

# Frankie's Story



## A Renaissance Tale by The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation

The story of Frankie is a story of rejuvenation and rebirth – a renaissance story of how a horse can regain his health on the way to a new life.

It's also a tale that is regrettably too familiar in the world of horse rescue. It's the story of how a horse deals with unexpected events and loss. For Frankie, the world changed abruptly and drastically through no fault of his own. One day he was put on a transport van, en route to a foster home hundreds of miles away.

Frankie didn't know it, but he was a rescue; and he was very, very lucky to receive the intervention when he did...

Frankie arrived at his new foster home underweight, skittish, and more than a little apprehensive. Sixteen years old, he had never been away from his original home, and the combination of the long van trip, combined with completely new smells, sights, and people was overwhelming for him.

He also had a number of medical challenges, some with hidden pain and some that were painfully obvious. His main problem was that he was substantially underweight and in need of some serious nutrition. And although his new foster mom (FM) was working closely

with her vet to make sure Frankie gained weight safely, he was carrying pain inside him as well.

At first FM thought that Frankie was reacting to situations because they were not familiar. Frankie was startled and reactive to so many things around him. Baths, for instance, seemed to be something entirely out of his realm of reality. FM worked patiently with him to ease his fears, getting him accustomed to the water, but his reactions could be unexpectedly dramatic.

It wasn't until later that she learned there might be another reason for Frankie's sensitivity. One day she noticed an odd-shaped stone in the paddock, and then another and another. They were coming out of Frankie! He was carrying a gutful of enteroliths! Similar to gallstones in people, these stone-like objects form around foreign materials like hair, plastic, and even shavings that the horse has swallowed. With these objects in his gut, Frankie was facing another ongoing and possibly painful health challenge.

FM worked with her vet and feed specialist to develop a new feeding plan, using a digestive support feed to help eliminate the stones. Along with this additional feed change, some primary dental work and a few months of sound nutrition dedicated to putting on weight, Frankie began to blossom.

These days, Frankie is now fit, healthy, and feeling fabulous. "He is a talker," says FM. "He talks when he escorts me to his feed bin, he talks before I feed him, and he talks after I feed him. This horse loves to communicate," she says fondly. "With Frankie, you're never left wondering how he feels."

In just a few weeks, Frankie will be on the way to his next big adventure - training. He'll travel to South Carolina where he'll receive training to develop his skills as a driving and riding horse. And after he has finished training, the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation hopes that in 2020 Frankie will go on to become an ambassador of the Lipizzan breed, appearing in the Kentucky Horse Park's Parade of Horses.



Frankie has come a long way from the underweight, nervous gelding that stepped off the transport van, but his story has just begun.

For more current information on this fabulous horse and to support him in the next chapter of his life, visit

*Frankie today – fit and healthy!*

[www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org](http://www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org)

