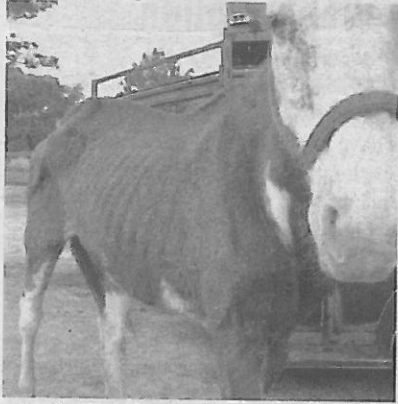


# Neglected Horse Saved By O'Hana Rescue



*Isabelle when she was rescued*

The 11-year-old tri-color paint mare is being treated for a multitude of problems that were caused by starvation and neglect. When Isabelle was rescued on January 21st she should have weighed about 1,100 pounds, but weighed only about 700 pounds and she was very weak. In addition to being starved, her hooves and legs had abscesses, her ears were bitten and torn by dogs and she had fungus on the skin that was draped over her bony skeleton. She also had a tumor on one of her eyes.

Isabelle almost died the day after she was rescued. She got down and was caught under the boards in her stall. Young and her son ripped the boards off and gave Isabelle pain medication. After much effort Isabelle struggled to her feet. She had been without food and water for a long time and could only be feed water and a hand full of grain every two hours for the first week. She was given penicillin and pain medication, and was bathed with medication so fungus on her skin was dying and she slowly began to gain a little weight.

Young has operated O'Hana Rescue in Hudson for three years and said Isabelle is the worst case she has seen. She cried when she went to pick her up and first saw the terrible condition of the horse. Young works with the Pasco

Sheriff's Office and county animal control. The Sheriff's Office is investigating the previous owners, but no charges have been filed yet.

The name O'Hana is Hawaiian for family. Young has rescued and found homes for 50 horses.

Young dedicated herself to treating Isabelle, even in the cold and rain, and ended up in the hospital for two days with bronchial pneumonia. As soon as she was released from the hospital she immediately began Isabelle's treatments and therapy again.

Isabelle's body was in terrible shape, but her face was even worse. A tumor had grown around her eye socket and cheek and was very close to her eye and needed surgery. The cost for the surgery was going to be \$2,200, a prohibitive amount for O'Hana Rescue. But Young just could not give up on Isabelle because she is such a sweet and gentle soul. So in addition to the intense therapy that Young was providing for Isabelle, she resorted to asking for donations for the first time, and even stood on the corner of U.S. 19 and State Road 52 with photos of Isabelle and got about \$130 in donations. She also planned yard sales and she put two of her own horses up for sale to help pay for Isabelle's surgery.

## Surgery Performed at Surgi-Care Center For Horses

On March 18 surgery to remove the tumor from Isabelle's eye was performed by Surgeon Dr. Ruth-Ann Richter, DVM, MS of Surgi-Care Center For Horses in Brandon. Dr. Richter was able to successfully remove the tumor and save Isabelle's eye. When Young returned to pick Isabelle up the next morning she was back in surgery again, due to re-injuring the eye, and to replace her stitches with stronger ones. The unexpected second surgery meant that Isabelle had to stay another night at Surgi-Care. Carrie Young was extremely impressed by Surgi-Care Center For Horses and their caring staff. "They were wonderful to Isabelle and to me", said Young.

Isabelle is back home now and is doing well under the constant care of Young who has really become attached to



*Isabelle today*

this very special horse. She is providing extensive after care at home by administering gastric care two hours before she administers Banamine. Eye dressing changes are done and medications administered. Isabelle wears a mask with a bubble over her eye while in her stall. She enjoys having the mask removed for a short time while Young hand-walks her on a lead for about two hours each day. Young recently rescued a 17-year-old pony that is stalled next to Isabelle and they have become good friends.

Isabelle will return to Surgi-Care on April 15 and May 15 for more surgery to have chemo beads implanted in her eyes as a precaution.

If you would like to meet Isabelle and Carrie they will be at the Surgi-Care Center For Horses Hurricane Awareness Clinic to be held on May 15 at the clinic in Brandon, Florida at 605 East Bloomingdale Avenue. Isabelle will return to the clinic to have her second chemo bead surgery early in the morning of May 15 before the hurricane clinic. Come out and learn from the experts how to protect yourself and your horses and pets in the event of a hurricane and meet Isabelle and Carrie. To contact Surgi-Care call 813-643-7177.

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## HCFDF

# Spring Fun Match

## April 10

*at Mary Help of Christians Center*

*in Tampa*