



# Compassion Ranch E-News

Progress & Plans about animals & programs for partners & other interested friends.  
To David's personal email list about animals to inform and inspire awareness or action.

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## Braveheart is "Back" and Better!



2020 at vet clinic after rescue. 550 pounds. 2022 after rehab at Compassion Ranch\*. 800 pounds.

**Braveheart's Story.** The Chilton County Sheriff's Deputy rescued 2 horses "a week before starvation," per assessment of Dr. Jud Easterwood at Easterwood Equine Hospital. Two by Two Rescue met us at the vet hospital and donors paid for the medical attention, including surgery for this horse, then called Lou. Braveheart (new name) joined Compassion Ranch for rehab after surgery, along with Lancelot (his story comes soon).

His first year here Brave improved consistently physically, re-gaining 200 pounds, though psychologically he provoked fights with males, still anxious over food security and territory. The day he arrived, just one day after surgery, he tried to kick a senior gelding on the other side of a fence five feet high and hit the top of a wooden rail. The other horse was just standing there, as if he was greeting the new horse.

During the year, Brave provoked fights with two bigger horses who hurt themselves trying to retaliate through and over a fence. Each horse recovered though needed farm calls by a vet for pain meds and procedures followed by post op by me for 30 days for one and 90 days for another. He challenged us to consider if we should keep him due to his behavior. Would another horse get hurt?

Yet, we committed to persevere to give him more chances. It took time. After 700+ days of getting fed regularly and treated well, Brave finally seems to feel trust and security. He seems to have settled into his place in a herd with two rescued mares – not a bad gig!

Braveheart had been named Lou by another rescue, a nice name though after working with him two years, Braveheart fits him.

**What you can do.** Thanks for reading our periodic reports and stories of progress and plans. If you know someone looking for a program like us to serve animals and people, you could share our information or introduce us.

If you want to know more, faster, I can call, email, or host you here for lunch. I love “showing off” the animals and their stories, and you may find a way to fulfill part of your bucket list for helping animals and people working together. We invite animal lovers to partner with Compassion Ranch to care for these animals and inspire students to grow up more likely to treat animals well instead of what former students did when animals had to be rescued.

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\* Note: in 2020 Compassion Ranch was a concept with the name recommended by Terry Slaughter. I was still trying to do most of the work and financing privately (Triple D Ranch and Farm). When we expanded the vision taking in five horses/ponies--Scarlett Baye, Crockett, July, Lancelot, and Braveheart – plus more dogs and cats, I realized this calling is bigger than one person. Triple D still donates use of the land, machinery, barns, and lots of labor though financial partners are helping us buy food, some of the shelter and fencing improvements, and even a few pieces of equipment needed to provide better care. Compassion Ranch is a priority program of Life Leaders Institute & Ranch, a nonprofit started in 1992 and 501 (c)(3) since 2012, requiring the most time and expense.



## COMPASSION RANCH

Compassion Ranch is a nonprofit program of 501 (c)(3) Life Leaders America aka Life Leaders Institute & Ranch along with two more programs to serve people – Patriotism in Action and Planning & Personal Leadership (founded 1992 & 501 c3 since 2012).

- Feed and shelter 34 horses, ponies, donkeys, dogs, cats, and goats in sanctuary who help inspire and inform students, families, and groups to provide compassionate care.
- Develop and host programs help students learn and internalize school character traits *Compassion, Courage, Cooperation, Patriotism...* mandated to teach in Alabama since 1995.
- Develop and publish online resources for teachers, students, parents, and mentors to use for personal leadership, planning for school & the 7 Areas of Life, and patriotism in action.

Directed by Dr. David Dyson with land and facilities donated by Triple D Ranch & Farm in Central Alabama.  
[www.CompassionRanch.org](http://www.CompassionRanch.org) / [www.Facebook.com/CompassionRanchAL/](http://www.Facebook.com/CompassionRanchAL/) [www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org](http://www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org)