

This is the story of a Lipizzan mare - her trip from birth, to rescue, to a new life, and finally a forever home. The author has also lovingly given a voice to Asha to help share her story. This report and her story, showcase the tremendous care and attention that is given to each horse who comes through the LRF.

"My name is Asha, and this is my story."

"I was born in 2006 on a very nice farm with many other Lipizzans. I come from very royal Lipizzan lineage. When I was just four summers I was chosen to be a broodmare and I moved across the country. There I lived with another Lipizzan. Sadly, as our owner grew old he could no longer take care of us."

APRIL 2021

Asha and a Lipizzan stallion were collected from a farm in Georgia. The Georgia Horse Council had been contacted by their owner who was no longer able to care for them. The GHC contacted the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation. We stepped forward and both horses were taken to an LRF shelter for evaluation and care. Her account includes some brief reports from her care givers over two years.

"When we arrived at the shelter after our long trip, we were very nervous and did not eat or drink very well at first. We always lived outside so we were nervous about stalls."

Report 1: Stallion has been running the pen since daylight. Did drink 2 buckets of water and ate some coastal hay, prob 3 flakes(ish) worth. Mare I put in stall. She hardly drank any water or ate any hay at all. Pretty snorty with all the morning commotion, but fairly chill otherwise. Enjoying a salt block now!

"My feet were very long and badly needed trimming. My legs were also quite sore. People came to handle me all over and look at my feet. I was very nervous, didn't know them, but they were kind."

Report 2: Looks to be about an extra inch and a half of toe all the way around on the mare. Vet does NOT think she foundered. She does think she has strained/bowed both front tendons though from how long her feet are. We were able to pick up front feet and they are full of thrush and just tons of toe, heel and sole. Wants to u/s tendons. We pulled blood, which she was not a fan of at all, lol.

Report 3: Now we know she is definitely foundered and fairly severe in one foot. Just starting her this morning on herbs.

Report 4: Asha trimmed this time. She was pretty good about it. We were able to cut out most of the thrush. Blacksmith wants to have vet take x-rays again (if possible) closer to when he comes back out again. He said next time they would like to shoe her up front. They put the shoe on backwards and that helps support the heel and tendons and leaves the toe open. With fresh x-rays he can see exactly where he needs to put the shoe.

"I was beginning to feel a little better, but my feet felt very strange. I was in a stall a lot and not moving around very much which I did not understand. "

Report 5: We still have a way to go before she is feeling better, but at least she is on her way to feeling better. Blacksmith recommended we give her a few more days in the stall to adjust then start hand walking and then gradually add/increase turnout time.



Asha shortly after arriving in SC.

JUNE 2021

Report 6: All is well. Asha just got trimmed again past week. She is moving better. Moved her to the big field with more grass too.

JULY 2021

Report 7-8: Asha has lost some weight. She seems much happier turned out in the big field then she was in the stall. She literally would not eat the coastal hay, nor would she hardly move in the stall. She ate grain twice a day and maybe a flake of hay the entire day. She is steadily eating grass now, and round bales are in the field, but she doesn't eat them either. She is still pretty head-shy and hard to catch too, but getting better. We just trimmed her last time. I'm happy to have the vet come back out and do current x-rays if you want me to and then make the decision based on those to either shoe her or leave her barefoot. I'm not really sure what the best course of action is for her in all honesty. She hurts, and I really don't think she is going to be anything other than a companion for life, and I'm not even sure how fair that is to her.

Report 7-15: Asha was moved from her first rehab home in SC to KY.

Report 7-19: Cold hose, ice boots and Banamine to reduce discomfort

"I still felt lost and worried but the people were kind. My legs hurt."

Report 7-23: She was evaluated by KY vet. KY vet instructed new farrier how to slowly start correcting her hoof angles.

Report 7-23: After a trim Asha was moved to a new rehab facility in KY.

"I traveled again – it makes me very nervous. I was getting a lot of attention - I didn't understand. Cool blowing air was nice."

Report 7-23: Ok. Asha nickered at me tonight. She is still enjoying the fans. So I'm letting her stay in until she tells me she's ready to go out. We will see what happens when I put Felix, her neighbor, out!

Report 7-25: Asha got a bath and mane and tail brushed. She doesn't like to be sprayed. We did a few circles to get her wet and rinsed. She also has rain rot behind withers. She loves being in so far.

"I was thin and did not have strong muscles but I am very beautiful with a lovely white coat and long wavy mane and tail."

Report 7-27: I cleaned out all four feet on Asha and she was super! She is still trying to get used to being sprayed with fly spray. She ate a full bag of hay today and is out for the night with Scotty.

AUGUST to OCTOBER 2021

Report 10-24: The scoot boots really help her.

“Today I am in the pasture. Looking and feeling more like who I am.”

SPRING 2022

Asha is still in care and rehabilitation with the LRF. It has been a year since she arrived. She continues to improve and will soon be looking for a permanent home. With her good lineage and conformation, she may find a home as a valuable broodmare. It is not yet clear if she will be sound for riding.

Over the course of this year resources provided for Asha include: Transportation (multiple times), Ultra Sound evaluation, X-rays, farrier work, trimming and special shoeing, medications, herbal and vitamin/mineral supplements, many magna-wave treatments over weeks on her legs, a pair of scoot boots, and, of course hay and shelter, along with a great deal of hands-on care.

All the professional and daily care has been provided through the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation, and by many people volunteering their time and knowledge. It is hard to put a price tag on caring. The reality is that, on average, the LRF spends \$2,500 (with some costing well over \$10,000) to take in, transport, evaluate, rehabilitate (in many cases,) shelter, and relocate a horse to a forever home.

In addition to caring people, this work also requires the support of generous financial donors.

It can be a long road back. It takes careful and continuous physical and mental evaluation. It takes a willingness to see what will be required of both horse and caretaker. It can test the determination, strength and resources of horse and human. It can be a rollercoaster of small successes and setbacks. It can open new doors and let in the light for both horses and the humans willing to open their hearts.

If you would like to learn more about Asha, her recovery, and the search for her forever home, or if you would like to donate to the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation, please visit our website: www.LipizzanRescueFoundation.org or contact us at 800-991-0952.

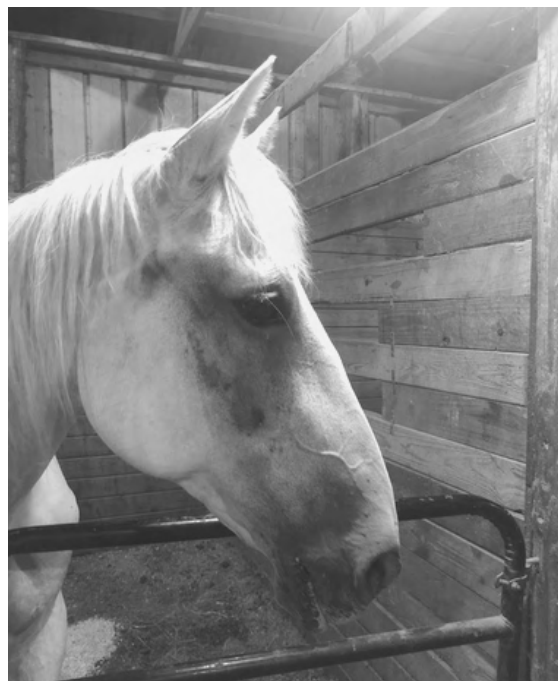
July 2023 - ASHA’S UPDATE

Asha has found her forever home. Today she is sound, running in pasture, happy and safe. Asha stole the heart of one of her primary care givers and will spend her life with someone she bonded with and, maybe, just maybe, she will add her “very royal Lipizzan lineage” to our North American Lipizzan Herd.

The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation is all about happy endings. Help us turn a Lipizzan in need into a Lipizzan with a secure and loving future.



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Asha in her forever home in Kentucky