

LRF News

Asha by Lynn Smith

This is the story of a Lipizzan mare - her trip from birth, to rescue, to a new life, and finally a forever home. The following reports from the field represent the first portion of Asha's journey with the LRF. Additional reports and updates can be found on the LRF website. 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 that comes through the LRF.

My name is Asha. This is my story. I was born in 2006 on a very nice farm with many other Lipizzans. I come from a very royal Lipizzan lineage. When I was just four, I was chosen to be a broodmare and I moved across the country. There I lived with another Lipizzan. Sadly, as my 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 (GHC) had been contacted by their owner who was no longer able to care for them. The GHC contacted the LRF. We stepped forward and both horses were taken to a LRF shelter for evaluation and care.

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 had always lived outside, so we were nervous about stalls.

The mare was put in a 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 as I didn't know them, but they were kind.

Vet does NOT think she foundered. She does think she has strained/bowed both front tendons though from her long feet. We were able to pick up her front feet and they are full of thrush and just tons of toe, heel, and sole. The vet wants to ultrasound her tendons. We pulled blood, which she was not a fan of at all.

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

Asha had her hooves trimmed this time. Blacksmith wants to have the vet take x-rays again closer to when he comes back out again. He said next time he wants to put shoes on her front. He puts the shoes on backwards and that helps support the heel and tendon. 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.

We still have a way to go before she is feeling better, but at least she is on her way. The 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.

JUNE 2021 All is well. Asha just got trimmed again this past week. She is moving better. Moved her to the big field with more grass too.

Asha in Kentucky at her foster home.

Photos courtesy of the LRF.

JULY 2021 Asha has lost some weight. She seems much happier turned out in the big field than she was in the stall. She would not eat the coastal hay, nor would she move much in the stall. She ate grain twice a day and maybe a flake of hay the entire day. She is still pretty head-shy and hard to catch but getting better. I'm happy to have the vet come back out and do current x-rays if you want me to and then either shoe her or leave her barefoot. I'm not sure what the best course of action is for her. 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.

Cold hose, ice boots, and banamine to reduce discomfort *I still felt lost and worried, but the people were kind. My legs hurt.* Asha was moved from her first rehab home in South Carolina to Kentucky

She was evaluated by a KY vet. The vet instructed the new farrier how to slowly start correcting her hoof angles. 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.

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 out!

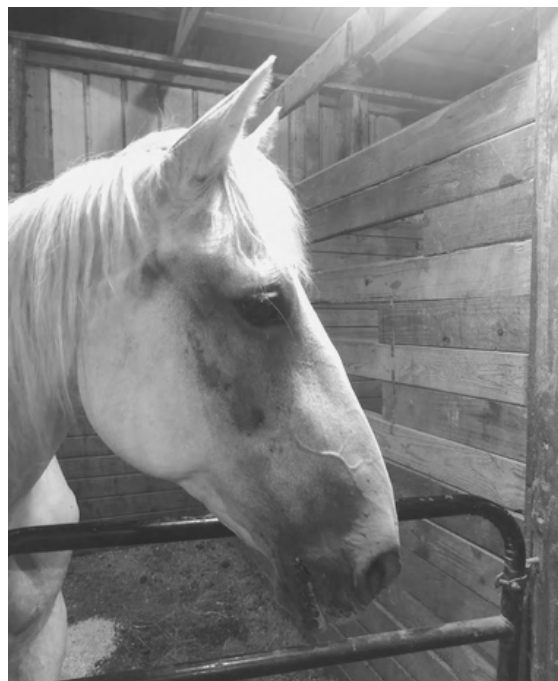
Asha got a bath and her mane and tail brushed. She doesn't like to be sprayed. We did a few circles to get her wet and rinsed.

She also has rain rot behind withers. She loves being inside 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.

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. The scoot boots really help her.

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



LRF News cont.

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 were extensive. It's hard to put a price tag on caring. The *reality* is that, *on average*, the LRF spends \$2,500 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.

