



Ed Hogan opens second ranch to rescue more horses

By Daralyn Schoenewald
dschoenewald@venturacountystar.com
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At Rancho Nuevo, a 14-acre ranch tucked into the Santa Rosa Valley, owner Ed Hogan is appropriately dressed in jeans, cowboy boots, a work shirt, and a cowboy hat.

He leans down to extend a friendly hand to Shelby, an English springer spaniel he helped rescue four months ago. He playfully points a finger at Shelby and says, "Bang, Shelby. Bang, bang."

The dog slowly rolls over, playing dead and clearly loving the attention.

"She's a character," the 80-year-old Hogan said. "We rescued her from some place up near Palmdale."

Shelby is just one of the animals Hogan has helped rescue, and she certainly won't be the last.

This month, Hogan received the International Fund for Animal Welfare's annual Animal Action Award for his efforts in rescuing wounded, abused and aging horses.

With the opening of Rancho Nuevo, Hogan will be able to continue his mission of rescuing horses. It currently houses 26 horses, including 10 miniature ones.

The new ranch comes less than two years after the Hogan Family Foundation opened Rancho St. Francis in Hidden Valley, home of the 15 Hands Rescue Sanctuary. The foundation was established by Hogan and his wife, Lynn, in 1998 as a way to give back to the community after selling their successful travel business.

At Rancho St. Francis, Hogan established the St. Francis Rangers program, which introduces low-income children to horsemanship.

Children from Casa Pacifica, a residential facility for abused, neglected, and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, frequently participate in the program, along with children of the ranch staff.

"The Casa Pacifica children are often abused by relatives or other people. They don't trust anybody," Hogan said. "We introduce them to horses because horses won't abuse them. Horses just don't discriminate."

At Rancho Nuevo, the focus is on horse rescue and rehabilitation, though seven rescued dogs also roam the ranch. Recently, the staff rescued five horses from a woman in Lancaster who could no longer care for them.

“She had three of them in one small pipe corral and the other two in another,” Hogan said.

“They need more room than that.”

Rancho Nuevo includes two arenas where the horses can be exercised and trained. There are also trails nearby that make for good riding, according to Hogan.

The miniature horses are kept in a paddock near the arenas. Hogan says he’s thinking of getting some llamas to help keep coyotes away.

“Coyotes can jump that fence and the minis are just too small to defend themselves,” he said.

Ranch foreman Glenn Hogan, Ed Hogan’s son, says the ranch is careful not to become a doormat for owners who no longer wish to take care of their horses.

“We have an application and selection process,” he said. “We’re looking for quality, not quantity.”

Horses rescued by the ranch are carefully evaluated and given medical care once they arrive. The staff retires horses that can no longer be ridden to a large pasture on the ranch.

Horses that are still able to be ridden are rehabilitated, and, Glenn Hogan said, they will eventually be transferred to Rancho St. Francis, where they will be enjoyed by the Rangers.



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