

Sanctuary horses have deadline to find MT homes

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HAMILTON - More than 20 horses still need a home after the largest-ever sanctuary failure.

Rescuers and animal care organizations successfully re-homed about 75 percent of the horses and donkeys from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary and Rescue after it shut down. But a few remaining horses will make a new home in Texas if they aren't adopted in the next two and a half weeks.

While caregivers and veterinarians named some of the horses, one horse, an Appaloosa bay mare, is referred to as No. 13. But she could care less, it seems, as long as she has a hand to touch her.

"She's just totally happy I'm standing here petting her, you know, giving her attention," Montana Equine Rescue founder Shannon Alexander said.

The horses have come a long way, not only the distance from the Hot Springs sanctuary to a temporary home at Wilde-r Farm in Hamilton, but each one has had to readjust to new situations and surroundings its entire life.

"A lot of the horses that came from the sanctuary just really didn't know that they could trust a human," Alexander said. "They all belonged to someone and, for whatever reason, the owners felt at the time that it as a good thing to do to take them to the large animal sanctuary. Things just didn't work out like it was anticipated, so they have a new hope for a fresh start."

From horses that are ready to hit the trail to others that would make better pasture mates, the ones that remain unclaimed have a wide variety of possible uses.

"Some people are looking for the weekend riding horse," Alexander said, "there's definitely some companion animals as well as horses that need to be trained. They all just need some love and attention. Know that they're cared about."

Something, Alexander assures, they will get at Texas sanctuary Habitat for Horses. And, chances are, even the unnamed Appaloosa will get a name, a home and a permanent person to pet her.

If you're interested in keeping one of those horses in Montana, **[visit the Montana Horse Sanctuary website](#)**.