

Welcome Clyde SVERN's Latest Rescue This is What Real Rescue is All About!

By: Claire Summers, DVM • Dog & Pony Show Equine Vet

Meet Clyde the mini hinny. Clyde was seized by Shenandoah Animal Control due to severe neglect, and triaged by a veterinarian on the scene, who thought there may be hope for him, if he could be placed with **Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network**.

When we initially saw a photo of him, we were very concerned about the potential for a lower limb fracture or dislocated joint, and knew he needed immediate attention, and x-rays to assess the situation. As difficult as it may have been, we were prepared to shower him with bunches of love, affection and yummy treats before ending his suffering, humanely, if necessary.

However, we were incredibly excited to see that he had not suffered a catastrophic injury. Rather, without proper farrier care, his hooves had become severely overgrown and

distorted. The right hind, especially, had become so twisted and deformed, that he was no longer able to bring his lower limb forward, and was walking on his fetlock, instead of his foot. As a result, his quadriceps and gluteal muscles are severely atrophied, which has undoubtedly lead to compensatory strain on other parts of his body.

With the help of anesthesia, and anti-inflammatories, we were able to use a combination of power tools and farrier tools to remove the excess hoof, allowing this tough little guy to walk normally for the first time in (probably) years. Just look at how squarely he is standing in the hind end now!

Once his muscles have had a chance to adjust to his dramatic change in posture, he will have another joint visit with the farrier who can continue to trim and balance his feet, even better. Don't let his cute face and crazy hair fool you, this little dude is feisty, now that he is feeling better and can actually move!

We knew he must have a fighting spirit to have made it this far!

If you would like to help support Clyde's recovery and rehabilitation, or to learn more about helping or adopting horses through **Shenandoah Valley Equine Rescue Network**, please visit **SVERN.ORG**.

