



I Never Touched A Horse

By Julie Stetser

My name is Julie Stetser: volunteer (aka ranch hand) at WNCR (Walkin N Circles Ranch) since orientation in December 2009. Before that date, I had never touched a horse, let alone ridden one.

I had considered volunteering at an animal shelter but decided I wasn't cut out for that. I'd become the "Dog Lady of San Pedro" adopting so many dogs. I figured that would not happen with horses.

After orientation I spent most of the winter breaking ice, filling water tanks and mucking. In February 2010 there was an email asking for Saturday night assistant feeders. "Get to Know the Horses" the email said. I volunteered for that and told Colleen I'd try it for a couple of months. That was seven months ago and I'm still at it.

During these feedings is when I learned about Shelby. (Get to Know the Horses" said the email.) Her story was on my mind all week and that's when I decided to make her my project.

It took dedication trying to catch her to halter her. It was frustrating and took lots and lots of time.

It has all paid off and the hours in the hot sun trying to halter Shelby are a distant memory. Shelby and I are now 'Buddies' and we have developed a touching, understanding relationship I never expected to happen.

I owe thanks to all fellow volunteers (and caretakers) who, during my learning experience, listened, encouraged, taught, lamented, shared, laughed and commiserated with my efforts.

There are so many kind and sharing souls at WNCR, without all of your input my relationship with that horse could not have happened.

Now I have touched a horse and she has touched me.

Thanks Everyone!!!!