

What kid turns down the chance to sit on a horse, be it rocking or walking?
There is a natural affinity to touch that big woolly, kind-eyed giant.

Well Corrales is the perfect place to mix kids and horses. There are probably 25+ youth horseback instructors in Corrales and daily kids come to the Village to get their dose of horse one on one. It is amazing to see the synergy between a 50-pound kid and a 1,400-pound horse.

One such horse is Sweet Pea age 37. She was a polo pony as a youth and charged up and down a field of green chasing a white ball and having a man lean off her center of gravity to win a match. What an athlete she was!!! Time moved on and she was not quit the swift of foot and her next life was spent teaching riding at an academy. Because of her sweet disposition she was a favorite of young riders and patiently did her best to carry out their demands. Later life found her as a therapy horse working with special needs riders and finally she was given away as too old and too hard to keep weight on. She ended up at my farm 5 or 6 years ago and she truly was a gift horse. She got her special senior pelleted food and had a special place to eat away from the herd so she could take her time and gum her food down since she had little left in the way of teeth. She would be borrowed for weekly horse camp now and then and often would get swollen knees and have to be rested for days with cold compresses. With some trepidation I sent her to Scout camp this year hoping a timid boy might find her reassuring and a companion for the week. Well she flourished at camp. No lame days for Sweet Pea! She has returned to Corrales and continues to take even 4 year olds for a ride out on the trail being ponied by the instructor.

There is nothing like the smile on the face of the child as they let the mane trickle through their fingers and feel the swell of the muscles under their thighs. It is quite a sight and warms the heart beyond belief.

On Saturday September 27th during the Annual Corrales Harvest Festival we invite you to join CHAMP for the 2nd Annual Celebration of the Horse at Top Form Arena at the Recreation Center. Hay wagons will drop you there for demonstrations on all aspects of horses in Corrales. There will be many youth horsemanship instructors with booths where you can see the opportunities for

your child or grandchild to learn a safe lifelong recreation activity under the guidance of an expert. Kids and horses mix safely only with instruction and guidance. Horse packing, driving, therapy, rescue, training, trail riding, ranch work, team drills, minis, and mules will all be on display.

Bring the child in your life with you and meet an instructor to open the world of horses to them. Lessons are cheap when compared to the room and board of a horse and even adults are turning to horse lessons to fill that void on their bucket list they never filled as a youth.

Please join us and bring a friend to the Celebration of the Horse Saturday of Harvest Festival. You will be glad you did. Then come the next day at 9 am to enjoy the best youth horse show in the State as Dan's Boots and Saddles sponsors the Ditch Pony Promenade in the same location.