

In 2002, while we were looking at JB (Cavar) an Arabian gelding that was boarded for Circle F at John and Ruta Belac's home, we met Trick, a 24 year-old Standardbred who was also boarded there. The two were inseparable and were obviously very bonded. Trick of course was a gentle giant. Standing 17½ hands tall and beautifully proportioned, he was a very imposing horse. Still, at that time, his health was delicate. Circle F had done much to bring him back from his intake condition, but there was more to go.

While Northern Trick in his prime had been a great pacer at Cloverdale and later went on to do show jumping and then bush and pack work, the years had taken their toll. Arthritis had set in and you had to push him in the morning before he would start to walk. Every joint sounded like a bowl of Rice Crispies until he had walked out the stiffness. He had become quite sway-backed. He wheezed and made hard work of even slight grades and he was generally the worse for wear. Here was a horse that needed a lot of tender loving care. He certainly deserved it because a more gentle loving being would be hard to find.

Naturally, when we decided to take on JB we could not separate the two and Trick came to us as well. During this time, Circle F was a great help in providing assistance and advice until we developed a working routine for the pair. It was wonderful to see the huge progress that both made and in particular Trick during those first months. With a balanced diet and supplements, Trick's arthritis soon came under control. He gained in weight and "belly lifts" and stretches helped his top line and his range of motion. In fact, after only 6 months, he and JB were racing around the paddocks and behaving like a pair of youngsters.



Now the years have passed and, nine years later, Trick is 33 and is enjoying excellent health.



He outlived his friend JB who died from Cushings just before his 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Trick was devastated, but quickly befriended Raven [also adopted from Circle F in 2010] a lovely Arab gelding that lived with us for a year.



Now Trick has a gentle and loving friend in Spring an Arab/Quarter Horse cross who is a very young 30 years old. Trick at last has another soul mate and he and Spring are rarely more than a few feet apart.



In spite of his age, Trick enjoys doing a “happy dance” every so often or plays with the alpacas.



He even races Spring on his good days.

It would have been a tragedy if Trick had not been given the nine additional years that he has had so far since Circle F rescued him. He has greatly enriched our lives and been a delightful companion. We hope that he has more years yet in health and in happiness.

There is no question for us that the work that Circle F does is very important and meaningful in giving so many horses another chance whether as riding horses or as companions. There is also no question that these remarkable creatures give to us humans far more than they demand in return.

Thank you.

Mike & Vera Ryan