

# A Magic Experience at Tempel Farms

By Elaine Hutchison

Part II

*Continued from Winter, 2017 . . .*

Even without basic horse manners, Magic soon became a favorite in the barn. He showed the staff that he enjoyed attention from humans and wanted to be around them. Esther remembers his beguiling ways. "Everyone thought he was the cutest thing. He would literally call out with a funny nicker. He charmed everyone around him."

But no matter how delightful his personality, their highest priority for Magic was his health. The extra 200 pounds severely compromised his movement. Immediately upon arrival, his sweet feed was cut out completely and he was moved to a dry lot. After one month of a carefully controlled diet, he had lost enough weight for his education to begin.

They began by teaching Magic about the daily realities of being in a barn. "We started him on the easy things," says Eliza. "We began with simple grooming, being tied in a stall, the wash stall, crossties, etc. We didn't know what he knew, so we made sure he was comfortable with everything. And yes, we taught him to lead."

Larissa Holmes, a working student at Tempel Farms, was an avid Magic fan and had volunteered to work with him in her spare time. She would become an important part of his training.

Curious to see how he would move after his weight loss, Larissa took him to the round pen. His movement in the round pen made his challenges very evident. His main issue was balancing his body. Now that he had lost weight, Magic was able to move more easily, but his skills in controlling that movement were lacking. In the days that followed, Larissa and Eliza learned that simple lungeing was a challenge and cantering in any manner caused him to lose his balance.

With basic groundwork, Magic learned to control his body better. After he was taught to lunge properly, a saddle and bridle were added to training sessions. Larissa sat on him the first time and it was soon evident that Magic had some previous training. He began remembering skills from his past.

After a few months of living and training at Tempel Farms, Magic was ready for adoption. With their goal of getting him trained as well as possible for his new home, Esther and her staff gave Magic a chance at a new, healthier life and a new way to live that life. His transformation from an overweight, backyard pet, to a riding horse companion, was successful.

The LRF will always be grateful to Tempel Farms for their wonderful support of Magic. Because of their efforts, Magic is doing very well in his new home.

And even though he was there only a few months, Magic left a lasting legacy at Tempel Farms. Everyone remembers him with such fondness. During his time at the farm, this affectionate horse reached out to those around him, his kindness making each person feel special. He created a happy atmosphere wherever he was, giving the gift of himself--the gift of Magic.



ABOVE: Magic and with his friend and trainer, Larissa  
BELOW: Magic after his transformation



The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation (LRF) is a registered non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the preservation and safety of the Lipizzan horse in North America.

Visit the LRF online at  
[www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org](http://www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org)

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# The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation

## - How YOU can Help -

The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation (LRF) has had the honor of helping 37+ Lipizzans / part Lipizzans over the past two years. Some have been placed in new loving homes. In other situations, we have been able to help owners through tough times or to better improve the bond between owners and their Lipizzan.

The LRF would like to be able to help every Lipizzan / part Lipizzan who has fallen on hard times. We need your support to be able to do this. Financial donations are always appreciated and put to good use. However, some of you may not be able to help financially. There is still room for you. We would like to develop a web of people around the country to network with and monitor other horse rescues and livestock auctions in their areas. If you have some time you can donate to help keep an eye out for lost Lipizzans, please contact us and we will help you get started.

**Lyn Schaeffer - President**  
**Lipizzan Rescue Foundation**  
8480 O'Hare Rd · Las Vegas, NV 89143-1235  
800/991-9052 · [SaveOurLips@gmail.com](mailto:SaveOurLips@gmail.com)  
[www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org](http://www.lipizzanrescuefoundation.org)

