

## A.B.L.E. —Animals Bridging Love and Education

### Impact Through Education

In doing rescue for over a decade I have seen an increase in awareness about abuse, neglect and overpopulation but there has still been very little decrease in the number of abused and neglected animals coming through our doors. In addition, as an elementary school teacher I hear stories of ignorance that result in the abuse and neglect of animals by the families of these young children. These two facts made me realize that the only way to put an end to abuse and neglect is by educating the children! As an educator I know the best way to change behavior is through direct interaction so we decided to bring the children to the animals. In this way we'll be giving the children firsthand experiences and a chance to witness True Blue Animal Rescue (TBAR) volunteers modeling proper animal care and giving the children a chance to practice what they learn by interacting directly with the rescue animals. This direct experience and educational process will give them a chance to learn about the animals and what they've been through so they'll know what happens to animals that aren't cared for properly. It won't be something they heard about but something they experienced for themselves which will make a bigger impact and give them the tools to change and become more compassionate and caring animal owners.



This new program is called **ABLE** which stands for **Animals Bridge Love and Education.**

ABLE will be the umbrella program for various camps and educational programs within True Blue Animal Rescue. It encompasses our service and volunteer days for 4H campers, Scout Troops and School groups just as we've had in the past. One of the unique features of our camp is that we plan to include all children, not just those that can afford to go to camps like these but those that cannot afford it as well. We had our first of these camp days called Hooves and Paws Camp this past summer. All children were invited to attend this free camp day including children from the SMART program out of Brenham, TX who came to Hooves and Paws camp as a summer field trip.



The children were introduced to the animals at TBAR and given an age appropriate explanation of what happened to them and why they needed rescue. The kids at this camp were involved in caring for the animals and learned what it takes to help them heal and find a good home. Not only did this process help develop compassion in these children but it strengthened their self esteem when they saw that they could make a difference in the life of an animal by petting them and showing them that they care. We took pictures of the children with their favorite animal and as you can see by the smiles on their faces this day is one they will never forget. They say if you want to change something for the better then teach the children what that is and what that could be.—By Melanie DeAeth

**Make a donation to TBAR's ABLE program if you want to help us reach our goal of ending abuse, neglect and overpopulation through education!**

## Jasmine our A.B.L.E. Star

JASMINE - was given to TBAR after being struck by lightning. She lost 95% of her eye sight as a result. Jasmine is a permanent resident of TBAR and is a therapy horse for the ABLE program.

Her ability to adapt and her exceptionally perceptive ways are a living demonstration to ABLE students that animals' feelings are not so very different from theirs.

This little mare has a fan club of kids and a small family of horses who have bonded with her and share her paddock. Though she's lived for seven years in a special area to accommodate her blindness, Jasmine appeared at feeding time with a serious wound on her hip. She spent two weeks at the vet, with drainage tubes and frequent wound therapy. She is back home now and healing well. Discomfort has not kept our girl from communing with the kids and letting them love on her. -By Kathy Rote



JASMINE teaches kids that hardships can be accepted & love is always possible.

## A Good Relationship Takes Patience and Training

True Blue Animal Rescue is not just here to rescue animals from bad situations, we also help to make families by adopting rescued animals to people who want a new family member (or two). If you are thinking of opening your heart and home, please remember that it takes time and patience for everyone to adjust to a new living situation.

Many times, your new dog or puppy has been dumped, or had experiences that we do not know about or cannot fathom.

He may or may not be house broken or know basic commands and manners, but with some patience and training, he will make a great addition to your life.

It normally takes 2 - 3 weeks for your dog to adjust to his new home and to you.

During this time, he may behave differently than the dog that you fell in love with when you met him. Please give him time to adjust and plenty of reassurance that he is a good boy. Show him right from wrong if he displays unacceptable behaviors, so he knows what you expect of him. If you have other pets in your household, please take the time to introduce them slowly. Your existing pet will most likely take a protective stance over his or her home to this "intruder". That does not mean that they cannot be the best of friends or at least co-exist peacefully.

We have had many instances where we receive phone calls on the TBAR Help Line where someone is so frustrated, that they want to give up their pet due to behavior problems. We do our best to help these callers to work through the problem and keep their pet. No one wants to see a family pet in a kennel situation - it is very sad. The dog does not understand what they did wrong and how they ended up without their family.

There are many TBAR volunteers who know about dogs and how to work with them. We have a couple of members who are excellent trainers and we can refer anyone who wants help in training the dog that they love into a well-mannered family member. Our goal at True Blue Animal Rescue is to help animals and the people who love them to have wonderful, lasting relationships. -Whitney Maldonado