

What is the Horse Protection League?

To Bailey, Lucy, Magic, Banjo, and dozens of other horses, it is a life-saver – literally. HPL is a group of horses that have faced neglect, abuse, starvation, and the slaughterhouse, and it is the group of volunteers who take of them.

The mission is to contribute to the welfare of horses. The goal is to get the horses healthy again, and adopted into loving homes. Commitment, hard work, and generosity from volunteers accomplishes the goal. HPL has no paid staff.

In historic Churches Ranch in Arvada, home of HPL, volunteers of all ages, work 365 days a year, rain or shine, blizzard or not. They muck, scrub water tanks, stack hay, build shelters, and mend fences. They feed, exercise, and groom the horses, and rebuild their trust in human beings.

HPL volunteers are an extended family. Along with ranch upkeep and caring for the horses, they do fundraising to finance HPL. They reach beyond their fences to educate people about horses. Scout troops, at risk youth, school children, and vet tech students frequently visit. Princess, the miniature horse, is a goodwill ambassador. She visits nursing homes, schools, leads parades, and makes personal appearances at birthday parties. HPL has been host site for The American Humane Society Educational Clinic.

Seeing an emaciated horse, staring death in the face, arrive at the ranch is not easy, but hope and optimism prevail at HPL. The horses' noble spirits do survive, and volunteers have great pride for a mission accomplished.

To meet the horses of HPL (and the people who think stacking hay bales is actually fun), you may visit the Horse Protection League on Wednesdays from 9:00am to noon, and on Saturdays from 9:00am to 2:00pm. at the historic Churches Ranch, 17999 W. 60th Ave., Golden, CO 80403. www.cohpl.org or 303.216.0141