



Winding Road Equine Rescue & Retirement, Inc.  
Kristin Chambers  
Waverly, KS 66871  
785.733.2640  
info@windingroadequinerescue.org

## "Valentine Rescue"

The alarm went off at 3:30 a.m. Monday morning, February 4, 2008. We did chores, then pulled out in the darkness with the stock trailer, and headed for a notorious sale barn in Iowa. We were joining forces with two other rescues to save as many horses as we could from a likely fate of slaughter.

The worst part of rescue for me is the knowledge of how many that can't be saved, how many aren't so lucky as these that came home to Winding Road with a new chance for a full life. Meet our newest "starfish":

- Athena came from the "loose pen," a virtual death sentence for a horse. There is no history given. We know she is a mare, but have conflicting opinions as to her age. She came down with strangles a few days after arriving. She was carrying an enormous worm load and is very underweight. There is a mark on her face that indicates misuse of a halter or nose band. She leads and loads, has thus far been extremely well-mannered and easy to handle. She loves attention and apples. She needs a sponsor!
- John is a Belgian colt who was spared a long cold trip to a Canadian feedlot where he would have eventually been slaughtered. He is presently recovering from strangles, too. It is our hope for him to remain at Winding Road as our mascot, to represent all the horses that still need our help. We think he'll be a natural to go to schools, nursing homes, parades, etc. He is unbelievably sweet and friendly. John needs a sponsor!

- Chuck is an aged American Saddlebred gelding. We know he is broke to ride, but he will be evaluated for soundness as he settles in. He appears to be very well-trained and is easy to handle. Chuck needs a sponsor!

- Hawk was purchased from the loose pen, too, so nothing is known about him. He does appear to be no more than a few years old. He is recovering from strangles. He is the only one we can't touch yet, but is growing calmer and accustomed to the presence of people. He is a very small horse, maybe a Welsh-type pony. He is underweight and mistrusting, but with time, we know he'll be beautiful. Hawk needs a sponsor!

- Grulla by far prefers women and children. For whatever reason, he is afraid of men. We know he is broke to ride, but are waiting for him to recover from a respiratory illness before evaluating him. He is well-mannered, but hard to catch. Grulla needs a sponsor!

All told, between the various rescues that participated in what was termed "The Valentine Rescue," 53 horses were given a chance at a new life.

An account has been set-up at Citizens State Bank expressly for the veterinary care of the Valentine Rescue horses. If you would like to donate to this fund, take or mail your donation to any [Citizens State Bank branch](#). Just tell the bank the donation is for the Winding Road Valentine Rescue Fund. You can also make a donation through PayPal on our Web site. Your donations are greatly appreciated.