



## 2019 – April - Gypsy

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Gypsy was rescued from a loose pen (kill pen) on April 14, 2017.

It was a crisp spring morning as True Vine Equestrian Center’s team arrived at the Good Friday horse auction. We had been praying and fundraising for the past six months and now the awaited day had arrived. After our team gathered to pray, these excited teens and adults set out to evaluate each horse in the loose pen. Specifically we had been praying for a horse that was gentle, calm, small, quiet, kind, soft to pressure, loving, relaxed, young but not a baby, sweet, with kind eyes, would come to us, maybe green-broke, a good match, and we would possibly name it Hope or Promise (see January and read Hope’s story).

Some of the horses in the loose pen bit or kicked horses near them. Others had obvious problems that we were not equipped to handle. A handful of horses had a gentle kind eye. As some of the girls stood in the isle by one of the gates, a small black bay mare walked up to them. They talked to her stroking her neck. She seemed very sweet and enjoyed their attention. “I wonder how old she is,” one of the girls asked. The gate was opened wide enough for Vickie to slip in and look at her teeth. “I think she is under ten,” Vickie said. The mare was about fourteen hands tall, calm and quiet. Everyone agreed this was the horse we should rescue. Her number, 502 was written down so we would not be confused about which horse we intended to bid on.

Soon it was time for the auction to begin. Everyone found a place to watch. One by one the horses came through the gate into the isle. The auctioneer’s voice rang out a price that was too high and no one would bid. He lowered the price more and more until a hand went up. Then a frenzy of raised hands and head nods followed for less than a minute. “Sold,” he said. The gate was opened and this process repeated. “Here she comes, I think our horse is next,” someone said. The workers let our horse through the gate. The auctioneer chant began. One of the meat buyers bid. Vickie raised her hand and then continued to nod until the auctioneer looked at her and said “Sold!” We were the top bid at \$380.00.

Ginger and some other girls stayed with our new horse while the rest of us caught the two miniature horses we had also purchased. While they were waiting a man approached Ginger and asked “Did you buy this horse?” “Yes,” she said. “I brought her,” he said. “I’m really glad

you bought her.” He went on to say how he really didn’t want to put her in the loose pen but wanted to be able to go home at noon. He had brought all three horses to the auction to sell. He said he was done with horses. Then he proceeded to tell us about the horse we had just purchased. Her name was Gypsy, she was seven years old and broke to ride. He had leased her out to a little girl the year before who rode her all over the place. She was originally from Iowa before coming to Indiana where he lived. He also shared that she was pushy with bad ground manners.

The miniature horses were caught and it was time to load them in the trailers. Gypsy walked right in the trailer with no hesitation.

Gypsy had lice, cracked hooves and needed to gain weight. Her tail was so badly matted we needed to cut short. Picking up her feet was a huge problem. She was broke to ride like the seller shared, however not finished.

Through consistent ground work training Gypsy is no longer pushy and she has good ground manners. She also willingly picks up her feet!

Gypsy fits much of the description we had specifically prayed for. She is gentle, calm, small, quiet, and kind. As we continue her training Gypsy is becoming softer to pressure. She is loving, relaxed (not at all spooky), young, but not a baby, sweet, kind eyes, and came to us. Not finished, somewhat green and a good match. (The miniature horses were named Hope and Promise)

Up-date - In May 2018 Gypsy was sent for 30 days of training. Over the summer she served in our special needs and able bodied lesson program. In 2019 team members are raising money to send this beautiful nine year old mare for another 30 days of training and have her shown at the VanBuren county fair in July!

Please consider sponsoring Gypsy with a monthly donation or one time gift!

Monthly needs - \$120.00 and 30 days of training to help equip her for greater service - \$900.00



Left - Gypsy the day we brought her home from the auction. She was thin with very little muscle development.