



Compassion Ranch E-News

Animal Progress & Plans for partners, volunteers, & friends interested.
Personal email list of David to inform and inspire awareness & action.
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Cody's Comeback

Cody re-gained 100 pounds after weight loss and a scare!



Cody with weight down to 800 pounds



Cody 100 days later 100 pounds heavier

Near the end of winter, Cody fell down in his stall. I had to rock him at his wither to help him get up. I brushed away his thick winter coat and saw more ribs since fall. He fell again the next day. I was worried. His mare, Cocoa, started falling weeks before she died though she was 35 years old. Cody, still in his 20s, was too young....

Cody had been eating grass, hay, plus 2 pounds of senior feed daily for a year. We had already taken a fecal sample to a vet clinic in the fall at the first signs of weight loss, then administered the recommended dewormer. He still lost weight.

We invited a veterinarian to make a farm call. He assessed, with Cody's senior age he no longer was processing calories like when he was a younger horse. Grass and hay were no longer enough to give him nutrients he needs. We needed to change his diet. He needed more megacalories. The vet suggested a different senior feed and more of it. Triple Crown has 10% fat content. He said, we might have to feed as if the hay and grass added little value.

A horse typically needs 15,000 - 30,000 calories per day. The horses here each eat 20-25 pounds per day.

Our strategy was to increase his supplemental senior feed to 7 pounds per day or about a 50 pound bag per week plus a daily dewormer mixed into his feed, then assess if needs more. He also gets a serving of chopped alfalfa, good for calories and taste. Plus, he still has full time access to grass plus hay winter and sometimes summer (hay is optional feed in the summer though we will feed more when budget supports because the hay provides variety in diet, roughage, and horses, like humans, enjoy coming home to the barn corral to socialize and eat without having to leave the barn to graze).

Like senior people, health-related costs often increase with age. Cody's new senior feed costs 50% more and he needs 3x what he was getting. Just the senior feed costs about \$1800 per year. Like

senior people, senior horses deserve family care and medical care so they have a chance to live out their days with joy and security.

By definition a horse is a senior at age 15, though we consider them seniors at age 20. Other equines who are older than 20 years include Crockett, Patriot, July, Honk, and June. Star turns 20 in 2023. Most of the others are between 5 and 15.

A generous partner learned of Cody's challenges and our plans to feed more supplemental food to the equines and purchased a truck load of feed through our wish list at Tractor Supply. Cody's sponsor sent a check to help with vet care.

We think we have extended Cody's life and improved quality of life while helping the others more as well. It's a partnership – our team does most of the work and you partners provide most of the resources to help us do the work. Thanks for supporting the animals and the mission with money, service, and/or advocacy to those who can.

If you want to learn or help more, you have options:

- Phone call: invite me to call you at Doc@CompassionRanch.org.
- Visit for lunch or coffee to meet the animals, discuss your ideas and questions, as well as plans and possibilities.
- See more at www.CompassionRanch.org including a list of the animals, a few stories of why they are here, wish lists for food and supplies through WalMart, Tractor Supply, Amazon, and Chewy, and a secure donate button to help with hay and other needs not on those wish lists.

What's your idea to have impact on animals or people? How might you or your family or organization benefit from working with us?

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