

# *LOPE Impact for Youth & Horses*

## *A Creative Approach in 2020*



### *Youth Online Education*

Each year, LOPE interns usually attend horsemanship clinics taught by top horsemen and horsewomen. In 2020, that all came to a stop by March.

But LOPE came up with a creative solution. By late April, we started an online education program for our interns, bringing in top horsemanship teachers from across the US. The teachers created custom videos for our interns to learn from and provided wonderful mentoring opportunities to each of the girls. Not only did the program help the interns with their horsemanship goals — but their parents also reported that the online mentoring was a huge morale boost to the girls during the turbulence of the pandemic spring.



Due to the pandemic, LOPE started an online education program for our interns, bringing in top horsemanship teachers from across the US.

We are growing the online program now to include new teachers. Personalized mentoring and coaching will be possible now for even more LOPE interns!

### *School Field Trips for Learning Pods*



LOPE began offering field trips for local elementary and middle school students.

As the fall school year approached, LOPE wanted to help the local community. Many children were in online school only. Parents were doing their best to provide some form of normal schoolwork. In our area, neighborhood learning “pods” developed — in which multiple families grouped together to give their children small group activities on certain lessons.

LOPE began offering field trips for elementary and middle school learning pods. **Horses provide such a great way to learn about science, the environment and the natural world in general!** These simple learning events meant a great deal to the children and their families. As always, the horses were a wonderful source of information, optimism and outdoor fun!

## New CBS Television Series

Earlier this year, LOPE was chosen to be part of a CBS television docuseries. During the filming, we described our work with warhorses and youth education. At their request, we did demonstrations with the horses — and explained why our slow approach was so important to the horses (and to the young people who learn from them).



LOPE was chosen to be part of a CBS television docuseries that premieres on October 29.

The television producers loved the footage that showed the horses' learning process! The episode includes much coverage of that — as well as a delightful success story of a LOPE horse who became a junior's riding mount. Please tune into *That Animal Rescue Show* on CBS All Access to see the episode that includes LOPE!

## Why Warhorses are Good Teachers

### Seeya When I Seeya's Story



Potential adopter taking Bentley for a test ride.

Retired at age 9 with over 86 races, **Seeya When I Seeya** (aka "Bentley") came to LOPE body sore and in need of pasture rest. We gave him several months and then restarted him slowly back into work.

Why would we take so much time for one horse? Especially one with osselets from his long track career — which limits him to flat work only? This isn't a horse who would ever become a jumper or barrel racer.

Well, Bentley is a special guy. Like most warhorses, he is full of personality and heart. And he is an exceptional teacher. Professional trainer Melissa Jesurun worked with him while he was at LOPE.

**Bentley was her first ever warhorse — and she was stunned by what she learned from him. He literally changed how she works with other clients and their horses!**

"Helping Bentley work through his unique braces, crookedness, and tension has helped me in unexpected ways with other horses in my program. One in particular was a middle-aged mustang gelding with remarkably similar tendencies. I am happy to say that because of what I have learned with Bentley, this mustang gelding is now a calm and delightful addition to my own beginner lesson program!" — **Melissa Jesurun**



# Why Rehab Horses Are Valuable

## Fiesty Day's Story

Feisty Day (aka "Friday") suffered a severe injury during a playing session with his pasture mates. Like a NFL running back, he essentially sustained the "trifecta" of a knee injury — damaging all three of the key structural ligaments to the joint.

**Most horses with this injury are euthanized. The prognosis is not positive, with many months of rehab. All riding and performance work is permanently ruled out.**

*"His injury is so rare, with few horses given the chance to rehab fully. If we can follow his recovery process closely, it might help us treat other horses like him in the future."*

In Friday's case, Dr. JoLynn Joyce of Austin Equine Hospital (our amazing vet sponsors) felt Friday had a solid chance of recovery, given his gentle temperament. Austin Equine is a teaching hospital, with numerous intern and extern vets learning from the practice each year.



Intern vet Taylor Goucher (left) with Dr. Joyce of Austin Equine Hospital. Friday's rehab is a valuable learning experience for the young veterinarians at the clinic.



Famous author and LOPE supporter, Laura Hillenbrand, offered to cover Friday's boarding and care costs for his six months of rehab.

**Dr. Joyce thought studying Friday's rehab would be a valuable learning experience for the young veterinarians at the clinic.**

"His injury is so rare, with few horses given the chance to rehab fully. If we can follow his recovery process closely, it might help us treat other horses like him in the future."

**At the same time, a famous author offered to cover Friday's boarding and care costs for six months.** Laura Hillenbrand, author of *Seabiscuit* and *Unbroken*, immediately reached out to LOPE. She wrote, "I want to help save him if I can. If he's got a chance to live he deserves it."

Thanks to Laura and Austin Equine Hospital, Friday is now one third through his rehab. Because of Friday, many veterinarians and interns have learned much this complex equine injury and its treatment. And Friday's patience and gentlemanly manners have been an inspiration to all of us at LOPE!



## *Welcome, Nubin Ridge*

**Latest warhorse radiates intelligence and gentlemanly manners**



Famous Louisiana racehorse Nubin Ridge arrived at LOPE this month! This incredible warhorse **won \$600,025 in 67 races** (including the \$100,000 Gold Cup at Delta Downs). Nubin is a dashing and handsome 10-year-old dark bay gelding. He retired from the track due to a sesamoid injury. His racing connections gave him plenty of time to rehab fully and then donated him to LOPE.

**Nubin has joined our warhorse program for extended assessment, restarting and retraining.** He has been approved for all flatwork. We can't wait to get to know him better and prepare him for a second career!

We think he will be a wonderful trail, ranch or dressage prospect!



## Welcome, New Interns

Latest LOPE interns arrive with anticipation and promise

### Laurel

Laurel and her horse Candy are a familiar sight at local shows. They compete in many disciplines, from jumping to 4-H. Laurel has a smile for everyone and always displays excellent sportsmanship at competitions.



### Anna Lee

Anna Lee and her first horse Galileo are a perfect pair. She has shown much commitment to horsemanship and only wants the best for him. She and Galileo have many goals together and we can't wait to see what they accomplish this year!

### Sienna

Sienna and her trusty mount Tucker love western riding! She and Tucker compete together in 4-H and other show circuits. Sienna is a dedicated rider and student of horsemanship. Tucker adores her and has been a wonderful teacher for her. Both of them are learning so much from each other!



# 2020 Results Highlights

Thanks to your support, despite the pandemic, LOPE accomplished many wonderful things in 2020:



✓ **Doubling**  
the number of youth interns.



✓ **Doubling**  
the number of horses we helped transition from the track.



✓ **Creating**  
a popular online learning program with top horsemanship teachers.



✓ **Launching**  
a learning program for elementary and middle school students.



✓ **Increasing**  
national outreach with coverage in a CBS television docuseries

## LOPE Program Goals for 2021

With your continued help, we can reach even bigger goals in 2021:

➊ **Triple**  
the number of youth interns learning from our warhorses.

➋ **Triple**  
the number of warhorses helped into new careers.

➌ **Develop**  
young adult apprentice program for veterinary, vet tech and equine studies college students.

➍ **Grow**  
our online education program to include thirty new students.

➎ **Create**  
regular monthly field trip opportunities for younger children for entire school year.

➏ **Expand**  
national outreach to encourage more adoptions of warhorses in the US.

Goal by  
12.31.20  
**\$40,000**

Raised  
to Date  
**\$32,000**



LOPE is at an exciting tipping point – and your support can make the key difference. **We are raising \$40,000 by December 31 for our big goals.**

We'd be grateful if you would consider making a gift so LOPE can help many more horses and youth in 2021.