



Contact: Anne Boris
Cell: 386-937-3371
Email: anneboris@windstream.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVERELY NEGLECTED THOROUGHBRED HORSES RESCUED NEAR OCALA
One Adult, Two Foals Dead

On Friday, May 15th, 2009 two adult Thoroughbred horses and one foal, all severely emaciated, were purchased & removed from a private residence in Dunnellon by a local equine rescue group, Beauty's Haven Farm & Equine Rescue, Inc. (BHFER). On Monday May 18th, despite constant medical treatment, the foal died.

On Thursday, May 14th, a call was received by Theresa Batchelor, President of Beauty's Haven, regarding 3 horses suffering from neglect. Upon arriving at the property she witnessed 3 horses - 2 adult females and one baby – that were severely emaciated. The baby had open wounds and rain rot and the mother had pus draining from infections in one ear. The caretakers, Krystal and Joann Knish, were not available so Theresa had to leave the horses, but not before asking the man at the property to please provide them with water.

The following day, May 15th, Krystal Knish agreed to meet Theresa at the location. The Knish's were willing to sell their underweight horse, a 3 year old unnamed Thoroughbred mare (registration # 0609523) for \$175 to Theresa but would not give her away. Todd Williams of Dunnellon owned the other mare (named Dingolay) and her baby but said his horses were not for sale. As Theresa stood there with the Knish's, the baby lay down on the ground and began making noises and grinding his teeth.

Shortly thereafter, with a vet on site, Todd Williams negotiated with Theresa and finally agreed to sell them to BHFER for \$1000. The mare and baby were transported to the rescue where they received constant care and treatment provided by veterinary professionals, volunteers, and Beauty's Haven members. Despite all efforts, on Monday, May 18th, the foal was rushed to Peterson & Smith Equine Hospital where he died that evening. Marion County Animal Control Officer Dawn Stevens met with Theresa at the hospital and advised charges would be issued against the Knish's and Mr. Williams. Dingolay and the unnamed TB filly are recovering at the rescue.

It has been learned that only 16 days before another mare, named Brook's Approval, was euthanized at the same location after giving birth to a stillborn foal. That mare was also emaciated, and owned by Mr. Williams. Both mares, Dingolay and Brook's Approval, were purchased by Todd Williams at the January sale at Ocala Breeders Sales Pavilion in Ocala. In searching public records, it was discovered that Todd Williams is currently awaiting sentencing on charges of dog fighting in Columbia County Florida.

Beauty's Haven Farm & Equine Rescue, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2006 which relies solely on public donations to rescue and rehabilitate horses of all breeds and ages.

###

If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Theresa Batchelor, please call Anne Boris @ 386-937-3371 or email anneboris@windstream.net

www.beautysequinerescue.org EIN 20-4783950