

Horse Rescue – The Story of Two - Week 5



Thunder

Initial Assessment

We now know that his registered name is Tea Dancer and he is a 5 year old Standard bred Pacer born May 4, 2006. His sire is Dancing Puddles and dam is High Tea. He has a freezebrand on his neck indicating that he either raced or had been destined for the track.

Temperament: Relaxed and laid back. He's a bit more curious and alert, but that could be due to his age. I hand walked him with absolutely no issues and he's just a complete sweetheart, very cuddly. He lifted all 4 feet easily, in fact I just had to touch him and they were up. No tugging or pressure at all.

Condition: Very, very thin. He was stiff during movement, but I feel that this is indicative of condition and of the fact that this was only the second day he'd been out to walk. It's possible that these horses have been together in the cramped corral for years. Thunder is also shedding out in the same manner as Storm.

Hooves: Surprisingly strong and healthy. They desperately need a trim, but they don't look bad at all. He does have some rings around his hooves, but absolutely no heat to the touch and there's a good chance that these may have been caused by stress or dietary change, rather than Founder.

Legs: Strong and healthy. No issues with pressure.

Eyes: Soft and alert. He's got a sweet expression.

Ears: Didn't see anything of concern.

Week 1 – April 29

Thunder has a thicker coat but is shedding as well. Grooming went well. He is sweet and willing to listen but seems to be nervous. Moved around and away from but allowed touch in all the same parts as Storm did. Walking went well; loose lead and good stops but always looking around [looking for Storm probably]. He did nicker when I took her away from him. He stood nicely in a sweet spot and had same reaction to the responsibility circle but took a few more tries than Storm did until he got the idea.

Week 2 – May 8

Weight – 880 pounds

Health – TBA

Conditioning:

- We're starting with walks over the cavaletti poles
- Pasture time is an absolute joy for him as you can imagine
- He also had some time in the arena

Week 3 – May 14

Weight – 902 pounds

Health – he received his vaccinations on Tuesday, May 10th and had a bath with our new EcoWash-n-Vac. True to his wonderful personality, he stood patiently and really enjoyed it. Spending some time in the pasture has also done wonders in lifting his spirits. Due to burrs, his tail was cut but a wonderful volunteer has taken the time to braid red string into his tail so that he can combat the flies. *[see pics in Smilebox video]*.

Week 4 – May 22

Weight – 902 pounds

Update – He is holding his weight well. This week we worked some more on walk/trot on line lunge; swinging a rope around him and touching him without spooking, and walking over the cavaletti poles. He has some difficulty rolling on one side which requires a lot of neck strength, and he is not there yet.

Week 5 – May 28



Weight – 908 pounds

Update – He has shed out a lot of his dark winter coat and has turned into a beautiful reddish bay. He has long stockings on all his legs. He was tacked up for the first time and he was very easy; not a single problem. When in the arena though, he did seem to be puzzled by the saddle and would not pick up a trot. But with persistence he trotted and he soon got into a nice rhythm - quite funny to watch at first. He is such a beautiful boy!