoption organization, Horses without Humans is devoted to rehabilitating and retraining unwanted and at-risk equines with the goal of finding them suitable life-long adoptive homes.

Professional assessment, medical care, basic groundwork, and the foundations of dressage are provided for all adoptable HWH horses, thereby giving them balance, understanding, and an exceptional advantage for all equine disciplines. By giving them time, education, and the conditioning necessary for them to be the best athletes and partners they can be, HWH is saving these horses and then finding them homes. Over 100 HWH horses have been adopted over the past two years.

The Horses Without Humans state-of-the-art training facility is in Bell, Florida at the 125-acre Rock Bluff Ranch. For more information about Horses Without Humans, please go online to www.horseswithouthumansrescue.org.

About Yvonne Barteau

A lifelong horse woman, Yvonne Barteau's career took her from jumping and barrel racing to Standardbred racing, to retraining Thoroughbred racehorses for resale, to a job with Arabian Nights Dinner Theater in Orlando, Florida. At Arabian Nights, she



NEWS RELEASE

became Principal Trainer, Featured Performer and Director of Entertainment Operations.

A world-renowned FEI Horse trainer, clinician and competitive dressage rider, Yvonne is also a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold medalist. Through her business, KYB Dressage, which has locations in both Bell and Lake City, Florida, she has trained over a dozen horses to the Grand Prix Level and over eighty to Prix St George. She has also qualified horses and riders for World Championships and World Cups and earned dozens of National and Regional titles.

With the highest ranking of five stars on the Center Line Scores rating system, Yvonne has been long listed for the U.S. Olympic Team on Grand Prix stallion *Liberty*. She was also the trainer of the Most Winning Horse in USDF History, the Holsteiner stallion *GPRaymeister*.

Barteau's skills as a coach and trainer extend to both horses and people. Her daughter, Kassie Barteau, became the Most Winning Young Rider in U.S. history under her tutelage. Always willing to share her knowledge, Yvonne established and managed the KYB Dressage Apprentice Trainer Program, resulting in dozens of professional trainers having successful careers in the equine industry.

Yvonne continues to be a sought-after equine entertainment producer. She produced and performed the sold-out *BreyerFest* evening show at the Alltech arena in Lexington, Kentucky for four years in a row, as well as *The Night of Dancing Horses* for the



NEWS RELEASE

National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. Her equine productions feature expert horsemanship, layered story lines, and imaginative costuming.

A two-time judge of the *Road to The Horse World Champion Colt Starting Contest*, Barteau is also the successful author of two award-winning books that are rider favorites, “*Ride the Right Horse*” and “*The Dressage Horse Manifesto*.” In addition, Yvonne is a film maker whose credits include two Equus Film Festival top award-winning full-length feature films, *Into the Spotlight, the Making of an Equine Theater Horse*; and *Into the Spotlight 2, Horses Without Humans*. Besides being named a top short film award winner for her production, *The Boneyard*, Yvonne has authored multiple screenplays, including *The Spirit of the Horse*, *All the Kings Horsemen*, and *Dream Upon a Horse*.

Barteau’s empathy for horses led her to become Founder and Executive Director of *Horses Without Humans Rescue Organization*, which has grown in 5 short years to become one of the top horse rescues in the United States. The Organization houses and cares for 70-80 horses, including approximately 50 Rescue horses and 20-30 high-level dressage horses at the 125-acre facility, Rock Bluff Ranch. Endorsed by the ASPCA, The Right Horse Initiative, Equine Welfare Data Collection, and Guidestar, the Organization is also a data collective for Purina Equine Feed Products.

