

Saving Kara

Linda Harper was not planning on being a catalyst for a miracle the day she was driving with a friend to look at a horse. It was a bright Texas day and her intent was to visit a horse she had sold a few years back, her old pal Stella. On the way home an unseen force led her past a lot that was used to house horses awaiting shipment to an auction or the slaughter house. She normally did not stop to look at horses in a lot, but she remembered this place from her younger days. The owner gave her permission to tour the lot and after a few short minutes her eyes were drawn to a gray mare. Linda recognized this sad horse as an Arabian, a breed she loved. Normally, in her part of the state, not many horse people want anything to do with Arabians. A handful of Arab breeders deal daily with the criticism from the rough and tough cowboy types. It was the horse's deep, deep dishy face and delicate beauty, her big black eyes and elegant legs that attracted her. "It is a gray mare 16 years old and broke to ride," the owner told Linda, "registered too, as well as possibly in foal".

She didn't have \$5 to her name, but found herself pleading to the mare with her eyes, "how much will it take to save you?" Three hundred dollars was the answer she received from the owner.

The next day was excruciating for Linda. Having to walk away from the mare left her devastated. How many other healthy, strong horses were waiting in line to be hauled away to an unspeakable fate, she wondered. She spoke of the mare so often at home her family didn't quite know what to think of her new obsession. She had just joined an on-line community of horse lovers at "A Black Horse" so she decided to post her fears about this mare and others like her. Telling her story to other horse enthusiasts might make her feel better. Never in her wildest dreams did she imagine the response.

Linda's first post telling everyone about this mare included this:

"I am so sad right now. I went there today, she was still there!!! I am going back in the morning to beg for them to work something out with me to get her. I am just so sad for all of them, but mostly those who are so healthy and strong and flawless really, who still have to go to the killer house. I understand a necessary evil, but on the other hand, why her? Especially when saving her is so little, but so much to me right now. Ok, enough of my whining. Sorry if I bothered anyone. I could not hold it in any longer."

"Hey, Good luck in getting her back. Hope it works out for you."

"Well, you could get a copy of her registration, take a photo, and post this on the Re-homing Section. At least, it will make you feel better doing this constructive work."

"Talk to this establishment, let them know that most likely this horse is saleable, advertise them and go from there. But, make sure to at least get her registered name and markings so someone can research data source for you."

"Great idea, if you do, maybe you could let them know you're attempting this, and ask for some time to see what responses come in. Wishing you the best and feeling your frustration right along with you."



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Linda posted these words once her heart made a decision.

"Thanks everyone, I am going back in the morning. I know I will wake up really early and have to look at the clock a thousand times to wait until a decent hour, grrrrr. I will take the camera along and see if they will be conducive to this."

"If I can't get her somehow. I just feel it, like she is something special, not that every living creature is not, but she just has that look to her, like she was somebody sometime, you know. I have thought about it all day long. She looks so old school. I mean, I have no clue right now about her bloodlines, I may be all wrong on my extreme novice assumptions, but she looks very Egyptian to me or what I picture an Egyptian Arabian to look like."

Some of the first responses to Linda's last post from the forum included this:

"Sounds like something very magical is happening with you. This mare has moved you. It has been on such a wandering that I have found treasures such as these. We go with you my friend."

"I am not sure what your intentions are with the mare, but I can send you the \$300 Monday morning. A gift from Zavier."

Linda explained her personal thoughts and feelings, some, she did not post on the forum. She had some tough decisions before her.

"Some of the people on the ABH board had suggested trying to take pics of Kara and posting on the forum in case someone may be interested in her and decide to purchase/rescue her. They said to ask the owner to please hold off on sending her anywhere until we had a chance to try and place her. (I had a planned first, to see if he would work something out with me, and let me go ahead and take her....and pay later, as I had no money that day) But when it came down to it, I just wanted her out of there and to be saved from going to the slaughter house. When I arrived at the lot and talked to the man, I came to believe this man was not the type to send a horse to a home unpaid for, so I asked the man if I could take some pictures of her and he said, "sure, go ahead". I saw that there was no hay, no water...and no food for the animals contained there. I saw them fighting, biting, and hurting one another. Many of the horses were in very bad shape. There were also some that did not look as bad. I took several pictures of Kara, before I finally realized where that pungent smell of death was coming from. I zoomed in with my camera...not quite sure what I was seeing in the distance. My stomach turned as I began to realize it was many decaying carcasses of horses who had come to this place never to leave again. I snapped the pics, and got out of there. I was very sad for the horses awaiting slaughter being kept in the same turn out as the rotting carcasses of other horses."

"The evening before I posted the pics, I was trying to decide if posting them was the right thing to do or not. I was not sure what was the proper route to take...I didn't know if what I saw was legal or not, because I have heard rumor of several places like this place...as if this was common place. It was appalling to me, but just because something effects me, does not always mean it's breaking the law. I decided after some thought, that I would post the pics of the carcasses in with Kara...so that people could fully understand the severity of the situation and the urgency of her needing to get out of that place.

"I knew that some of the horses had a chance at being purchased by locals...this helped me not feel as desperate for them, but I knew with no uncertainty that Kara was destined for slaughter, due to her age and breed, Arabian. She did move me, she did get in my head and I hate that he said today is the day. This does not give me much time. I know it's just one... and I am not able to save more, I can't save them all. I can't even save her, but she did do something to me and I just hate that I can't do anything for her. Sorry to come here with it, I just didn't know where else to go to talk about this to someone who would care. Thank you to all of you who really care for these great animals who give so much and ask for just a bit of grain, grass or hay and love you in return. I will stop posting if ya like. I didn't really set out to bring people down. I was angry and feeling helpless, that's all. Thanks again, for those who listened and offered advice."

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Linda posted the pictures she had taken of the mare at the lot which included photos of dead horse carcasses;



The responses took on a more frightened tone. Here was the mare and the deplorable conditions she was living in. Shock and horror prompted immediate action. Members of the forum stepped up to the plate to help;

"I am sick...can someone not drive over there and get her?!!! Gosh, I would send money if someone wants to help!!!"

"OMG Linda, OMG there's nothing one can say to convey the horror one feels upon seeing these pictures."

"And if you can't keep her, I can always make room for one more. It's what I do....."

Linda disclosed more horrifying details of the lot;

"She looks worse than she did the first time I saw her a couple days ago. I didn't see any hay anywhere and they were fighting over empty feed pans. I suppose they do get fed if feed pans are out there. But they were fighting a lot, kicking, ears back...not good. I saw one yesterday and today it had a busted eye. Lucky for the Arabian mare, she is in a group that seem calmer and they have not done too much to her. A few scuffs I noticed that were not there before, but nothing serious yet."

Forum members gave their thoughts and threw out ideas to help the mare;

"Do you have a trailer and could you go get her ASAP? Do you have a place to keep her? She can probably be tracked with that brand. Let's just get her the hell out of there! There are people willing to help. Is there anyone who is really persuasive who can possibly call and stall this man? What is the fastest way for us to get the money to him?"

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"Unless he has Paypal (highly unlikely), it would have to be tomorrow Where in TX is she?"

"You really need to call that guy. Explain your story to him and how much you feel for this mare. Tell him you will have the money. Tell him you will give him \$500 for her! See if he will hold her just one more day! Can you give him anything down to just hold her?"

Linda's boyfriend Jason was not sure what she was up to but he knew whatever she was doing it might mean another mouth to feed soon. Her friend Velma was jumping to help her as soon as she found out what she had witnessed. Velma was in the same financial situation as Linda that day but made herself available to pick up the mare using her trailer if and when she found a way to save the horse.

"I could take it to him if someone sent it Western Union, also, my friend Velma, is on the phone with me now and she said she could pick her up. Could the person sending the money call him first and see where he is at as far as keeping her until we can get him the cash? I was quoted \$300, that's what they told me, but they also told me papers at first too. I do have a place to keep her and I would keep her, but if the person sending the money wants her, that would make me just as happy. Let me know. Someone did say they would help me, but I don't think she can do the Western Union, and I don't think he will wait. I didn't ask him though, he seemed kind of not interested. I didn't want to make him mad at me where I could not get something done. Also, she is in the Waco area, Axtell, Texas."

Linda received a private message from Music Maker, the forum member offering the \$300 needed to get the horse away from the hell she was living. This was a soul known only to Linda from messages on the horse site. The horse's second miracle and Linda knew it. Linda was left with her personal uncertainty, "I never thought any one would REALLY do something like that. Then I started to think perhaps I would be a bad person to take money sent to me by a total stranger, but I reasoned, that it was not for me, it was to save a life. I still did not want to risk someone sending me the cash, only to find we were too late. Some of the people who offered could not get the money here until it would have been too late." Once she decided to go ahead and do whatever it took to save this mare she worried it would be too late. She alerted the forum members;

"Ok, please, no one freak out and do anything yet. The money is coming today, thank you to that person!! And I don't want him to not let me pick her up when I come to get her. If anyone calls him and freaks out on him right now, it could ruin our chances of getting her."

Linda was so close now and she was receiving messages encouraging her. Readers on the forum were staying close to their computers to watch the event unfold in real time. The gray mare had fired a spark, evidenced by the 90 plus messages in this one topic up to now. Members at home were telling their friends to go to the website. Arabian Horse Associations and chat groups told Linda's story, driving their eyes to look, wanting to see what is usually only talked about. Most had, at one time or another, seen a horse and thought it should be saved. Good intentions that never were followed through. The post from Linda everyone was waiting for arrived;

"He has been called, he confirmed the \$300 dollar price tag on her and he told the lady who is sending the money, he would hold her till I can get there with it today. She is sending it Western Union and I will deliver it to him and with my friend Velma. We will pick her up. Then I will post what happened at the lot. After that, everyone can have at him. It is disgusting. He should at least bury the dead. Very sad. THANK YOU ALL FOR SUCH COMPASSION!! I know it's only one, but it is ONE and that's better than none. And it is one that surely has no hope without this help while some others are being purchased before they are taken to slaughter by their people, people not interested in the likes of her. Thank you and thank you God for this one little favor saving one of your precious creatures. While I am giving thanks, there was another very special person who called me too, God bless you too."

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This small bit of information sounded encouraging but the mare was not out of danger yet. Linda and all those committed to saving the horse saw some ray of hope expressed by many.

"Thank God, I'm going to go hug my ponies!"

"Sadly, Monday is when I see most of the shipments heading that way. Monday mornings I try not to stop at this one gas station as it is right off the highway and there is always at least one load of horses headed to Kaufman. I hope someone can save her. Those pictures are justugh..."

Linda went on:

"He may have been trying to get me to act faster. Well it worked if that is what the deal was. But the first day he told me they were moving a lot of horses. When I went back yesterday, those were gone. I didn't want to chance it."

A flood of offers of donations from people on the forum started to roll in. Not just from a few readers, but hundreds of people in cyber space wanted to help. This saga was drawing attention from all over the US. At times as many as 100 people were viewing the story and over 200 people posted a comment in just 24 hours. Thousands had read the story, over 5,000 total just to this point. Nobody could have guessed that in six short days the post total would be over 700 and people from four foreign countries would contribute to the 46,999 views. Examples such as these:

"Thank God this poor mare will be saved from this horrid situation."

"Wonderful, simply wonderful! I may quietly go into the bathroom and toss my guts."

One forum member, Bandit, summed up the feeling of the masses. A man and a boy were walking along a beach. It was low tide and hundreds of mussels were laying in the sand... dying. The boy was picking up as many as he could and was throwing them back into the ocean. The man said to him "There are so many, saving a few isn't going to make a difference. The boy threw another mussel back into the ocean, looked at the man and said "It just made a difference to that one."

Forum members agreed with posts of thankfulness such as these.

"OMG!!! This is disgusting!!! I am just now reading this, or I could have assisted earlier on SOME WAY OR ANOTHER. I'm just barely west of Ft. Worth. Unfortunately in Texas there are very few laws in the urban settings of most of the counties, and allowing horses to lay out there like that (dead) is allowable (if the place is set up as a location where euthanized horses are picked up and taken to). I'm SOOO HAPPY to read someone was sending money, and a trailer was lined up to go get this mare!!!"

"Sitting on the edge of my seat here... thank you Linda and ALL who contributed to getting this lady out of there! I know you'll keep us updated on her with pictures... and so look forward to seeing a little twinkle back in her eyes. She looks so defeated and sad. Bless everyone's hearts involved here."

"I would still like to donate money to help out with her future health care, feed, grooming supplies etc... Please post an address."

Music Maker explained the donation of the money to save this grand mare and why it was a gift from Zavier.

"Hi, I Western Unioned the funds and although it is only one, it is better than none! It is a gift from Zavier, Baskin X Sekwince (Allience). He too was a rescue of sorts a breeder. I paid a small

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amount for him, and he was the worst looking, no muscle and so thin at 6 months, and oh my, his pedigree with all greats up close. He is my heart and he is an image of my love and care. Part of his stud fee when he stands at stud will go to doing something good. Linda, you were willing to go, hard for me to get there from here (Massachusetts) I'm always willing to do what I can do to help!"

Linda made this final post before leaving to pick up the lucky mare.

"Thank you so much Music Maker and Xavier !! My friend Velma is on her way now!! I am also on my way out the door. I will get back with you as soon as we get back!!! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you....I am not very comfortable accepting money from others, I am in the down side of things right now, but I am already having a hard time squashing my pride to accept this help, but to save her, I could not let my pride stand in my way. I don't really know what health issues she is going to bring with her, my first plan is to get her home, put her where she can be quarantined away from my other two babies until I can see what's going on with her. I was thinking penicillin, or Bactrim to start with for her runny eyes and nose. She is not that bad, and it looks like something she is getting over. The rest of her just looks like..."feed me", but I will introduce it to her slowly, as I do not want to CAUSE problems. I will post here the minute I get her and get her settled in and I will post more pictures!! I am so excited for her and for me, and for all of you who came to help me..) Thank you!!!

While waiting for news from Linda, discussions continued on the forum:

"I wonder if the mare comes with a name? If not, maybe Music Maker could have the privilege of naming the mare."

"Music itself sounds like a good name. The mare was bought for a song, yes?"

"This is a special day. I feel like dancin'."

"Yikes!!!! Come on, folks, let's come up with some ideas, and see what appeals to MM and Linda! Of course, Linda, if she's like some of these old souls, she'll 'tell you' what her name is when you see her! You all made an old broad VERY HAPPY today!"

Linda finally posted pictures of Kara arriving at her new home and details of what happened at the lot and just how close they had been to not getting there in time;

"Here's some pictures of her from the trailer to her new little spot for now... I am not going to be turning her out with my others because I did not get her to breed her and I have a stallion out there."



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“ I got her for a companion animal (not horse companion) and they said she was broke, but I have to find out more about her and get her health up before we do anything like riding with her.

I want to tell you what happen when we went to get her.

When we arrived they were loading up a trailer... they had a lot of horses going in, a girl was sitting and writing down information. Two men were tagging and calling out the tag numbers just like at an auction. I don't know what this means, could mean these horses are going back and fourth through the different sale barns, I don't know. They could be going to the slaughter house, but why tag them? The tags were green and not yellow like the other tags that were still on them. I looked and looked and I didn't see her. I knew that Music Maker had called him to ensure he would not trailer her off. I tried to see through the other horses already packed in the trailer and I did see a gray horse, then another one, I was starting to panic. I looked again and saw her. She was in the herd they were still rounding up to haul away!!!

My friend Velma got out and told them we were here for Music Maker's Arabian mare, He pointed to her and said, "ok, she's right there." As if we were a minute later she would have been scooped up with the rest and hauled away. I could not believe he had her in that group after Music Maker called him twice!!

He was really nice about everything, thank goodness. I did not want a confrontational situation to arise. I really think he would have taken her if we had gotten there too late. There were other horses in other places, some she had been with, and were still there. He had her in the round up to go in the trailer herd and when we got there, he finished loading everyone but her.

I was starting to turn into a big chicken so I gave the money to Velma...LOL. I told her to make sure he gave us her coggins because I know going through a sale she would have to have one and it might say where she came from, so she did. She gave him Music Maker's money and told him we needed all her related paper work.

Guess What!!! That's right, you already know!!!! SHE HAD A COPY (I think)...OF HER REGISTRATION PAPERS!!, along with her regular coggins. The information on the coggins for the owner matched up perfectly...as well as all other information except her age.

I had gone out to try and calm the mare...she was so upset from being herded around and weeded out, etc. She was nervous and afraid and did not stand for me to touch her. Then my friend and long time horse woman came out there with me, she had a halter to put on her...we did not want to herd her, we wanted to lead her to the trailer.

With two of us, she stood quietly, but nervous. She stood there. My friend talked to her

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and put the halter on her. She stood. My friend then led her with her first steps toward a new life. She began to eagerly follow and walked right into the trailer with ease. She did fine all the way home.

My two horses were going nuts when we arrived, they are very happy to have her join in...:) But she has to stay in the little area for a while until we make sure she is ok to go out with them. She will be started on some penicillin tonight after she calms her nerves some. She is a sweetheart, very easy to handle, very loving and forgiving eyes.

To be treated without regard to her feelings as a living breathing feeling creature....and still be able to nuzzle and love. What a gift she is."

One reader expressed this to Linda, "Thank you for washing those tears off her cheek." The mare was safe and she had a name, Kara SSB. Kara, a beautiful name for a wonderful mare. Sentiments poured in, all very emotional. The pictures of Kara before at the lot and the new pictures Linda posted of Kara told the story. One minute this grand lady was standing with downward eyes, the smell of the dead enveloping her, depressed with thoughts of her own fate was now looking into the eyes of her savior. Linda, with thousands of horse lovers behind her had accomplished a miracle that day. The words we all wanted to express were posted, "It is not by accident that you went to this place. YOU were sent there not only to rescue this mare but to shine the light brightly on these godless acts of people with no heart. I encourage you NOT to allow any fear to stop you from coming forth to expose the people involved in this horrible crime. Thanks for taking the time to care." Information about Kara's background was researched and shared with all. Kara SSB was straight Spanish foundation breeding, royalty of sorts. Kara had been imported to the U.S. from Spain in 1985. She was the mother of two purebred foals and one half Arab as evidenced by this post from a member of the forum; "According to a data source, Kara SSB was imported from Spain in 1985:

*Original Registration: SSB*6052 1985 Spain*

*United States AHR*373554 KARA SSB*

Also according to my source she produced 2 Pure Bred foals and one half Arabian..

*JUANCHO AHR*426968 28 Jun 1988 Stallion Chestnut*

*HELICON AHR*454765 10 May 1990 Gelding Grey*

*DREAMMELODY HAHR*1A320975 26 Apr 1995 Mare Chestnut*

According to this source Kara SSB's Half-Arab, National Show Horse daughter, Dream Melody, has an extensive show record in CEP, HP, Show Hack, and most recently in training level dressage. Dream Melody's record includes being in the ribbons at Scottsdale in several HP classes in two different years AND several Regional Championships in HP! The poster went on; "You know, this is what rescue is all about, One horse at a time, one collection of new friends (and some not so new, perhaps) banding together to help and support and encourage. There's a lot of burnout in rescue - but events like this - one person with the eyes to see, the ears to hear, and the willingness to share that, and just see what happens! This is what cures the burnout, what keeps us trying. I'm so proud of everyone! "

Others expressed their feelings, "It is not by accident that you went to this place. YOU were sent there not only to rescue this mare but to shine the light brightly on these godless acts of people with no heart. I encourage you, NOT to allow any fear to stop you from coming forth to expose the people involved in this horrible crime." and; "God has smiled upon you this day!!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for saving this lovely animal. It is people like you that help make a difference in such a cruel world.... As a Spanish Breeder, I have to say, this breaks my heart that she was left to her own devices. Sadly, it is very common right now as the older imports reach their 20s. You will find the "Spanish essence" to be one of the most intoxicating bonds a horse and human can have. They have a reknowned gentle spirit and quiet dignity that I have never seen in any other horse. Take care of this special lady, she deserves it." Linda responded to the forum; "If she leaves me it will not be by my hand, it will be the will of God, she is here to stay and I will protect her from this drought and the elements. Every time I go out there I am moved by her mere presence. She has

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class and style, and I would have never guessed that she was near her age. She is put together so well to be her age and look how he does...maybe not perfect, but who is at her age. I hope God will give me many years with her and it breaks my heart already thinking I won't have more of those years after I get to know her ...as far as falling in love...it was something she did to me the first time I laid eyes on her...that's a done deal. I am in love. Funny thing...I have never really thought gray was one of my favorites...but it was not her color that attracted me to her...it was those eyes, they seemed so familiar, like she's known me her whole life, It was a look that's hard to describe in my head. Well, I don't think so, I think it was meant to be, and here she is.. So it must be.

My heart continues to go out to all those who cared and who helped and who wanted to help and who still want to help. You are a blessing. I will continue to keep people updated, this is not "just my new mare", she belongs to the Arabian people who have devoted their lives to this great breed...I am just her new best friend and care taker...:) I have always loved them, but never let myself follow my heart really..until just now...and boy did I follow it right...:) I'm hooked on her. She is a lost Spanish Queen, deserving of so much more than what she got when they let her go like this. I wonder if they really knew she would end up where she was?"

It may seem this miracle is finished but in truth it is just beginning. For Kara a new life, a new beginning. For Linda a new horse, a new breed to learn about and proof of the good still in this world plus thousands of new friends. For the man who sold Kara to Linda and many like him a new scrutiny about the way horses are treated. All of this in just six days. Linda told me she received so many calls to her house they stopped keeping track. Her personal private mailbox on the forum held so many messages and offers of help she had to empty it twice and over 100 emails to her home. Her thoughts about the future for Kara and herself are below.

"When I look outside my bedroom window at Kara, I find my self imagining her on a beach or in a field as a younger horse full of spirit and life, with her beautiful future ahead of her. I picture her bending her neck over and prancing back to her cozy stall to bed down for the night. I think of kind people gently stroking her sleek shiny neck, touching her cheek and talking to her softly...telling her she is a queen who will have a home with them forever. Then all at once, I feel sad and happy and full of so many emotions I can't put a name to them. Kara will never not have a home again. At 23 years of age, she will now be respected for all the years she devoted herself to serving man. Getting to know Kara allows you to know she is very willing and sweet, not the kind of horse you just throw away."

Plus;

"If you breed, rescue!

Fight abuse and neglect...turn it in to the police the minute you see it.

Fight abuse and neglect in the horse slaughter business. Some of these animals may need to be put down out of compassion, but sadly most are salvageable and do not suffer ailments bad enough to warrant a death sentence. For many horses, it isn't until they have gone back and forth from horse trader to horse trader via horse auctions, that their health begins to fail them so badly they can not be saved. Days past are where memories live, of bright sunny days and green pastures with love and affection. They can't understand what they did so bad to be punished in this way....why they are no longer treated with love and affection or why they are not being fed and watered and cared for."

More information about Kara is on the back page.

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Kara's papers say the original breeder was D Juan Enterecanales Azcarate, Toledo, Spain.

"Kara" is often used as a slang diminutive endearment in Spanish. Like a shortened version of Carino/Carina = dear one, dearest, 'you dear little thing' and so on. Often seen spelled Cari or Kari pending on which generation is using it and which region in Spain.

Posted on the forum;

"Kara SSB was indeed bred by Juan Entrcanales of the well known Yeguada Estiviel in Spain which has concentrated for years on producing and testing their athletic Arabians in racing, jumping and cross besides the Halter ring. She comes from very good bloodlines, particularly known for their stamina and endurance. This is probably what has kept her alive.

Imported by Marvin Pipes of Louisiana, along with the Spanish-related mare Charanga 78bm (Shazon x Jacerina), and the classical Spanish mare Kaba SSB 83 gm (Jaque x Jabega II by Zancudo) and stallion Halifa SSB 80gs (Ocal x Gaza by Galero) who died in 3 Sept. 04.

Marvin Pipes bred Helena del Mar, Evita Mi Amor and Paloma de Espana, all 3 mares now owned by Marybeth of Gilead Arabian Farm in Mississippi. It is a terrible shame that this mare was sold on before Marybeth had had a chance to even see her.

Kara SSB, even though in her deplorable condition, still looks very much like her pedigree and the double Verana which she carries as tail female in both her dam line and her sire's tail female line. She resembles the Barquillo daughter Ociosa greatly. Ociosa was a 3/4 + sister to Orive the sire of Garbo.

As a long time breeder of Spanish Arabians I find this to be a heartbreaking story. Fortunately it has had a happy ending. All too many of the 80's imports and all that mad rush of buying to impress with imported Arabians of a "new" bloodline have ended up like the carcasses in the background of your photos. It is appalling. I am so relieved that she has found a home with you."



Kara today



Numerous organizations around the U.S. operate to rescue horses like Kara. Contact them to make a donation, volunteer your time or if you have room for "just one" horse.

This story is a gift to all who read it. My way of giving to the Kara fund. Thank you to Linda Harper for all she has done and for answering my questions with honesty. Thanks also to my friend Deb Peckham for invaluable late night help in proofing and editing.