

Lesley Poh

I came to Circle F Horse Rescue in January 2012. It was a rather circuitous route that led me to work with the horses.

Like many young girls I liked looking at horses, but I was terrified of large animals in general. My older sister's friend had a horse and she sometimes took me to see it on the weekend. My sister rode it once but I watched as she was quite quickly planted (like a flower) in a rather large manure pile because (I was told) the horse didn't want to be ridden. It confirmed my suspicion; that horses were large enough to do personal injury if they really wanted. I was 10 years old; what did I know? At age 16, I made friends with a girl who had two horses. I learned to ride sort-of. I enjoyed the quiet company of the horse. You needn't speak, just be there and they offered company, loyalty and companionship. I must admit that when I went to stay overnight at this girl's home, I couldn't tell you whether it was for her company or her horses.



Fast forward 35 years. My husband and I took a trip to Thailand. Seeing elephants was on my must-do list while in South East Asia. We booked an elephant ride while staying in Kaolak. It was so personally moving to interact with these huge animals. I was miraculously not afraid and within minutes fell in love with these very large, quiet, gentle, social, and very intelligent beings. Looking into their eyes is a reflection of the soul.

After I returned home I missed the contact with these large animals. I looked for another animal to substitute for the connection because there aren't many elephants round these parts. It took a few years but with my granddaughter, I found the connection at Circle F.

Mae Ping Elephant Rescue in Chiang Mai, Thailand

I come to the barn every Friday afternoon with one or two of my three teenaged granddaughters in tow. They like to pet, brush and braid, and I don't mind shovelling, preparing feed and packing water and sometimes, they don't mind either. My friend once told me "the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a person", I would agree.

